

# Introduction to Jugger Clubs

An Example for new clubs

International Jugger Council

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# CHAPTER 1: THE FIRST STEPS

**W**ELCOME TO THE WORLD OF JUGGER!  
We are very excited that you join this great international community, full of excitement, adrenaline and friends.

This document provides you with a guide on how to coordinate the first steps of your local club. Most things should be covered here so it's a great place to find the information you need. Always remember, the most important element of a club is its members. Grabbing a handful of friends is the easiest way to get some traction off the bat! While this guide will give you the basics to get off the ground, Jagger is a highly social game that is always eager to help new clubs and players. Make sure to contact any Juggers in your area, country or continent for clarification on any Jagger subject! Rules clarifications, construction techniques, strategies for growth, and so forth. Until then, see you on the pitch!

## SETTING UP THE CLUB

As your first step, it is highly recommended that you design a plan for your club. This will help you better accommodate the ideas, and define the current scope and limitations, to obtain a good growth of your club. The main points that should be discussed in the plan are: vision, mission, activities offered and goals.

### VISION

In order to lay the ideological foundations of the club, vision is the representation of what it aspires to be. The vision is the ideal that everyone in the club should look forward to achieve.

### MISSION

It is important to give a clear direction and purpose for the club, based on the vision, the mission turns these into a statement of purpose. It is extremely important to guide people in the decision making.

### CLUB ACTIVITIES

A fundamental aspect to be considered for your club are the activities that you want to make, they help to determine what the club should and shouldn't be like. These activities are dependent of many factors: club size, other clubs presence, etc. Here we list some examples of activities and services:

- Player development training
- Team training

- Free play
- Tournament hosting and/or participation only
- International travel
- Equipment rentals

Like we said before, grabbing a handful of friends is the easiest way to start, however there are countless ways to reach out to your community. Using professional jagger footage is the go-to method to show folks when pompen and pitch are not nearby.

- Flyers: They can be given out or displayed at student billboards, local gyms, arcades, nerd hangouts like bookstores and gaming centers, etc.
- Other alt-sports clubs: LARP, dodgeball, Quidditch, ultimate frisbee, etc. all offer fantastic potential pools of players
- Work: If your workplace will allow, jagger can be a great team-building activity at a weekend work event or picnic
- Conventions: Large gatherings of cosplayers and excited fans blend very well with a jagger crowd. Ideally get a booth and let folks take a few swings at each other!
- Community: Other social circles outside of the above. Religious associations, volunteer organizations, etc.

## WHERE TO PLAY?

In a perfect world, you would have access to a public park or private field that allows you and your compatriots to play at your leisure! However that is not always the case. Speaking with your local schools / universities, public park associations, indoor court/gym centers, etc., can give you a slew of options to play on. It's easiest if a member of your club already belongs to those organizations - students have tremendous leverage with Universities to start clubs and rent space, for example. Remember that you need 20x40m of flat surface (preferably grass) to play on, but slightly smaller areas can work in a pinch.

A place with lots of foot traffic works best as the sport tends to draw many an intrigued onlooker once it gets going. Be sure to speak with interested folks - many of the greatest juggers in the community were once just curious spectators!



# INTERNAL ORGANIZATION

## THE COORDINATORS

The coordinator role requires a great level of commitment throughout the life of the club. The coordinator needs to be available to answer questions from their members and public in general.

- Recruit new players to the club web manager, and advertise the club and the sport.
- You may find that you want to overlap one or more of these roles with your fellow club members.
- Oversee all activities of the club, its members and attend non-conformities
- Meet with the team regularly to discuss updates and issues and inform them on how to proceed.
- Ensure all planning stays on track and report back/discuss and issues with your work team.



## PUBLICITY TEAM

The publicity team role is to create the image of the club, mainly through social media. Attract people to the sport it's the main objective.

