

WHAT IS PÉTANQUE ?

Pronounced 'pay-tonk', the game originated in the south of France in the early 1900s. Related to bocce, horseshoes and lawn bowling, the basic objective is to toss (or roll) a number of palm-sized metal balls as close as possible to a small wooden target ball. Players on both teams take turns and the team that ends up closest to the target ball after all metal balls have been played, wins.



WHAT IS SO GREAT ABOUT IT ?

EASY TO LEARN

One can begin to play immediately - the rules are simple and there are no special skills required.

OPEN TO EVERYONE

Men and women, children and seniors, fit and not-so-fit - almost *anyone* can enjoy and succeed playing pétanque. Strategy (good decisions) and technique (accurate throwing), not brute strength, wins the day.

MODEST SPACE NEEDS

The game requires no more than a small patch of fine gravel. A typical court is about 750 sf (4 meters by 15 meters). By comparison, a basketball court is about 4000 sf and a baseball field about 50,000 sf.

MODEST GEAR NEEDS

The equipment is minimal and inexpensive. It takes just a few small metal balls plus one tiny wood ball.

VERY SOCIAL

Pétanque is generally played in teams of two (2) or three (3). It is a particularly good game for couples to play together. It brings people together and one makes new friends & acquaintances in the process.

LOTS OF FUN

While anecdotal only, it seems that most people who try pétanque really like it. It can be played in a leisurely way (and most often is) but can also be approached more competitively, with an eye to the considerable strategic possibilities inherent in the game.

"The Federation of Petanque, USA is excited at the prospect of a public place to play this great game in the city of Philadelphia. We look forward to a day when enthusiastic players there decide it's time to form a club and join in our events both regionally and nationally."

Ed Porto, President of FPUSA

