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# An investigation into assessment criteria of the Pétanque movement context among students at Tra Vinh University, Vietnam

## Tram Quoc Nam and Nguyen Toan Nang

#### Abstract

The purpose of this article is to provide accurate and comprehensive information on the Pétanque movement context of students at Tra Vinh University (TVU), Vietnam. The use of the mix-method to collect the data including, interviews, and statistical analysis, which were evaluated the context based on five main criteria as follows: the number of students who regularly train Pétanque, the number of collaborators, coaches, and trainers teaching Pétanque, the number of school-level Pétanque clubs, teams, and groups, the number of Pétanque training and competition facilities, and the number of annual Pétanque competitions organized by the school. The results illustrated that the percentage of TVU students who regularly practice Pétanque is 16.7%. The total number of lecturers and administrative staff who teach physical education at TVU is 20. There is no Pétanque club at TVU, but there are 10 Pétanque teams and 2 Pétanque squads. The total number of Pétanque training and competition facilities at TVU is 15, with each facility covering an area of 60m2. TVU organizes two Pétanque competitions annually.

Keywords: Criteria, movement petanque, student at Tra Vinh University, Vietnam

#### Introduction

#### The problem of statement

Bi Sat (internationally known as Pétanque) is recorded to have appeared as early as 9000 BC. Modern boules was born in 1907 in Ciotat, in the Provence region of southern France. Since then, this sport has spread to Western European countries as well as all of France's colonies in Africa, the Pacific Islands (Feschet, V. 2013) <sup>[1]</sup>. Over the past decade, there has been a growing number of boules players in several Eastern European countries, as well as in Asian countries, particularly Thailand, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Japan, and Singapore.

Pétanque was introduced to Vietnam in the 1940s. The game is mainly played in Ho Chi Minh City, Soc Trang, and Vung Tau. In the  $21^{st}$  SEA Games held in Singapore in 2015, Pétanque was included as an official sport in the competition program. Pétanque is usually played on three different types of terrain: dirt, dirt with crushed stone, and dirt with crushed stone (1 x 2) (Gustopo Bayu Laksana, 2017)<sup>[3]</sup>. Each team can consist of one, two, or three players. Teams with one or two players each use three Pétanque, while teams with three players each use two Pétanque.

The Pétanque movement appeared in Tra Vinh province in the late 1990s, but it wasn't until 2005 that a Pétanque team was established to participate in the national championship from the local sports community. Currently, the Tra Vinh Pétanque team has 10 athletes, and the talent pool has 17 athletes (the local area has not yet trained a youth team), including prominent players Thach Thi Anh Lan and Thach Pha Na Ra, who regularly wear the national team's jersey. These two female Pétanque players reached the quarterfinals of the 2019 Pétanque World Championship in Cambodia, won a silver medal at the 30th SEA Games, and won 2 gold medals and 1 silver medal at the 2019 Pétanque Asia Championship.

The Pétanque movement at Tra Vinh University (TVU) has attracted many students, officials, and lecturers to participate in training. In recent years, the TVU Pétanque team has achieved many successes when participating in competitions within and outside the province. TVU currently has a Pétanque team of students to train and compete according to the province's competition plan for Culture, Sports and Tourism.

To develop the Pétanque movement for TVU students, accurate, comprehensive, and scientific information on the current situation is needed as a basis for proposing solutions with great importance.

The current situation of the Pétanque movement among students at Tra Vinh University, Vietnam" uses a synthesis of literature method to collect relevant information related to the evaluation criteria of sports activities from the works of authors within and outside of Vietnam. The article also employs an interview method to obtain opinions from experts and specialists on the Pétanque movement at TVU. In addition, the article uses statistical methods to process the data collected.

The interviewees included 20 physical education lecturers at TVU and 10,138 students, including 3,482 freshmen, 2,990 sophomores, 1,800 juniors, and 1,866 seniors.

