**League Cup Rules**

# Competition Rules

* 1. These are covered in the document “Thames Valley District Pétanque Association League & Competition Rules” which are common to all competitions except where indicated in the individual league and competition rules.

# Start Time

* 1. Matches will start at 7:45 pm on Tuesday evenings or on dates decided by the TVDPA Management Committee.

# Format

* 1. A team will consist of between a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 9 players in any Cup match.
	2. In each Cup match teams will play two games with players divided into TRIPLES, to be followed by three games with players divided into PAIRS. The total number of games will be FIVE.
	3. After completion of the first round (triples) only those two lanes used in round one and one other may be used for the second round (pairs).
	4. The competition will be organised on a knockout basis. The 1st round will contain either 4, 8 or 16 teams. Dependent upon the number of entries, a preliminary round will be played when necessary, to achieve a suitable number.
	5. The losers in the preliminary round and the losers in the 1st round will go into a Plate competition. First round winners will contest the Main competition.
	6. All teams are guaranteed 2 fixtures.
	7. Trophies will be awarded to the winners and runners up of the Main and Plate competitions.

# The Draw

* 1. Should 3 or less teams enter, the competition will be cancelled.
	2. The draw for Cup matches will be random in all rounds.
	3. For all rounds prior to the semi-final stage, the first team name drawn in any match will be the home team. Where a team’s piste is not available they must have nominated an alternative venue before the draw, otherwise the fixture will be reversed.
	4. Semi-finals and finals will be played on a neutral piste.

# Eligibility

* 1. Only current league teams (unless otherwise sanctioned by the TVDPA Management Committee) will be eligible to enter the League Cup.
	2. Only players who have played in League teams during the current season are eligible to play.
	3. The only exception to rule 5.2 is when a player has recently joined a club and also has not been a member of the EPA before, he/she is deemed eligible to play.
	4. A player eligible under rule 5.2 may move to a different team within any one club.
	5. Once a player has played for one team in the League Cup, he/she is tied to that team for the rest of the Cup competition.

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