- Prepare posters/flyers/postcards and any other material that may help.
- Update Social Media pages for the club. Activities like tournaments are a great opportunity to do so! Also, remember people when and where does your club practices.
- Collect team profiles and make publications about them. It is a great idea so that the public not only knows the sport, but also the atmosphere of the club

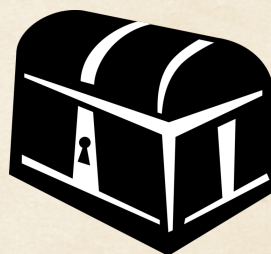
## TREASURER

If there is very little funding the treasurer may need to apply for grants and/or seek sponsorship in order to raise money for the



upcoming festival. Before any activity, we suggest you to assess funding situation.

- Create an account so that everyone on the core team has access to it.
- Keep track of budget available.
- Look for public engagement funding.
- Search for possible sponsorship.



## NEW PEOPLE

When a big group of new people (or even a small one), a good idea to put everyone into the same frequency is to hold a short introductory meeting with them. It is also useful to meet with the current members all the teams together as they might have suggestions to help, or be able to provide input to help with the organization. Some topics to cover in the meetings are:

- What is Jugger, who are involved, how the club is structured, the rule set that you're currently using, types of pompfen.
- Emphasise that Jugger is a fun sport, yet like any other activity, it requires a certain amount of responsibility and sportsmanship.
- Talking about future events are great to encourage their enthusiasm.



# CHAPTER 2: THE BUILD UP

Jugger has several elements that make up the games. The main ones are the skull (Jugg), the pompfen and the chain. There are other elements such as the field.

## THE FIELD

There are several options based on your needs. Typically the most inexpensive method is purchasing training cones from local sports stores. They are easy to see and transport. The next option, more expensive but a better choice for competitive play, is using bright neon-colored ropes (typically sold at hardware stores) to line the outside of the play area. Using stakes to secure them, they can last many years with care. The most expensive but most professional option is to use grass field paint. There is no tripping hazard, it's the easiest to see, and also easy to transport. Although it is not legal for use on every grass field - check your local regulations!

## GOALS

Goals are commonly made out of 100% foam for safety, although other options also exist. Carving out couch cushions works great! It's suggested to cover them with duct tape once they are carved to shape to protect it from the elements. Some clubs also use plastic Christmas-tree stands and cover them with foam padding at length for safety.

## THE SKULL OR JUGG

The skull, also known as a jugg, is the start and end of every Jugger match. It is a representative object of the sport. The runner is the only one who is allowed to take and carry it. Nevertheless other players can hit him in any direction with his pompfen but never kick, grab or otherwise interfere with it. Due to the particularity of the Jugger Skull, we recommend that you strive to make a striking Jugg so that in all the photos it is a focus of attention, in addition to that it would look great! There are a number of wonderful sources for fantastic-looking foam dogskulls in the jugger community, consider purchasing one and supporting an artist if you can afford it! If you can't buy one just yet, carving your own out of couch cushioning is one commonly used method. Foam casting is another common method, wherein one would use a real dog skull to produce a hollow resin negative to fill with foam to a tidy shape. In a pinch even a long piece of Pompfen foam can work to start a club off, as long as it is approx

30cm long by 12cm wide! Some countries prefer the more plain, tubular look of the ball to promote a more sport-like appearance while other countries take great pride in very detailed foam skulls.





## EQUIPMENT

The pompfen are the equipment with which the players and the chain keeper can be armed. They are allegorical pompfems of light materials and padding, representative of medieval pompfems. Each pompfen has two zones identified as a grip zone and a hitting zone. They are built with a rigid core and padding in the hitting areas. Some, such as the cane and the chain, also have security zones. The shield does not have a hitting zone. The pompfen also represent the carrier player, that is why encouraging all club members to have theirs is important!

Under no circumstances should the rigid part (core) of the pompfen be felt through the padding. If such an event occurs, it must be exchanged immediately for another in good condition. Using a weapon in poor condition represents a danger for players and can be penalized. Pompfen should be inspected regularly.

