

Wellington Petanque Representative Programme 2016 and Beyond

Purpose:

The representative programme for the Wellington Petanque Association (WPA) is to:

1. Develop a series of representative fixtures with other petanque regions/areas within New Zealand which will give players within the WPA region an opportunity to test their skills against their peers from other parts of New Zealand.
2. To promote the sport of petanque within the WPA region and nationally and to enhance the fellowship between regions/areas.

Objectives:

1. To provide a platform for registered players within the WPA region to develop and test their skills against players from other areas of New Zealand.
2. To improve the skill base of players within the WPA region and the players from the other participating regions/areas.
3. To enhance the enjoyment of the game of petanque and to give players the opportunity to play at the highest level they can.
4. To give coaches and umpires a platform on which they can develop the skills they need to improve the sport of petanque throughout the regions/areas involved.

Outcomes:

1. Players involved improve their playing ability and tactical knowledge of petanque.
2. Players and coaches are given an opportunity to move to the next level (national representation) of our sport.
3. The level of enjoyment from participating in the sport of petanque is enhanced.

History:

1. The first match for a Wellington representative team was a match against Hawkes Bay which was played in 2001 in conjunction with the Bayview Summer Doubles. This event was a “one-off”.
2. The Clash:
The following year Wellington Petanque was invited to participate in a multi-sport event between Wellington and Canterbury. This was called “The Clash”. It lasted for four years. Teams were chosen from leading players in the Wellington winter competition.
3. Haines Cup: (Now called the Wellington – Hawkes bay Challenge Trophy)

In 2003 the first representative match for the Haines Cup between Wellington and Hawkes Bay took place. This is traditionally played at the Manawatu club over one day. It was originally played in teams of 6 players with each region fielding two teams. In later years it became one team of 12 for each region and in the last couple of years it has been whatever number Hawkes Bay could come up with Wellington has matched. All players registered in the WPA are eligible to put their name forward for selection.

4. Central:

In 2007 a one-off match between Wellington and Central was held. This was for teams of 12. Central was made up of players from Hawkes Bay and the Bay of Plenty. Wellington players were invited to put their names forward and the team was chosen from the Wellington seeding list. Due to lack of support from the Central area this competition has ceased to exist.

5. Chanticleer Cup:

The Chanticleer Cup was first played for between Wellington and Auckland in 2007 and continues today. All registered Wellington players are eligible for selection except those who have represented New Zealand in an “open” category in the preceding 12 months. Eligible players were selected for the team using the Wellington seeding list. This competition began with open teams of 12 players but in recent years it has been played between 6 players in the open category and 6 in the senior (over 60 category). The host alternates between Auckland and Wellington each year.

6. Tristar:

The Open Tristar competition was formed after initial discussions between Wellington and Canterbury and an invitation was issued to the Southern region for them to join in.

The first tournament was played in 2008 and the following year a senior category was added as a separate tournament.

Both Tristar tournaments were open to all Wellington registered players with, of course, the senior competition being restricted to players over 60. However the senior tournament has been dropped because it was too taxing on the Southern players who were usually involved in each of the teams i.e. the open and the senior teams.

This has been a very successful and popular tournament. The host region is able to field two teams. Selection of players has been by ranking on the Wellington seeding list although generally, applications from players when the tournament has been held in the South Island have been low.

The most recent Tristar senior tournament was hosted in the Wellington region (at Otaki). Unfortunately Canterbury reluctantly withdrew from this but they are expected to re-enter in 2016.

Future:

1. Representative Programme:

The representative programme should be set by the WPA Tournament sub-committee no later than 31st March after negotiation with the other regions involved. The programme will then be placed on the WPA playing calendar.

2. Appointment of Coaches and Selectors:

A coach or coaches for the representative teams for the ensuing season should be appointed/confirmed at the WPA AGM. A selection panel should also be appointed at this time and the panel may consist of 1 to 3 people one of which may be the coach. Being a selector does not necessarily prevent that person from being selected in a team. In certain circumstances a coach may be a player coach but this is not the preferred option.

3. Eligibility for the Representative Squad:

During the 2015/2016 season players were invited to put their names forward for inclusion in the wider training squad. 21 players put their names forward and a further two were added by invitation from the selector/coach based on their performance at WPA Championship tournaments. In the current season (2016/2017) players were invited to put their names forward for inclusion in the squad. This invitation was extended through the WPA website and an email to each affiliated club. Through this invitation 4 players have been added to the squad and 2 have opted out from last year's squad.

In the past, teams to represent Wellington were selected on the applicant's position on the WPA seeding list. The current squad approach now no longer relies on the

seeding list purely for selection. It is used as a tool for a player to move into the squad. Selection is based on the following criteria:

- a. The player's required role in the team
- b. The player's ability as shown in squad training (this may be from games played within the squad and any scoring of games and or training drills carried out)
- c. The player's ability to interact with team members (team culture and team work)
- d. The player's tactical knowledge and application of the game.
- e. Team leadership will also be taken into account

When a team is required to be selected for any of the above tournaments the team should be selected no later than one month before the tournament. A team training/practice session/s will be arranged by the coach either working as a complete team or (due to the large geographical area of the Wellington Association) may be organised in sub region "pods". This may be dependent on the playing calendar and venue availability at the time the team is selected. The coach/selection panel will advertise for prospective players by notifying each club contact by email and also by placing a post on the WPA website.

4. Venue Selection:

When the Wellington region is due to host a representative fixture, application from clubs with suitable sized terrains and facilities will be sought. This will be done by the tournament sub-committee contacting clubs directly through their nominated contact person. A decision on the venue will be made on the basis of facilities available and easy location for any visiting teams.

5. Tournament Culture:

Each of the current tournaments the Wellington team participates in has its own "culture". For example:

Chanticleer:

- This is a two day tournament.
- The Chanticleer trophy match has specific eligibility criteria as described in Section 5 above.
- It allows for separate "open" and "senior" teams to participate
- The host association/region provides morning/afternoon teas and lunch.
- A dinner/function on the Saturday evening is a feature of this tournament to allow for social interaction between the participants. The cost of the dinner/function is met by the participants.

Tri-Star:

- Is a two day “open” tournament for any player (male or female) eligible to represent their region. There is no distinction between open and senior players.
- The tournament consists of teams of 6 players and the host region fields 2 teams.
- The host is to arrange lunch and morning/afternoon tea for which a charge to each player and official involved may be made.

Wellington/Hawkes Bay Challenge:

- This fixture is held at a venue agreed upon by each region and is to be easily accessible to each region. Traditionally this has been Palmerston North.
- This is a one day tournament.
- Players are requested to bring food for a shared lunch

Note: The playing format for each tournament is negotiated between the regions/areas at least one month prior to the tournament.

Graeme Morris

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