#### **Results and Discussion**

The article used 05 evaluation criteria to assess the Pétanque movement context among students at Tra Vinh University, which was adapt by two authors like, Huyen (2022) <sup>[19]</sup> and (Huyen, 2022) <sup>[19]</sup>, including:

Criterion 1: Number of students regularly practice Pétanque

Criterion 2: Number of collaborators, coaches, and trainers

Criterion 3: Number of Pétanque clubs, teams, and schoollevel teams

Criterion 4: Number of Pétanque training and competition projects

**Criterion 5:** Number of Pétanque competitions held annually at the university.

The research project evaluated the current situation of Pétanque movement among students at Tra Vinh University in the academic year 2021-2022 through the above 5 criteria as follows:

**Criterion 1:** Number of students regularly practice Pétanque To evaluate criterion 1, the study conducted a survey of 10,138 students at Tra Vinh University (Appendix 2) and presented the results in table 1.

Table 1: The statistics of survey results on Trà Vinh University students' participation in Pétanque movement:

Stt	Survey content	Survey content				
		Freshmen	3482	34.3		
	Students	Sophomores	2990	29.5		
1		Juniors	1800	17.8		
		Seniors	1866	18.4		
		Total	10138	100.0		
		Male	7066	69.7		
2	Gender	Female	3072	30.3		
		Total	10138	100.0		
	Participating in the iron recycling movement.	Participating: Yes	1735	17.1		
3		Participating: No	8403	82.9		
		Total number	10138	100.0		
		Under 30 minutes/session	00	0.0		
4	Training duration	Over 30 minutes/session	1735	100.0		
		Over 30 minutes/session1735Total number1735	100.0			
		1 session/week	39	2.2		
5	Number of training sessions	2 sessions/week or more	1696	97.8		
		Total number	1735	100.0		
	Total number of students at TVU in the acaden	11056				
	Percentage of students surveyed/Total numb	91.7%				

The data in table 1 shows that in the academic year 2021-2022, there were 11,056 students at Tra Vinh University and 10,138 students participated in the survey, accounting for 91.7%. Among them, first-year students had the highest participation rate with 3,482 students, accounting for 34.3%, while third-year students had the lowest with 1,800 students, accounting for 17.8%. Second-year students had 2,990 students, accounting for 29.5%, and fourth-year students had 1,866 students, accounting for 18.4%.

for 69.7%, and 3,072 female students, accounting for 30.3%. Out of the 10,138 students who participated in the survey, 1,735 students (17.1%) participated in pétanque sports training, with 100% of them training for more than 30 minutes per session. Among the 1,735 students who participated in Pétanque

sports training, 1,696 students (97.8%) trained at least twice a week, while 39 students (2.2%) trained only once a week. The relationship between the number of training sessions and the year of study is analyzed and presented in table 2.

Regarding gender, there were 7,066 male students, accounting

**Table 2:** The relationship between the number of training sessions of academic year

тт	Star Jamén	1 session/week		2 sessions/week or	Total		
11	Students	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1	Freshman	0	0.0	532	30.7	532	30.7
2	Sophomores	18	1.0	594	34.2	612	35.3
3	Juniors	0	0.0	333	19.2	333	19.2
4	Seniors	21	1.2	237	13.7	258	14.8
	Total	39	2.2	1696	97.8	1735	100.0

The data in table 2 shows that second-year students have the highest participation in regular Pétanque with 612 students, accounting for 35.3% (1.0% of students train 1 session per week and 34.2% of students train 2 or more sessions per week), and the lowest participation is fourth-year students with 258 students, accounting for 14.8% (1.2% of students train 1 session per week and 13.7% of students train 2 or more sessions per week). First-year students have 532 students, accounting for 30.7%, and all of them train 2 or more sessions per week, while third-year students have 333 students, accounting for 19.2%, and all of them train 2 or more sessions

per week.

Based on the data in tables 1 and 2 and the evaluation criteria for criterion 1, it shows that there are 1696 students at Tra Vinh University participating in regular pétanque (training 2 or more sessions per week and each session lasts over 30 minutes).

According to the evaluation criteria in the article for criterion 1, the percentage (%) of students at Tra Vinh University who participate in regular pétanque will be analyzed in table 3, compared to the total number of students surveyed.

