

A CONSTITUTION

A1 NAME

The name of the League shall be Stockport Metro Indoor Bowling League.

A2 OBJECT

The Object of the League shall be to promote, foster and regulate the game of Short Mat Indoor Bowling within Stockport and District.

A3 LEAGUE

The League shall affiliate to the ESMBA

A4 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall be the President, Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, Fixture/Results and Registration Secretary, Competition Secretary, Stockport Team Captain(s) and the County Delegate(s)

A5 The Executive Committee, that is composed as stated in rule A4, will manage the League. Members of the Executive Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting

A6 MEMBERSHIP

Application by a club/team for admission to the League in the following year must be made in writing to the League Secretary before the first day in March. Any club applying to join the League must have a minimum of two mats.

The League Secretary shall place the application before the AGM. Clubs wishing to resign from the League must do so in writing by the first day of March. Before accepting any new team and or Venue into the League, a small sub-committee should go to the applying club to see the facilities available and to try the mats which are going to be played on, and also assess the ability of the players who will be competing in the League.

A7 AFFILIATION FEE

The Affiliation Fee of £15 per club must be paid within one month of the official notification of acceptance.

A8 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Annual Subscription for each team shall be fixed at the AGM and must be paid on or before 14th October each year.

A9 REGISTRATION FEE

A9a The Registration Fee for each affiliated club member shall be fixed at the AGM and be payable before 14th October each year to the Treasurer. A fine of £10 will be payable for late payment of fees.

A9b A list of registered players to be sent to the Fixture/Results and Registration Secretary before the first printed fixture match each year (i.e. printed Week 1).

A9c For all late registrations payment and registration forms MUST be sent to the Treasurer.

A9d All players must be registered before playing. Breach of this rule will result in loss of game points, i.e. 15 - 0 and a £10 fine per unregistered player.

A9e No player to play for more than one club in the League in a season.

A9f Any player who has not played for the Club they have originally registered with and wishes to re-register for another Club must make this request in writing to the League Committee.

A9g Last date for registration shall be 31st January each year. Indicate 'C' for Cheshire, 'G' for Greater Manchester when registering. All County registrations to go through the Fixture/Results and Registration Secretary

A10 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Financial Year shall terminate on the last day of March annually

A11 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the League shall be held not later than 31st May each year for the following purposes:-

1. To receive the Secretary's Report
2. To receive the Treasurer's Report
3. To receive the Fixture/Results and Registration Secretary's Report
4. To receive the Competition Secretary's Report
5. To receive the County Delegates Report
6. To Fix the Annual Subscriptions
7. To Fix the Registration Fee
8. To receive and vote on any Notice of Motion
9. To affiliate any new club/team
10. To elect Officers for the following year
11. To elect an Executive Committee
12. To appoint two Auditors

A copy of the League Accounts to be sent to Clubs, together with notification of the date of the AGM and a nomination list for the positions of Officers & Committee.

Any proposals from clubs or individuals for changes of rules or notices of motion must be made in writing to the League Secretary by the 1st March each year.

A12 MEETINGS

Seven days notice (in writing) of an Executive or Delegates meeting shall be sent by the League Secretary to each member of the Executive Committee or, in the case of Delegates meetings the individual Club Secretaries, (except in the case of an Emergency Meeting, when a shorter notice shall be permissible).

More than 50% of those entitled to vote shall form a quorum.

An EGM may be called by the Executive Committee or on the request, in writing, of at least 8 Clubs. The Notice for calling such a meeting shall specify the purpose for which the meeting has been called and no other business shall be transacted at that meeting.

A13 VOTING AT AGM/EGM

Each club shall have ONE vote and the majority will carry. The Chairman shall have a casting vote in the case of an equality of votes. If any of the members present wish any questions under discussion to be put to a vote by a ballot, that method of voting shall be adopted.

A14 AGE LIMIT

A14a A player must be 8 years old before playing.

1. However it must be remembered that some venues have age restrictions.
2. Any such age restrictions must be observed by players and supporters alike.

A14b If a venue has an age restriction the League must be informed prior to the Season Commencing or as soon as the restriction comes into force.

A15 ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

All Clubs shall attend Delegate and AGM/EGM meetings. Fine for non-attendance £10.

A16 PRESENTATION EVENING

Clubs not represented at the Presentation Evening shall forfeit their prize monies.

