

Boules / Pétanque

Official Rules Guide — Premier Disco Giant Games

2-6 Players	13 Points to win	20-40 min Average game	All ages Recommended
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About the Game

A classic French lawn game — throw your boules as close to the jack as possible, and don't be afraid to knock your opponent's out of the way. Played on any reasonably firm flat surface.

How to Set Up

- 1 Split into two teams: Singles (1 v 1, three boules each), Doubles (2 v 2, three boules each), or Triples (3 v 3, two boules each).
- 2 Each team's boules should have a different pattern so they're easy to tell apart.
- 3 Toss a coin to see which side goes first.

How to Play

- 1 The team that wins the toss throws the jack from within a starting circle, 20-30 feet away.
- 2 Players throw their boules from within the circle, aiming to land as close to the jack as possible.
- 3 The closest boule is said to be "holding the point" — the other team keeps throwing until they take the lead or run out of boules.
- 4 Once one side runs out, the other throws its remaining boules.

Tip: It's completely fair to knock an opponent's boule out of position — use it to your advantage.

Scoring a Round

Once all boules are thrown, the team with the closest boule to the jack wins the round, scoring one point for every one of their boules that's closer to the jack than the opponent's best boule. Only one team scores per round.

Winning the Game

The first team to reach 13 points wins the game. There's no fixed number of rounds — play continues until someone gets there.

A Few Strategy Tips

- **Play safe shots when leading.** Landing close is often better than risking a knockout throw.
- **Use knockout shots when behind.** Sometimes displacing the leading boule is your best option.
- **Read the ground.** A slight slope or rough patch can be used to your advantage once you know it's there.

Frequently Asked Questions

How many players can play Boules?

Two to six — played as Singles (1v1), Doubles (2v2), or Triples (3v3).

How many boules does each player use?

Three each in Singles or Doubles, two each in Triples.

How do you score a round?

The team with the boule closest to the jack scores a point for every one of their boules closer than the opponent's best boule.

How do you win the game?

First team to reach 13 points wins.