тт	Students		umber of students participating in the survey		étanque training tudents	Percentage (%) of students participating in regular Pétanque training/Total number o	
		Quantity	%	Quantity	%	students participating in the survey	
1	Freshman	3482	34.3	532	31.4	15.3	
2	Sophomores	2990	29.5	594	35.0	19.9	
3	Juniors	1800	17.8	333	19.6	18.5	
4	Seniors	1866	18.4	237	14.0	12.7	
	Total	10138	100.0	1696	100.0	16.7	

The data in Table 3 shows the percentage of students at Tra Vinh University who regularly participate in pétanque, which is 16.7%. Among them, the percentage of second-year students who participate in pétanque is the highest at 19.9%, and the lowest is fourth-year students at 12.7%. The

percentage of third-year students participating in pétanque is 18.5%, and the percentage of first-year students participating in pétanque is 15.3%. The comparison of the percentage of Tra Vinh University students who regularly participate in pétanque is shown in Chart 1.

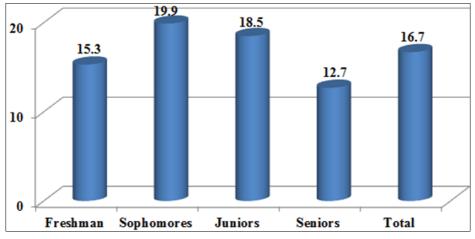


Chart 1: Comparison of the percentage of regular pétanque students at Tra Vinh University

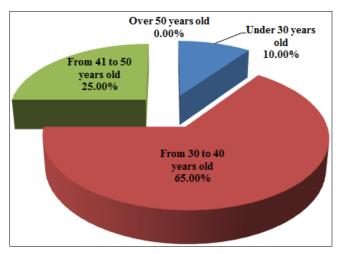
**Criterion 2:** Number of collaborators, coaches, and pétanque instructors. To evaluate criterion 2, the thesis conducted a survey of 20 instructors and management staff who teach General Physical Education at Tra Vinh University, analyzed the composition of the instructor staff, and presented the results in Table 4.

Table 4: The composition	of GDTC teaching	staff and management	t officers at Tra	Vinh University

Stt	Survey cont	Survey content			
	Position	Management officer	03	15.0	
1		Lecturer	17	85.0	
		Total	20	100.0	
		Male	15	75.0	
2	Gender	Female	05	25.0	
		Total	20	100.0	
		Under 30 years old	02	10.0	
		From 30 to 40 years old	13	65.0	
3	Age group Fr	From 41 to 50 years old	05	25.0	
		Over 50 years old	00	0.0	
		Total	20	100.0	

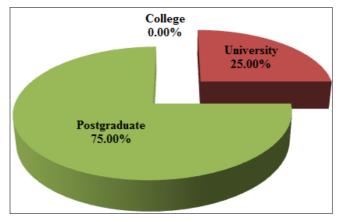
4		College	00	0.0		
	Education level:	University	05	25.0		
4		Postgraduate	15	75.0		
		Total	Postgraduate         15         75.0           Total         20         100.0           Less than 5 years         02         10.0           rom 6 to 10 years         06         30.0           rom 11 to 15 years         08         40.0           Over 15 years         04         20.0           Total         20         100.0           Yes         12         60.0           No         08         40.0			
		Less than 5 years	02	10.0		
	5 Teaching experience	From 6 to 10 years	06	30.0		
5		From 11 to 15 years	08	40.0		
		Over 15 years		20.0		
		Over 15 years Total	20	100.0		
		Yes	12	60.0		
6	Teaching and training in iron	No	08	40.0		
		Total 20		100.0		
	Total number of students at Tra Vinh Universit	11056				
	Percentage (%) of students to	552.8SV/GV				

The data in table 4 evaluates criterion 3, which shows the composition of teaching staff and management of General Education and Training Center (GDTC) at Tra Vinh University. Among the 20 survey participants, 03 are management staff (15%) and 17 are lecturers (85.0%). In terms of gender, there are 15 males (75.0%) and 05 females (25.0%) among the 20 survey participants. Regarding age, the age structure of lecturers and management staff is as follows: the highest is from 30 to 40 years old (accounting for 65.0%) and the lowest is under 50 years old (0.0%), followed by 41-50 years old (25.0%) and under 30 years old (10.0%). Thus, it shows that the majority of lecturers are in their prime age. The percent of age distribution of lecturers and management staff teaching GDTC is presented in chart 2.



