

# Wrekin and District Indoor Short Mat Bowls League

## Constitution and Rules

Revised April 2024

### 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. A sponsors name will not to be used for Bank Accounts.
- 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 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 three elected officers plus four representatives of 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 as a nominated player or reserve shall be affiliated to the E.S.M.B.A. and the Shropshire County Association.

### Meetings

- 2.a** The Annual General Meeting (AGM) 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 (EGM) may be called at any time at the discretion of the Management Committee or at the written request of at least twelve club member representatives on the Management Committee.
- d At least 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 and Rules shall only be made at an (AGM). Revised copies of the Constitution and Rules are to be issued to each member club within one month of the AGM.
- g Results of all ballots shall be determined by a show of hands except where it is considered that embarrassment may arise in which case 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 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 balances.
- c The financial year shall commence on 1<sup>st</sup> 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 listed as a nominated player for any of the club's 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 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 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 one week of it being passed and will remain valid until the next AGM. This by-law will be incorporated in the Constitution, if ratified, at the next AGM.
- f Games are to be played as shown in the fixture schedule on or before the day stated unless special circumstances do not allow. Teams unable to field their full team of nominated players must use a reserve. If reserves are unavailable then the team must play with three players and the rules applied for that situation. Not having enough players will not be accepted as a reason for not playing a fixture
- g A team failing to play a League fixture on or before the scheduled fixture date without prior agreement of the Committee will concede the match and the non-offending team will be awarded a walk over plus 5 shots.
- h A team failing to play a Cup or Shield fixture (either leg) on or before the scheduled fixture date without prior agreement of the committee shall be eliminated from the competition. The non-offending team will team will proceed to the next round.

## **Duration of League**

- 5.a The Wrekin League fixtures shall commence late September or early October concluding in March.

## **Eligibility and Registrations**

- 6.a All clubs shall submit to the Fixtures Secretary by the 1<sup>st</sup> September a list of all playing members and four nominated players for each team for registration for the coming season. Changes to nominated players may be made by clubs on the website up to the start of the season when the website will be locked except for results entry.
- b When the website is locked a nominated player can only be deregistered and a replacement registered with the Fixture Secretary at the request of the Club Secretary in writing, or text message or email with 48 hours notice.
- 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 are to be submitted to the Fixture Secretary by the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 entering the league fixture result or the Cup/Shield fixture result on the Wrekin Short Mat Bowls League website as soon as possible, preferably the same day. Result cards are to be signed by both team skips and handed to the Fixture Secretary or Cup/Shield Secretary at the next monthly meeting.
- c** The home team shall be responsible for ensuring the match takes place by communicating with the skip of the opposing team prior to the date as stated on the fixtures. Rearranged matches must be agreed between both skips and played as soon as possible or rules 4.f, 4.g and 4.h may apply. Every effort must be made to play Cup/Shield matches before the next round.
- d** The skips of both teams must enter the players' names on the result card and if a reserve is playing to denote this by placing an "R" next to the name.
- e** Team skips are responsible for checking the eligibility of reserves. A team found to have played an ineligible player in a League fixture will lose all shots scored and the non-offending team shall retain all shots scored plus be awarded a further five shots. A team found to have played an ineligible player in a Cup or Shield fixture (either leg) shall be eliminated from the competition and the non-offending team shall proceed to the next round.

## **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 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 two points, in the event of a draw 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 9.b will 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 9.b 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 asked to wear black trousers/skirts for all league games along with their club shirts.