

# NORTHERN ENGLAND SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

## CONSTITUTION

(Amended at the AGM on June 11<sup>th</sup> 2017 – changes shown in RED)

### 1. THE TITLE

The organisation shall be called the Northern England Short Mat Bowling Association, hereinafter referred to as the “Association”.

### 2. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Association shall be:-

- 2.1 To promote and foster the game of Short Mat Bowls amongst member Areas.
- 2.2 To conduct and control all competitions under the jurisdiction of the Association.
- 2.3 To support organisations providing coaching and umpiring concerned with the game of Short Mat Bowls.
- 2.4 To resolve, when requested, any disputes amongst its membership.
- 2.5 To act at all times in the best interests of the Association.
- 2.6 Committed to promoting a safe environment in which children and vulnerable adults can enjoy taking part in games of bowls and it will seek to underpin and ensure this commitment by following and promoting the principles of the joint Child Protection Policy issued by the English Bowls National Governing Bodies (NGBs).

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

- 3.1 Membership of the Association shall be open to all Areas approved by the Executive Committee
- 3.2 Individual members must register with the Association via one Area only, preferably geographical. However, an individual may apply for registration via an adjacent Area if the individual so desires.
- 3.3 All members joining the Association must be registered with the ESMBA and shall be deemed to accept the terms of this Constitution and any Bye-laws from time to time adopted by the Association.

### 4. FINANCE

- 4.1 Fees and subscriptions shall be agreed at each Annual General Meeting.
- 4.2 The financial year shall run from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April each year.
- 4.3 The Treasurer shall be responsible for the preparation of the Annual Accounts of the Association.
- 4.4 The Annual Accounts shall be checked by a person appointed at the Annual General Meeting. This person, who need not be a member of the Association, shall verify that the figures presented by the Treasurer are a fair and accurate representation of the income and expenditure for the financial year just ended.
- 4.5 All cheques drawn against the Association funds shall be signed by any two out of the General Secretary, Treasurer, League Secretary, or Competition Secretary.
- 4.6 All monies shall be deposited in a suitable financial institution, which shall be approved by the Executive Committee.

## **5. MANAGEMENT**

- 5.1 The affairs of the Association shall be conducted by an Executive Committee, which shall consist of the Officers of the Association plus 2 delegates from each Area.
- 5.2 The following Officers shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.  
Chairman; Vice-Chairman; General Secretary; Treasurer; League Secretary; Competition Secretary.
- 5.3 The Vice-Chairman shall be nominated annually by an Area in rotation and will automatically succeed to the office of Chairman the following year.  
The following shall be the order of rotation.  
Stockport Metro; Staffordshire; West Yorkshire; Durham; North Yorkshire; Humberside; Derbyshire.  
New Areas will be inserted into the list above immediately prior to the Area entitled to nominate the Vice-Chairman at the next Annual General Meeting.
- 5.4 All Executive Committee members must be members of the Association with no more than four members representing the same Area.
- 5.5 Any person with commercial interests in the game of Short Mat Bowls shall not be allowed to hold executive office within the Association.
- 5.6 Nominations for all Officers of the Association shall be in the hands of the General Secretary 56 days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting for inclusion on the agenda.
- 5.7 The Chairman will preside at all meetings. In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman shall assume the position of Chairman for the meeting. If neither of the above are present, the meeting shall elect a chairman.
- 5.8 The quorum for Executive Committee meetings shall be 2 of the appointed Officers and delegates from at least 50% of the member Areas.
- 5.9 The General Secretary in conjunction with the Chairman shall be empowered to call all NESMBA Executive Committee meetings of which not less than 14 days notice must be given to all Officers and Area Secretaries. Alternatively, such a meeting may be called on the request of at least 5 Area Secretaries via the General Secretary.