**Chart 2:** Percentage distribution of age groups among lecturers and teaching management staff of GDTC at Tra Vinh University.

Educational level: The majority of lecturers hold postgraduate degrees (75.0%), followed by undergraduate degrees (25.0%), and there are no lecturers with college degrees. The survey results also show that 25.0% of lecturers and teaching management staff at Tra Vinh University do not meet the standards set by the education law. According to point c, Article 72 of the Education Law 2019, "Teachers who teach at the undergraduate level must have a master's degree" (National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, 2019). Therefore, in the future development, lecturers need to study and improve their qualifications to meet the standards set by the education law. The percentage distribution of educational level among lecturers and teaching management staff of GDTC is presented in chart 3.



**Chart 3:** Percentage of educational qualifications of lecturers and educational administrators teaching General Education and Training

Teaching seniority: The survey results show that the highest teaching seniority is from 11 to 15 years (40.0%) and the lowest is under 05 years (10.0%), followed by teaching seniority from 06 - 10 years (30.0%) and over 15 years (20.0%). The percentage of teaching seniority of lecturers and educational administrators teaching General Education and Training is presented in chart 4.

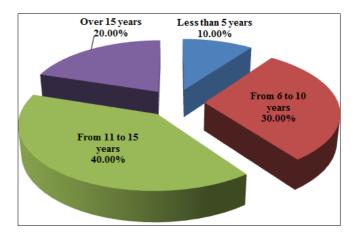


Chart 4: The percentage of teaching seniority of lecturers and educational administrators teaching General Education and Training is presented.

According to the analysis, out of the 20 participants surveyed, 12 individuals (60.0%) are currently teaching and training in the field of Pétanque fitness. Meanwhile, 8 individuals (40.0%) are not involved in teaching or training in this field. This suggests that the total number of lecturers and administrators teaching physical education at Tra Vinh University is 20, with a majority of males (75.0%), aged over 30 (90.0%), holding postgraduate qualifications (75.0%), and having over 10 years of teaching experience (60.0%). Additionally, 60.0% of them are currently teaching and training in the field of Pétanque fitness.

The percentage of total students per lecturer teaching Physical Education and Sports at Tra Vinh University is 552.8 students per lecturer. Based on the decision No. 2160/QD-TTg dated November 11, 2013 of the Prime Minister approving "The Development Plan of Physical Education and Sports in Vietnam until 2020, with a vision towards 2030", the ratio of physical education and sports lecturers to the number of undergraduate students is 1/500 in 2015, 1/400 in 2020, and 1/300 in 2030. According to the decision No. 1076/QD-TTg dated June 17, 2016 approving the overall plan for the development of physical education and sports education in schools from 2016 to 2020, with a vision towards 2025, the goal of physical education and sports teachers and lecturers at each level of education and training level is "At least 90% of vocational education and university establishments have sufficient physical education and sports teachers and lecturers who meet the standards and training requirements." Based on these decisions, it is evident that the team of lecturers and leaders teaching Physical Education and Sports at Tra Vinh University is still insufficient and does not meet the standards. This is also the basis for proposing solutions to develop the Pétanque Sport training movement for students at Tra Vinh University.

According to the analysis based on the percentage (%) of the total number of coaches and collaborators in the field of physical education and sports at Tra Vinh University, the proportion of Pétanque sports coaches and collaborators compared to the total number of physical education and sports coaches and collaborators is 60%.

Criterion 3: Number of school-level Pétanque sports clubs, teams, and squads.

To evaluate criterion 3 of the thesis, a survey was conducted on the Pétanque sports clubs, teams, and squads at Tra Vinh University as follows:

Regarding the school-level Pétanque sports club, Tra Vinh University has not established a school-level Pétanque sports club.

Regarding the Pétanque sports teams at Tra Vinh University, there are 10 teams participating in training at the university, with 2-3 training sessions per week, and the training times are flexible, including lunchtime, afternoon after class, and any free time.

