

WEALDEN SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION

RULES

THESE RULES SHOULD BE ON DISPLAY DURING ALL LEAGUE MATCHES



Matches will be played on a home and away basis. Start times should be – evening matches 7.30pm and afternoon matches 2.00pm, unless mutually agreed between both teams. The season shall run from the 1st October to 31st March. E.S.M.B.A. Rules apply, with the exceptions as below:

1. **Subscription Fee.** The subscription fee per team, is payable to WEALDEN SMBA and must be sent or given to the Treasurer, no later than the Pre-Season Meeting each year, to participate in the forthcoming season.
2. **Registering Players (1).** The names of players being registered at the start of the season must be sent or given by the Club team to the Fixture Secretary, no later than 28th September each year.
3. **Registering Players (2).** All players must be registered with England and the Wealden League. When additional players are added to the Club/Team(s) lists, other than those registered at the start of the season, the fixture secretary must be contacted before those players can play in any match. If the fixture secretary is not available, another committee member can stand in. If an unregistered player plays in a match, the team will forfeit 2 points every time that player plays whilst unregistered. A player, having played one league game for one Team, cannot then play a league game for any other Team for the rest of the season.
4. **Games in a Match.** The match will consist of four games, - two x two bowl triples of 13 ends, followed by two x two bowl pairs of 15 ends. No trial ends. All scoring shots to count on the first and subsequent ends.
5. **Match points.** Game won = 2 points. Game drawn = 1point. Maximum 8 points per match.
6. **Jack off the mat.** On all ends, except for the last, if the jack is driven off the mat, the end shall be counted, and two shots awarded to the opposing team. On the last end, the end shall be played again, with no shots away.
7. **Tied Ends.** A tied end counts as an end played, but with no score recorded.
8. **Choice of mats.** The home team are to have choice of playing mats and their scorecards will be numbered accordingly.
9. **Visiting team mats.** The visiting team will give the home team captain their scorecards face down on arrival, to be filled in and returned stating which mats the players will be playing on. At the conclusion of the match both Captains shall check and sign the results sheet. It is the responsibility of both Captains to ensure they are correct. All signed sheets will be taken to show the correct result by the Fixture Secretary.
10. **Players in a Team.** A minimum of 7 players can make up a team. Any player may play in 2 games. In the event of 9 players arriving to play, the opposing captain will draw a player from one of the triples. (See Appendix 1), If only 8 players arrive, the opposing captain will draw one player from each of the triples to make up the pairs games, and those chosen must not play in the same

positions or on the same mat as the triples game. They must also stay in the positions they are drawn for in the pairs for the entire game, and not change places with the other pairs player. If a team comes with only 7 players, they, being the offending team, will forfeit the points for that triples game. All fixtures must be fulfilled.

11. **Umpire.** For all matches the home team should nominate a representative to act as Umpire, if needed, during the match, before each set of games is played.
12. **Arbiters.** A sub-committee for disciplinary matters is available. Three Arbiters from Division 2 will consider the complaint for Division 1 and three Division 1 arbiters will consider the complaint for Division 2. The complainants, can if they wish, meet with the arbiters. Any complaint should in the first instance be reported to the chairman **VERBALLY AND IN WRITING** as soon as possible, who will then direct the complainant to the appropriate Arbiters. Their decision will be passed to the chairman who will report back to the complainant. The Arbiters' decision will be final and passed to the respective complainants within 14 days.
13. **Joining the League.** Any Club team joining the League will be admitted to Division 2 at the start of the next full season, having been approved by a majority of votes at the AGM.
14. **Promotion/Relegation.** The League consists of two Divisions, Division 1 and Division 2. Standard promotion/relegation is two up and two down. However, the Committee has the right to adjust for any imbalance in numbers between the two Divisions, so that Division 1 will have the additional team. The teams that are to be promoted or relegated will be advised at the AGM, but should any Club teams join or leave the League between then and the end of June, the Committee will adjust the promotion/relegation position as appropriate.

APPENDIX 1

Clarification of rule 10.

The team(s) that only has 9 players should submit score cards as per rules 9 and 10 with one name missing from one of the pairs. The opposing captain shall then draw a player from the triples on the opposite rink to that which the "short pair" has been drawn to play on. i.e. if the missing player would be on mat 1, a player is chosen from the triple on mat 2 or vice-versa.

If only 8 players arrive, both pairs shall have one person, as selected from each triple, and again from opposite mats.

In all cases the selected player(s) must not play on the same mat or in the same position as they had played in the triples and they must also stay in the positions they are drawn in both the triples and the pairs for the entire games, and not change places with any other player.