While regional variations exist, we've compiled a list of the most commonly used and available materials to build safe gear out of! Check your local rule book for measurements as it can vary from place to place.

### CORES

Fiberglass, Carbon Fiber, Bamboo and, if absolutely no other options are available, PVC can all work! Generally a strong and rigid core is desired. Popular sources of fiberglass and carbon fiber are kite stores, camping supply stores, used golf clubs, fishing rods or ski poles from thrift stores, or online from custom suppliers. Common sizes are 16x12mm fiberglass tube and 16x13mm for carbon fiber tube. A lot of people also use 18x16mm carbon tube, which is lighter, but still durable (for approximately the same price), and 14x12mm carbon tube is also used, and is much lighter than 16x13, but really less durable. Bamboo can commonly be found at gardening stores, but ensure it's thick-walled and not cracked before use! As it's an organic material, no two cores are exactly alike. PVC is generally not suggested as it's heavier and much more fragile than the other options - dangerous pompfen failures are very common! Don't be tempted by the price, it's generally not worth it unless you absolutely have no other option. No matter what core you choose, remember to always wrap the entire core with tape for safety! In case any material does fail, this will contain splinters and keep various pieces of broken pompfen from becoming a dangerous projectile.

### PADDING, LENGTH-WISE

Pipe insulation, and in some places, pool noodle! The important elements here are to ensure the walls are thick: at minimum, the walls should be 1" or 2.5cm. Germany specifies a 6 cm minimum diameter, which is an excellent standard even outside of Germany. Many foams are measured in lbs/density, generally with a number. #2 foam, or *2lbs foam* is a generally accepted standard for both safety and durability. If you are unable to find a designation like this, make sure the foam is "closed cell" meaning the individual tiny foam cells are enclosed with foam, not with air bubbles. A close examination can determine this. While pool noodle quality varies by country, if you aren't able to find closed-cell pool noodle, it's recommended to use pipe insulation instead.

### PADDING, SAFETY TIPS

The very ends of the striking surfaces have to be considered with a higher degree of safety. As they can take several times more force and they are what is contacted more often, they are designed with a higher degree of failure tolerance in mind. Generally a compressible foam like camping pad or open cell is placed approximately 3-5cm past the end of the stabbing tip and

### TAPE

Packing tape is more expensive but preferred over duct tape; specifically cross-filament packing tape. Spinacker / sailing tape is the most preferred as it's soft and quite durable but very expensive. The increase in price for packing tape is made up for with higher durability, lighter weight, and better distribution of applied forces. (As in - strikes to pompfen with packing tape will see the force distributed over wider areas of foam, evening out the wear and allowing more of the foam to take any given hit.) Duct tape is perfectly acceptable though, so don't let this discourage you! Regardless of which tape you use, checking the pompfen for safety regularly is always the most important factor, see below. A good rule of thumb is to tape length-wise down the pompfen, also in an effort to minimize gaps between tape (or where it lays over itself) and increase overall durability.

### CHAINS / CHAIN BALLS

While plastic and nylon chains are seen in a great deal of classic Juggler media, the generally accepted standard now is the use of tubular climbing rope, filled with foam craft beads. 1" or 2.5cm wide is common, and can be found easily at climbing stores or online at sites like amazon.



Stuffing the foam into the rope is usually done with wooden dowels or rods, or simply poured in if the foam beads are slight enough. 20cm foam soccer balls are the gold standard, and netting to connect ball and rope is generally just a soccer ball net or a basketball net.

### SAFETY CHECKS

The first step is of course to ensure that everything is the proper length! Many inspectors will not allow even a cm of error, so build very carefully! For a safety inspection, press as hard as you can with your palms along the entire striking surface of the pompfen. If at any time core is felt, **the pompfen is not safe!!** It should be rebuilt with new foam and tape and not used until it can pass inspection. If core cannot be felt, have a few handy assistants strike themselves with moderate force, the more people and opinions, the better! If the padding is too rigid and hard, the pompfen should be failed. And once again if at any time cores are felt through padding, it's always an auto-fail. Safety tests are subjective and can vary by region, so it's suggested to confirm expectations with local officials before traveling and to always scrutinize your own equipment as much as possible in the interest of safety.