B MATCH RULES

- B1** All matches must be played under current ESMBA rules but as amended by their own domestic bye-laws.
- B2a** All matches to be played as arranged by the League. No match to be postponed unless the venue becomes unavailable. Where Clubs have more than one team, the higher team may bring the match forward or bring players up from lower teams, but not postpone it. Teams failing to re-arrange a date within 14 days will be fined £10. Fixture/Results and Registration Secretary to be informed of new date, failure to agree on a date will be resolved by the League Fixture Secretary who will arrange a date and / or a neutral venue. Any Club with 2 teams or more in the same division must play their respective games, i.e. against each other, before the end of December. Teams wishing to change dates must offer at least three reasonable dates to their opponents. Offending team or teams failing to fulfil a League or Competition Fixture will be fined £10, League Committee to decide on any further action. All league matches must be played – not conceded or claimed. Any costs incurred due the postponement within 7 days of the printed fixture list shall be borne by the offending team.
- B2b** Where a Club has more than one team in the League when registering their players at the start of the season they MUST indicate which team the individual players will play on. If a team has insufficient players to fulfil a fixture they can either postpone the fixture, subject to rule 2Ba above, or promote a player(s) from a lower team at their discretion.
- B3** Captains to be in attendance 5 minutes before match start time. Each team to consist of 4 pairs. A player not in attendance when called shall be replaced with a reserve. When a team is one or more pairs short, opposing team score 15 - 0 in each case. Mark Team Sheet 'Walk Over'. This score does not affect the players' average. Home team captains shall put the names of all players on the Team Sheets after the draw is made. If a Team Sheet is incorrect each club (Home and Away) will be fined £1.
- B4** Away team to have choice of lead at start of each game. Two trial ends shall be played in all games. Jacks to be placed in the centre of Jack line.
- B5** Games to be 15 up and total aggregate scores to count.
- B6a** From the start of every season any registered player who has played three (THREE) or more League games for any one team and has a plus average CANNOT play for a lower team. A zero average is not a minus average.
- B6b** Having played three (THREE) games for one team, players with a minus average can only be demoted to the next lower team. i.e. A to B, B to C, etc. (NOT A to C or B to D)
- B6c** Players CANNOT play for more than ONE team within his/her club in any week.
- B6d** The penalty for infringement shall be loss of all points score in the game by an ineligible player and a fine as determined in Bye Law B3.
- B6e** Any player who wishes to be ranked on a lower team may apply for re-ranking to the Executive Committee, explaining the reason for the need for re-ranking. Any player so re-ranked may not subsequently play above their new ranking for the rest of the season.
- B7** All Clubs shall make mats available for League Competitions
- B8** Results to be posted on the following day by first class post. Offenders will be fined £1.
- B9a** All bowlers to change into smooth, flat soled footwear at the venue. No patterned soles or outdoor shoes. (Bare feet or stocking feet are not acceptable). Anyone not adhering to this rule can be refused permission to play by the home captain unless they comply.

- B9b** Mobile phones Must be turned off whilst playing. If a players phone rings during play in a game then:
1. The playing of that end ceases immediately.
 2. The guilty player/s lose THREE shots or his/her opponent/s can claim the score for that end as it stands at that point (on the assumption that it may be higher than three).

B10 For the duration of the match the mat and jack shall remain as at the commencement of the match.

B11 Captains or nominated team players shall act as umpires in matches and take on the responsibilities of measurers. In the case of a match umpiring and measuring their decision shall be final. Teams should note ESMBA Rule G with respect to the duties of the umpires.

C BYE-LAWS

C1 Formation of divisions to be decided by League Committee and, wherever possible, teams finishing first and second in the second and lower division shall be promoted and teams finishing bottom and next to bottom shall be relegated. In the event of teams finished on equal aggregate points, the total aggregate points against will be used. If teams are still level, the number of matches won and, if necessary, individual games won will be taken into account.

C2 Prize monies and awards to be decided by League Committee.

C3 The League Committee is the sole interpreter of these rules, which shall be final and binding.

C4 All registrations applications shall be approved by the League Committee.

C5 Any dispute must be notified to the League Secretary in writing within 48 hours of the dispute, together with a deposit of £10.00, which may be forfeited at the discretion of the League EC. The League Disciplinary/Appeals procedures to be applied

D ALL COMPETITIONS

D1 The Executive Committee shall decide on the rules of the competitions and these will be circulated to all clubs at the beginning of the season.

D2 The Pairs and Triples competitions shall be restricted to 32 entries. The competition shall be run on a 'round robin' basis and will be completed on one day. The entry fee will be determined by the League EC and must accompany entries.

TEAM KNOCKOUT RULES

- 1** Entry is restricted to member clubs of the Stockport Metro Indoor Bowling League.
- 2** There shall be two Knockout Competitions. The first comprising of teams from divisions 1 & 2 and the second comprising of teams from divisions 3,4 &5.
- 3** All matches will be played on the date and at a neutral venue which will be fixed by the Competition Secretary (as per draw printed in handbooks). Re-arrangements shall be fixed only by notifying the Competition Secretary.
All match fees (cost of venue) to be shared equally by both participating teams.
- 4** All Venues **MUST** be made available for Team Knockout Competitions. All Team Knockout matches take precedence over league games.
- 5** The handicap to be calculated depending on the position the team finished in the preceding season.
For Divisions 1 & 2 the team finished first in Division 1 to be off scratch, second team off 1, third off 2, etc.
For Divisions 3,4 & 5 the team finished first and second in Division 3 to be off scratch, third and fourth off 1, fifth and sixth off 2, etc
When a team goes up or down a division they take the handicap of the team they are replacing.
- 6** The cup winners are to lose 2 from their handicap the following season.
- 7** The teams shall consist of eight players who shall play in pairs.
- 8** The result of each match shall be based on total points scored.
- 9** No player to play for more than one team in any competition.
- 10** Two practice ends prior to commencement of game will be allowed. First use of jacks to be decided by toss of coin by the captains. Subsequent first use of jack to be given to alternate pairs so that two pairs of each team has the first use of the jack.
- 11** In the event of a tie, all four pairs shall play two ends to decide the result. Any handicap shall be halved. Use of jack as rule 10. If still tied a further end shall be played by all four pairs until a result has been achieved – no handicap. In all cases of a tie, the existing draw will stand. In the event of players having left the venue and not being able to compete in the tie-breaker rounds the total number of achievable points in that tie-breaker will be given to their drawn opponents.
- 12** All matches to be played under current relevant ESMBA/Stockport Metro Rules.
- 13** The Team Knock-out result sheets should be sent as soon as possible after the match by the Winning Team (Maximum 72 Hours).
- 14** No individual to play in both the Division 1 & 2 and Division 3,4 &5 Knockout Competitions.