

FPUSA UMPIRE REGULATIONS

I. General Process for the Assignment of Current Umpires

At the beginning of every year:

1. The Sport Director reviews the previous year's umpire roster and submits it to the President.
2. The President calls for a Board of Directors' vote to approve the umpires.
3. The roster must pass by a simple majority. (See II.B. and II.C. below for promoted umpires.)

II. Requirements for FPUSA Umpires

A good umpire candidate is a person with effective interpersonal skills, a good sense of fairness, and an aptitude for understanding and applying the rules of the game during a competition. A candidate must also have the ability to measure points accurately.

A. New Club Umpires:

Any FPUSA member in good standing can become a Club Umpire by meeting the following requirements:

1. Be in at least his/her third consecutive year of membership.
2. Be nominated by his/her club president or by an elected FPUSA official (FPUSA officials must seek the concurrence of the candidate's club president).
3. Be confirmed by a majority of his/her regional counselors.
4. Be approved by the Chairman of the Sport Committee.
5. Pass the test.

B. SPECIAL DESIGNATION: Umpire in Training

(for those with less than three years of membership):

Any FPUSA member in good standing can become a Umpire in Training by meeting the following requirements:

1. Be nominated by his/her club president or by an elected FPUSA official (FPUSA officials must seek the concurrence of the candidate's club president).
2. Be confirmed by a majority of his/her regional counselors.
3. Be approved by the Chairman of the Sport Committee.
4. Take the test. The candidate must pass the measuring test and take the written test. If he/she passes the written test, he/she will become a Club Umpire upon reaching his/her third year of membership requirement automatically. If the written test was not passed, he/she will need to do so before becoming a Club Umpire.

C. To be PROMOTED to a Regional Umpire, a candidate must:

1. Be in his/her third consecutive year of holding a Club Umpire's license.
2. Have an excellent record of officiating as a club umpire, have been a good representative of the FPUSA and exhibited respect for and courtesy toward all officials and members of the FPUSA.
3. Have officiated in at least four tournaments during the prior year, and never have turned down a request to officiate without a valid reason.

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4. Be recommended by a Sport Committee member or by an elected FPUSA official.
5. Be approved by the Sport Committee.
6. Be approved by the FPUSA Board of Directors by a 2/3 majority.
7. Pass re-certification test (see Section III: Testing).

D. To be PROMOTED to a National Umpire, a candidate must:

1. Be in his/her third consecutive year of holding a Regional Umpire's license.
2. Have an excellent record of officiating as a regional umpire, have been a good representative of the FPUSA and exhibited respect for and courtesy toward all officials and members of the FPUSA.
3. Must have officiated in at least six tournaments, including one regional, during the prior year, and never have turned down a request to officiate without a valid reason.
4. Be approved by the Sport Committee.
5. Be recommended to the Board of Directors by the Chairman of the Sport Committee.
6. Be approved by the FPUSA Board of Directors by a 2/3 majority.
7. Pass re-certification test.

III. Testing

- a. The tests for Club and Regional Umpires must be administered in the presence of at least three FPUSA officials, including at least one regional or national umpire.
- b. The test for the National level must be administered in the presence of at least three FPUSA officials, including at least one national umpire.
- c. Once a candidate has met all applicable requirements (outlined in Section II above), he/she will receive an official Study Guide which includes the following:
 - a copy of the official rules
 - photos and descriptions of the measuring requirements
 - a copy of the 50 approved questions (without the multiple choice answers).
- d. No open-book tests are allowed.
- e. Testing will include the measurement of boules to jack at all levels: club, regional and national.
- f. The written test for club umpire will consist of 25 multiple-choice questions, drawn from a pool of 50 questions that are approved by the Sport Committee Chairman.
- g. The written test for regional umpire will consist of 35 multiple-choice questions, drawn from a pool of 50 questions that are approved by the sport Committee Chairman.
- h. The written test for national umpire will consist of 50 multiple-choice questions that are approved by the Sport Committee Chairman.
- i. The passing grade at the club level is 75%. Regional and National levels are 80%. Each wrong answer on the test should be reviewed individually with the umpire candidate by the test administrator.

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- j. Any candidate who fails the test can retake it at the convenience of all parties involved.
- k. The final segment of the testing procedure is an orientation session given by a regional or national umpire.

IV. Certification

- a. Once applicable procedures, as described in Items I-III above, have been completed, the umpire candidate shall receive an official Umpire's License, co-signed by the Chairman of the Sport Committee and the President.
- b. The license, with a photo printed on it, must be carried or displayed whenever an umpire is officiating a tournament.
- c. In addition to the official license, New Club Umpires and Umpires in Training shall receive a regulation measuring tape.

V. Re-Certification

- a. Re-certification may, for valid reasons, be required for any and all umpires.
- b. Any call for individual re-certification must be initiated by the Sport Director and approved by the Sport Committee and the President.