### X-RAY EXAMPLE

Below, see a cross-section displaying one possible construction method for safety tips. The core is capped off with a bottle-lid to help prevent it from pushing through. Directly above that is a heavier foam in pink, and above that is a very light open-cell foam that can compress very hard. It is all surrounded by several sleeves of the striking-surface foam to ensure multiple layers of safety.



### VIDEO BUILD EXAMPLE

See the a full [video](#). giving one example of Staff construction techniques from start to finish using some of the materials here! The same logic can be applied to the other pompfen as well, or with other materials. There are of course dozens of ways to build pompfen, so don't hesitate to explore!





# CHAPTER 3: EVENT PLANNING

Throughout the club's life, activities will have to be carried out, be it from friendly matches between teams, to local or national tournaments. These events are the perfect opportunity to publicize the club, so it is highly recommended that they be well organized. This section is intended to provide you some tools for all the planning that is coming.



The main questions that arise are: what are we going to do? why are we doing it? and how? For the first two questions, the answer correspond to the activity objectives. Next, a timeline is presented on which you can work

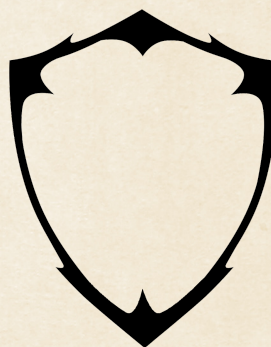
1. Determine the type of and the size of the event.
2. Determine the categories of competition to be offered.
3. Define the dates and duration of the activity.
4. Asses your financial situation, and make a budget.

And now with the third question, the Schedule is going to be the ultimate tool for this purpose. It's going to let you accommodate everything in its place. Now we present some guidelines for this:

1. Inspect the area in which you're going to make the activity. Is it big enough?
2. Determine the period in which you're going to make the event.
3. Determine the number of games to be played during your event and develop a schedule.

4. Release the schedule to the public before the event to thrill people.

Another important factor in all the planning is to make an inventory of the necessary equipment. For example, does the club have the necessary pompfen? If your budget allows it, you should purchase what is needed and inventory that. You should regularly inspect and maintain the equipment.





## TOURNAMENTS

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Tournaments are important events, which is why the previous section is going to be expanded a bit here. There are three main processes in this kind of events: Rule set, registration and the awards.

### RULE SET

This should be easy for internal or local tournaments, since from the beginning of the club a regulation was chosen to follow. The matter can get complicated once the scale is increased and an agreement must be reached with a club that uses another regulation.

1. Select the eligibility rules to follow, and then decide what rule to follow.
2. Determine who will referee the games, they must be impartial at all moment.
3. Determine what other roles you need and ask for volunteers.
4. Schedule a pre-tournament team leaders and referees meeting to explain the mechanism of the event.
5. Determine the procedures to follow when participants, coaches and/or spectators display unsportsmanlike behavior.

### REGISTRATION

This step is extremely important to avoid misunderstandings and to have the entire flow of the event under control from the beginning. In order to keep a good control you must ask yourself what are the requirements, and the information you need to get during registration. After these are answered, then schedule the dates of registration and prepare the forms for the process.

### AWARDS

Awards are one of the reasons why people decided to participate, which is why a well planned award is a great strength. First of all, what types of awards will be given? Some extra awards can cheer up people, for example, a special recognition for the *Iron Juggler* that was beaten up pretty badly and keep playing nevertheless, think these ones very well, it can pull out some smiles. Also plan for recognizing those who have contributed to the event in various ways and implement those plans, they really deserve it.

