Wrekin and District Indoor Short Mat Bowls League

**Constitution**

Revised 2017, last updated April 2023

**Constitution**

**1. a** The League shall be called the Wrekin and District Indoor Short Mat Bowls League with the addition of the Sponsors name should the League have one. Sponsors name not to be used for Bank Account.

 **b** The objectives of the Wrekin and District Indoor Short Mat Bowls League (hereafter referred to as the Wrekin League) shall be to encourage Short Mat bowling and to promote and govern the Wrekin League activities of those Clubs which are members of the Wrekin League.

 **c** The business of the Wrekin League shall be transacted by a Management Committee consisting of a Chairman, Vice-Chairman, General Secretary, Fixture Secretary, Cup and Shield Secretary, Competition Secretary and Treasurer (who are known as Elected Officers) and two representatives from each member club (who are appointed by these clubs and may be in addition to any elected officers). A President and Vice-President shall also be elected as *ex officio* members of the Management Committee who may only vote on motions if also present as a club representative.

 **d** A quorum for a Wrekin League Management Committee meeting shall consist of at least 3 (three) elected officers plus 4 (four) representatives of 4 (four) Clubs.

 **e** The Wrekin League shall be affiliated to the E.S.M.B.A. and the Shropshire County Association.

 **f** Each Club member who plays in the Wrekin League shall be affiliated to the E.S.M.B.A. and the Shropshire County Association.

**Meetings**

**2.a** The Annual General Meeting of the Wrekin League shall be held on the earliest convenient date in April.

 **b** Elected Officers, with the exception of the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, shall retire annually at the AGM but are eligible for re-election. The posts of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will remain in post for two years and hence will be changed bi-annually, when the current Vice-Chairperson shall be raised to the post of Chairperson. The vacant post of Vice-Chairperson shall be elected from persons nominated by participating Clubs. Vacancies occurring during any year may be filled at the discretion of the Management Committee on a temporary basis until the next eligible AGM.

 **c** An Extraordinary General Meeting may be called at any time at the discretion of the Management Committee or at the written request of at least 12 (twelve) Club member representatives on the Management Committee.

 **d** At least 14 (fourteen) days notice shall be given to Committee members of any General Meeting.

 **e** Management Committee meetings shall be held monthly throughout the season.

 **f** Any alteration to the Constitution shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting. Revised copies of the Constitution to be issued to each member Club within 1 (one ) month of the Annual General Meeting.

 **g** The result of all ballots shall be determined by a show of hands except where it is considered that embarrassment may arise, when a secret ballot may be held. The results shall be determined by a simple majority but in the case of a tied result the Chairman shall have the casting vote.

 **h** An elected officer who is also present as a Club representative shall only be entitled to 1 (one) vote.

**Subscriptions and Finance**.

**3.a** All Wrekin League and Cup fees shall be payable by each team at a rate fixed at the AGM. Payment is due by the first week in October of each year.

 **b** The accounts of the Wrekin League shall be audited annually and shall be presented at the AGM showing Income and Expenditure and the Bank Balance.

 **c** The Financial year shall commence on 1st April.

**Rules of Play**

**4.a** The Laws of the Game governing the rules of play shall be the Laws of the E.S.M.B.A. plus any by-laws deemed necessary by the Committee.

 **b** A player registered for a specific Club and nominated for a Club team (NOMINATED PLAYER) is only eligible to play for that specific team.

 A Club registered player who is NOT registered as a NOMINATED PLAYER for any of the Clubs teams may play as a Reserve. Reserves are interchangeable between league teams of the same club except where teams are competing in a Cup or Shield match.

 **c** Reserves used in Wrekin League matches are only allowed to play for 1 (one) team within the same week. i.e. Monday to Sunday.

 **d** In the case of Cup and Shield matches reserves can only play for 1 (one) team and after that they are Cup-tied to that team.

 **e** Any by-law deemed necessary by the Committee shall be advised to all participating Clubs within 1 (one) week of it being passed and would remain valid until the next AGM. This by-law to be incorporated in the Constitution, if ratified, at the next AGM.

 **f Games to be played as per the fixture list on the day stated unless circumstances do not allow. Teams unable to field their full team of nominated players must use a reserve. If a reserve is unavailable then the team must play with three players and the rules applied for this situation.**

**Duration of League**

**5.a** The Wrekin League competition shall commence mid-September ending at the end of March the following year.

**Eligibility**

**6.a** All Clubs shall submit to the Wrekin League Fixtures Secretary by the 1st September a list of all playing members and 4 (four) nominated players for each team for registration for the coming season.

 **b** A nominated player can be deregistered and a replacement registered with the Fixture Secretary at the request of the Club Secretary.

 **c** New teams or Clubs entering the Wrekin League shall be placed in the lowest division. Notification of new Clubs and teams for the coming season to be with the Fixture Secretary by the 1st September each year.

**Responsibility for League Games**

**7.a** The Home team as designated will be required to provide the venue, mat and equipment as necessary unless otherwise agreed by the Fixture Secretary.

 **b** The Skip of the Home team shall be responsible for including the league match result or the Cup and Shield Fixture result on the Wrekin Short Mat Bowls League website as soon as possible. Result cards to be signed by both team Skips and handed to the Wrekin League Fixture Secretary at the monthly meeting.

 **c** The Home team will be responsible for ensuring the match takes place by communicating with the Skip of the opposing team prior to the date as stated on thefixtures. Rearranged matches must be agreed between both Skips and played as soon as possible**.** Matches not played within three weeks of the given date, or after two optional dates have been given, will then go to the fixture secretary to give two further dates. If not played the offending team shall be penalised and two points plus one shot be awarded to the non-offending team

 **d** The Skips of both teams shall enter the players names on the result card and if a Reserve is placing to denote this by placing an “R” next to the name.

**Disputes and Complaints**

**8.a** All unresolved disputes and complaints should be submitted, in writing, to the General Secretary for submission and adjudication by the Management Committee.

**League Games**

**9.a** All League games to be played over 11 (eleven) ends and the result determined by the number of shots attained at the end of the game. The highest number being declared the winner and allocated 2 (two) points, in the event of a draw 1 (one) point will be allocated to each team.

 **b** The team with the most points at the end of the season in each division shall be division Champions. In the event of a tie on points the team with the highest aggregate shall be adjudged the Champions. In the case of a tie on both points and aggregate the team with the most shots would be declared the Champions.

 **c**  The above principles as stated in 9b to determine all places in the divisions of the Wrekin League. Where promotion and/or relegation is affected then teams being equal in all matters as stated in 9b will play a deciding game at a neutral venue.

 **d** At the start of each season, where possible, the top two teams of each division except division one shall be promoted to the next division above and the bottom two teams of each division, except the lowest division, shall be relegated to the next division below.

 **“Unless changes to the Divisional structure are required, making it necessary to vary Rule 9d by a League Committee decision.”**

 **e Team players are to wear black trousers/skirts for all league games along with their club shirts.**

**April 2023 Motions voted on at the AGM and passed, included in BLUE**

Rule 9e was later eased at the start of the 2023/24 season.

This was discussed by committee members and it was decided not to be too hard this year as there was no set penalty but the ruling is no jeans, no jogging bottoms and no leggings be worn at league matches. This subject will go forward to the next AGM to decide on any penalties.