Regarding the Pétanque sports squads at Tra Vinh University, there are 2 squads (12 male athletes in one squad and 8 female athletes in the other squad) training at the university's Pétanque sports field 5 times a week, including lunchtime and afternoon after class. They also participate in friendly matches with other teams on weekends.

In the academic year 2021-2022, the Pétanque sports squad at Tra Vinh University won 1 gold and 1 silver medal at the Tra Vinh Province Physical Education and Sports Festival, and 1 gold and 1 silver medal at the Tra Vinh City Physical Education and Sports Festival. They also won 2 gold and 1 silver medal at the expanded Tra Vinh City Championship.

The statistical results show that Tra Vinh University does not have an Pétanque sports club, but has 10 squads sports teams and 2 Pétanque sports squads.

Criterion 4: Number of Pétanque sports training and competition facilities

To evaluate the Pétanque movement context of sports training and competition, the thesis presents statistics on the fields and facilities serving the Pétanque sports training and competition activities for students at Tra Vinh University in Table 5.

 
 Table 5: Statistics of sports facilities for iron training and competitions for students at Tra Vinh University.

TT	Field	Quality	Status	<b>Current Usage</b>	Area
1	Tra Vinh University	6	Good	School Field	360 m <sup>2</sup>
2	Trung Ngọc Sport	2	Good	Rented	120 m <sup>2</sup>
3	Café Tím	5	Good	Rented	300 m <sup>2</sup>
4	CLB 168	2	Good	Rented	120 m <sup>2</sup>
	900 m <sup>2</sup>				
	1735				
	1.93				
	m <sup>2</sup> /SV				

The data in Table 5 shows that the total area of the training and squads biathlon competition grounds for students at Tra Vinh University is 900 square meters. Among them, 6 training grounds at Tra Vinh University are free of charge, while the remaining grounds (Trung Ngoc, Tim Coffee, and 168 Club) are charged at a subsidized rate for Tra Vinh University students. The ratio of the area of the training grounds (in square meters) per student is 1.93 m2/student. Compared to the current regulations of the government regarding the ratio of square meters per student in vocational high schools, vocational colleges, universities, and vocational universities, which is set to achieve 2 square meters in 2015, 3 square meters in 2020, and 4 square meters in 2030 (Prime Ministerial Decree, 2013), the area of the training and Pétanque biathlon competition grounds of Tra Vinh University does not meet the standard. This shows that the infrastructure conditions for the training and Pétanque biathlon competition activities of Tra Vinh University basically meet the needs of the students. However, the current area is not sufficient to meet the standard requirements, and does not fully meet the training needs of students.

Practical experience shows that "sports grounds, training facilities, training equipment are part of school equipment and an integral part of school sports. Without funding and sports facilities, it is impossible to talk about school sports" (Le Van Lam, 2008) <sup>[16]</sup>. The goal of developing physical education and sports in schools is to ensure that "at least 90% of vocational education institutions and 95% of universities have sports grounds; at least 85% of vocational schools, 90% of colleges, and 95% of universities have equipped multipurpose gymnasiums that meet the required standards" (Prime Minister's Directive, 2015).

### Conclusion

The Pétanque movement context among students at Tra Vinh University (TVU) can be summarized as follows: The regular participation rate of TVU students in Pétanque training is 16.7%. There are a total of 20 lecturers and staff members teaching Physical Education at TVU, mostly male (75.0%), over 30 years old (90.0%), with postgraduate education (75.0%), and with over 10 years of teaching experience (60.0%). Among them, 60.0% are currently teaching and coaching Pétanque. Although TVU does not have a Pétanque club, it has 10 Pétanque teams and 2 Pétanque teams. The total number of Pétanque training and competition grounds at TVU includes 15 fields, each with an area of 60 Pétanque meters, including 6 fields within the campus and 9 fields outside the campus belonging to Pétanque clubs in Tra Vinh

City (Trung Ngoc Sport, Cafe Tim, and Club 168). In the academic year 2021-2022, TVU organized two square competitions to celebrate the Student Traditional Day on January 9, 2022, and the anniversary of the founding of the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union on March 26, 2022.

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