## **6. GENERAL MEETINGS**

- 6.1 Annual General Meeting.  
The Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of June to:-
1. Approve the minutes of the previous year's Annual General Meeting.
  2. Receive written reports from the Secretaries.
  3. Receive a report from the Treasurer and approve the checked Annual Accounts.
  4. Agree fees and subscriptions for the forthcoming season.
  5. Appoint an Accounts Checker.
  6. Consider proposed changes to the Constitution.
  7. Ratify any Bye-laws.
  8. Elect all Officers.
  9. Agree any amendments to the "Guidelines for claiming expenses" document.
- 6.2 Extraordinary General Meeting.
1. An Extraordinary General Meeting shall be called on receipt of a written request from three member Areas to the General Secretary.
  2. The Executive Committee shall also have the power to call an Extraordinary General Meeting by decision of a simple majority of its members.
  3. The notice calling the Extraordinary General Meeting shall specify the purpose for which the said meeting has been called and no other business shall be transacted.
- 6.3 Notices.  
At least 30 days notice and the Agenda shall be given to all voting members of any General Meeting. Only notices of motion, and amendments, circulated in accordance with paragraph 6.6.2 shall be permitted.

#### 6.4 Voting.

1. With the exception of changes to the Constitution, which require a two thirds majority, decisions put to a vote shall be resolved by simple majority at General Meetings.
2. The Chairman of the meeting shall hold only a casting vote.
3. Officers of the Association shall have one vote each and each Area shall be entitled to two delegates who shall have one vote each.
4. Any Office holder or Life member of the Association acting in a dual capacity shall only be entitled to one vote.
5. Voting decisions only become applicable after the close of a meeting.

#### 6.5 Quorum.

The quorum at General Meetings shall be not less than 3 of the appointed Officers and delegates from at least 50% of the member Areas.

#### 6.6 Changes to the Constitution.

1. Any change to the Constitution shall require a two thirds majority of those present and eligible to vote at a General Meeting.
2. Notices of motion to change the Constitution may be submitted by an Area, or the Executive Committee and must be received by the General Secretary not less than 56 days before the date of a General Meeting. Areas and the Executive Committee may also submit amendments to those motions. Any Area wishing to amend any notice of motion shall, not less than 28 days before the date of the General Meeting, give notice in writing to the General Secretary and all other Area Secretaries of its intention so to do indicating in such notice the wording of the amendment.

### 7. **BYE-LAWS**

The Executive Committee shall have the power to publish and enforce such Bye-laws as the Committee feels necessary to govern the activities of the Association, subject to ratification at a General Meeting.

### 8. **POWERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

#### 8.1 Disputes & Appeals.

The Executive Committee shall be empowered to adjudicate on any dispute referred to it with regard to the Association's Constitution, or the Bye-laws.

The Executive Committee may call upon such parties as are deemed necessary to assist in the dispute or appeal. The Executive Committee may also set up an independent sub-committee to resolve a dispute, the decision of the sub-committee will be accepted by the Executive Committee subject to appeal.

Appeals to the Executive Committee against any decision may only be made on the grounds of wrongful interpretation of the Constitution, Rules, Laws of the Game, or the Bye-laws. The subject of a dispute or appeal must be given in writing to the General Secretary, who may call a meeting of the Executive Committee for the settlement of the dispute or appeal.

#### 8.2 Severance of Membership.

The Executive Committee shall be empowered to suspend or terminate the membership or registration of any Area or registered member.

#### 8.3 Constitutional Matters, and Bye-laws.

The Executive Committee shall have the power to interpret the Constitution, Rules, Laws of the Game, and Bye-laws between Annual General Meetings, and make recommendations to the Association's Annual General Meeting to improve the playing conditions of the Short Mat game.

**9. LIFE MEMBERSHIP**

- 9.1 Life Membership may be granted to certain individuals of the Association who, by reason of loyal service or other meritorious action, are considered to be deserving of this honour.
- 9.2 Nominations for Life Membership shall be approved by the Executive Committee before being placed before the appropriate Annual General Meeting.
- 9.3 Life Members may attend meetings of the Executive Committee and General meetings with power to speak and vote.

**10. THE LAWS OF THE GAME**

The Association shall play to the Laws of the Game as laid down by the ESMBA or by any NESMBA Local Rules.

**11. DISSOLUTION**

The Association may dissolve following the consent of two thirds of the membership present and voting at a Special General Meeting. Once all liabilities have been met, any remaining funds shall be distributed amongst those Areas in membership at the time of dissolution. Such dissolution of funds must be shared equally between each Area.

Ref: NESMBA Constitution June11 2017

Only amendment was to delete "Merseyside; Cumbria; Lancashire;" from Rule 5.3 line 4