

Winter League — 2018

Format

1. A match will consist of a round of 1 mixed triples and two open doubles.

A match	Mixed Triple A	v	Mixed Triple A
	Open Double A	v	Open Double A
	Open Double B	v	Open Double B

2. Each Club can enter one team consisting of a squad of seven, eight or nine players for each match. In a squad of seven, at least one player must be of the opposite gender to the remainder of the team in the mixed triple A fixture. In a squad of eight or nine, at least two players must be of the opposite gender to the remainder of the team. The Club Teams form into one (1) mixed triple, and two (2) open doubles.
3. Substitute players may be introduced during a game if a club's squad is larger than (7) seven members. Substitutes can be used at the completion of an end. Please note: if substitutes are used in a mixed triple, then the mixed balance needs to be maintained when the changes are made.
4. Each team captain is responsible for agreeing the game score at the completion of each end.
5. If there are marked terrains the match organisers will designate the terrain number that matches will be played on.
6. All matches will be played to Mercia Winter League rules and all games shall be played to 13 points.

Players

7. All players must be full members of the club that they are playing for.
8. Once a player has played for one club team he/she may not play for another club team during that season. (Under special circumstances this rule may be waived by prior agreement with the adjudicators).
9. A playing protocol was introduced by Mercia Petanque Association in November 2016, this protocol was devised so that teams that are looking to use/add players from other clubs have to ask permission from that club to use their player in a regional competition before approaching the player in person.

This protocol also adds clarity where a potential conflict of interest exists when a player has membership at two individual clubs.

“if a player is a member of more than one club that are entered in the same competition, then the club for which he/she has the longest unbroken membership or is registered with the EPA shall have first claim on his/her services in that competition. It is important that the player or club concerned gain an agreement with the Club Captain of the first claim club before entering the player in the competition.”

Match Arrangements

10. Prior to the start of the Winter League season, a fixture list will be drawn up and circulated to all competing clubs. Each club will play against every other club in a round robin format.
11. All fixtures will be played at the venues designated and on the date advised.

12. If due to exceptionally inclement weather a match day has to be postponed then the Fixtures Secretary will advise of a new date after consulting with all clubs.
13. All matches will be played on the agreed date and time by the opposing clubs after which time penalties will apply as follows:-
 - The non-offending team can claim one game point for each 5 minutes of absence of the opposing team **or** the opposing team can start play although the team is incomplete. In the case of an incomplete triples team the remaining players in the team can only play with 2 boules each. In the case of an incomplete doubles team the remaining player in the team can only play with 3 boules.

It will be the responsibility of the team captain (or a nominated player if the captain is not present) whose players are not present at the agreed time to decide which penalty sanction to accept if asked to do so by the opposing team captain. Late arriving players may join their teams after an end has been completed.

All games are to be 50 minutes duration. Once 50 minutes has elapsed the match organiser/umpire will signal to all players that they must finish the end they are on and then play one (1) further end. (All matches must be played to a winning conclusion).

Results

14. The club captains will be responsible for agreeing the game scores and the final match result.
15. The club captains must give the match result sheet to the match organiser once the matches are completed.

Table Positions

16. One point will be awarded for each game won.
17. Table positions will be decided by game points won. If two or more teams have equal points it may be necessary to separate them using the following formula to determine the final positions.
 - The Number of Game Points and if two or more teams are tied.
 - Game Points between the tied Clubs.
 - Points Difference between the tied Clubs.

Unfulfilled Fixtures/Penalty Sanctions

18. If a club team is unable to fulfil a fixture then the following scores will be awarded:
 - Non Offending Team 3-0 game win = Three (3) game points. Points difference = 39 for and 21 against
19. If a team is found to have fielded an ineligible player then the scores for the offending team will be recorded as a loss and the scores in rule 18 will apply. The non-offending team will either be given the winning score as in rule 18 or the match result allowed to stand whichever is the better score for that team.
20. If a team withdraws from the winter league during the season - all their matches will be considered void.
21. If there is a dispute which the club captains cannot resolve, it will be the responsibility of both club captains to report the matter to the Umpire/match organiser. The match organiser will then reach a decision on the dispute and notify both clubs of their decision. The decision of the match organiser is final.

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Fixtures

Round 1	28 th October 2018	Mansfield PC
Round 2	25 th November 2018	Nottingham City PC
Round 3	13 th January 2019	Venue TBC

Please note: Venues will be selected by the Mercia Regional Management Committee