VI. Officiating

- a. Only National Umpires may serve as head umpire in national tournaments. Regional and Club umpires may be used for assistance, at the discretion of the Head Umpire.
- b. National and Regional Umpires can officiate in regional tournaments. Club umpires may be used for assistance, at the discretion of the Head Umpire.
- c. The Sport Committee Chairman has the right to request or deny staffing selections in advance of any national or regional tournament.
- d. Club Umpires can officiate at their own club's tournaments or, while visiting another club at the request of a tournament director.
- e. In all tournaments, all umpires may not officiate in games in which they are playing, nor may they make reference to their position (of umpire) during games in which they are playing.
- d. Umpires in Training may only officiate at their home club or assist at another club's event upon the request of the tournament organizer. All Umpires in Training must carry the official rule book with them and refer to it when making a ruling. As with all umpires, the ruling of an Umpire in Training is final..

VII. Discipline/Dismissal

- a. Every umpire must keep a current FPUSA license. If an umpire allows his/her membership in the FPUSA to go unrenewed for one year, that umpire's license will expire and will not be renewed without reapplication and certification (as a new candidate).
- b. Whether officiating or not, every umpire is required to conduct him/herself in a manner that complies with the rules of petanque and that reflects well on all FPUSA umpires, the

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organization and the game of petanque. Noncompliance in this regard may be grounds for sanction up to and including loss of the umpire's license.

c. A complaint with regard to umpire conduct or proficiency may be filed with any elected FPUSA official, or Sport Committee member, who may submit it to the Sport Director for consideration.

d. For a complaint to be considered by the Sport Director, it must be filed by any or all of the following:

1. Two FPUSA members in good standing who witnessed an alleged incident;
2. An elected FPUSA official who witnessed an alleged incident;
3. A Sport Committee member who witnessed an alleged incident;
4. An FPUSA Umpire who was on duty and witnessed an alleged incident;
5. A Tournament Director from the event where the alleged incident took place.

e. The Sport Committee will make a determination on the complaint. If there is a penalty or remedy to be applied, it must be approved by the President. If the matter is judged to be grounds for revocation of an umpire's license, the case will be referred to the Discipline Committee.

f. In all matters referred to the Discipline Committee, standard disciplinary procedure outlined in FPUSA Bylaw Article XI will be used.

g. If the complaint is brought against a member of the Sport Committee, that member will be recused from the proceedings. In a case where the complaint was brought against the Sport Director, the President, or a designee of the President, will preside over the proceedings.

VIII. Behavior Requirements and Guidelines

1. Whether officiating or not, every umpire must always conduct himself/herself in a way that reflects positively on the FPUSA and the sport of pétanque. Every umpire must respect the FPUSA Constitution, its officials and members, its By-Laws and its Code of Behavior.
2. An umpire must never argue with players or with other umpires in public.
3. Every umpire must fully understand the official rules and exercise the authority and the diplomacy attached to the position of Umpire.
4. All umpires should engage in regular discussions with other umpires regarding the official rules, game situations and experiences and how best to apply and enforce the rules.
5. All umpires must attend an FPUSA Umpire Seminar at least once every four years.

IX. Officiating Competitions

Unlike most other federations in the FIPJP that have more members, FPUSA Umpires are permitted to play in competitions in which they are officiating. Umpires must respond to calls to officiate outside of the game in which they are playing and may NOT make reference to their position of being an umpire in those games in which they are playing.

1. The Umpire must be present before the start of the competition in order to be available for

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assignment and to assist the organizing committee in any matter requested.

2. The Umpire must have the FPUSA issued Umpire's badge in a visible position.
3. The Umpire must have the necessary instruments to carry out the Umpire's duties (tape measure, telescopic measurer, calipers, etc.).
4. The Umpire must, before the start of the Competition, describe the limits of the terrain, out of bounds, the rules being enforced in the competition, to all players.
5. The Umpire must ensure that all players have their FPUSA license, or FIPJP license if applicable.
6. The Umpire looks for good behavior from all players, and does not hesitate to enforce the rules.
7. The Umpire must never allow an incident to reach such proportions so as to place his/her authority and that of the organizing committee in jeopardy.
8. The Umpire must make decisions expeditiously and move off without discussion. The decision of the ruling umpire is final and cannot be appealed by a player.
8. When measuring points, the Umpire should not hesitate to measure several times before deciding which boule wins the point.
9. The Umpire must inspect boules that appear irregular and judge their conformity to the official rules.
10. Where situations arise that are not covered in the official rules, the Umpire must call for the jury that is appointed for the competition.
11. In the case of rain, the Umpire must consult with the organizing committee or jury in order to decide whether or not to delay play and wait for better weather or cancel the competition altogether.
12. The Umpire must never criticize decisions of another umpire in front of witnesses.
13. The Umpire must be dressed appropriately, (shirt, pants, shoes).
14. Regardless of a playing umpire's own game situation, he/she must respond to a request to officiate at earliest opportunity. Being in a game is no reason to decline to make a ruling in another game.
15. Complete a report if requested by the organizing committee or the Chairman of the Sport Committee.

X. Umpire Emeritus

The Board of Directors may, by majority vote and upon a recommendation by the Sport Committee, bestow upon a retired or retiring umpire the honorary title of "Umpire Emeritus" in recognition of his/her valuable service to the organization.

Each Umpire Emeritus shall be issued an official license on an annual basis and may attend umpires' meetings. Upon request, an Umpire Emeritus may serve on FPUSA tournament juries, may assist and advise the umpire staff at FPUSA events, and may assist in the administration of umpire exams or other appropriate duties as needed by the FPUSA.