

PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT

The article that appeared on January 9th on the website VICE Sport and was picked up by various media channels has certainly enjoyed the full attention of our federation.

We can neither deny nor confess that results promoting substances or other are used during the practice of the petanque sport. There are no known cases of doping within the Belgian petanque sport.

For many years now, the PFV has been fully committed to a pure sports environment. We are therefore certainly in favour of more controls within the sport on substances and alcohol that promote results. Within our regulations it is included that it is forbidden to use substances and alcohol that promote results under penalty of suspension or exclusion. However, doping checks at the request of a sports federation for its own tournaments is financially a heavy burden, especially for a smaller recognised, non-subsidised federation.

Moreover, there are a lot of tournaments where everyone can participate (domestic and foreign players), which fall outside the competence of the recognized petanque federations and for which they cannot request any checks at all.

On an international level, however, inspections are carried out, where Belgian athletes were never found to be positive about the use of performance-enhancing drugs. During the World Cup we organised in Ghent in 2017, NADO also carried out inspections. There, the athletes who were checked were all negative.

We therefore hope for the award of the petanque sport as an Olympic discipline. Hopefully, this could lead to greater financial possibilities to, among other things, co-finance the doping controls and to have more resources to work proactively to keep out result promoting substances in the petanque sport.

We are very clear: the Petanque Federatie Vlaanderen will always strive to continue to raise awareness among its members and to strive for a doping-free and alcohol-free sports environment.