COMPETITIONS RULES

2026

THESE RULES SHOULD BE READ IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CURRENT EDITION OF

THE ESMBA "LAWS OF THE GAME"

GENERAL RULES APPLYING TO ALL FEDERATION KNOCK-OUT COMPETITIONS.

1. All clubs affiliated with the NDNCSMB Federation are eligible to enter teams into the knock-out competition irrespective if they are afternoon or evening playing clubs.
2. Knockout Trophies are evening competitions and should start at 7:00pm. This may be extended to 7:30pm by mutual agreement of both team captains. Afternoon play is by mutual agreement between the team captains.
3. Their teams must consist of players registered with either Devon or Cornwall County Short Mat Bowls Associations and the registration fees paid by the club they will be representing in the knock-out competitions.
4. Each competing team must submit their nominated players with their County registration number prior to the first round of competition. Clubs can nominate any number of their members with the proviso they are County registered by that club.
5. If a player changes/ joins another club during the winter season THEY WILL NOT be eligible to play in the knock-out competitions either for their new or previous club.
6. Any club infringing on the above rules will be disqualified with immediate effect from the rest of the competition.
7. Results of matches must be sent to the relevant results secretary within 3 days of a match being played. If no scorecard is received within three days of the final playing date both teams will be omitted from the next round.
8. Unfulfilled Fixtures: If the venue should suddenly become unavailable, the home team should immediately inform the visiting team and agree an alternative date. The Competitions Secretary should then be informed.
9. Inclement Weather: The decision that the weather is too dangerous for the away team to travel is for that team alone to decide, it is their lives which could be at risk. If this decision is taken, then they should immediately contact the home team and agree an alternative date. The Competitions Secretary should then be informed.
10. Abandoned Match: If a match in progress has to be abandoned due to any unforeseen circumstances (e.g. power failure or sudden illness), and at least 10 ends on both mats (if applicable) have been completed, then the score at the last completed end will stand and be recorded as the result. If 10 ends have not been completed on both mats the match must be rearranged as above.
11. Other reasons: If a fixture needs to be rearranged for a reason other than above, every effort must be made by both team captains to agree a convenient alternative date. The new date must

be confirmed in writing or by e-mail, within 2 days of the agreement, to the opposing team and the Competitions Secretary. If a mutually convenient date cannot be agreed, then the club requesting the rearrangement must concede the match.

12. Arranging competition fixtures:

a. A minimum of three dates must be offered by the home team to their opponents.

b. Dates offered should not include holiday periods and should not be consecutive days.

c. Saturday and Sunday dates will only be acceptable by mutual agreement and should not be included in the given dates.

d. Dates should be offered within fourteen days of the conclusion for the previous round

e. The away team's Secretary should contact the home team if they have not been contacted by the due date as failure to play will result in both teams being eliminated.

13. Disputes & Appeals: If there is a dispute, the Competitions Secretary together with one other officer of the Committee, shall discuss the matter and decide on the outcome. Should that decision be appealed the Chairman together with one officer shall deal with the said appeal. Any member of Committee whose team is involved in the said dispute shall not take part in the procedure.

Competition Specific Rules

Tony Stephens Knockout Competition

1. Clubs may enter one or more teams in this competition.
2. The format shall be 2 teams of fours (2 woods), 18 ends and it shall be one leg only and not home and away.
3. The draw for the first round and the second round shall be made by the Knock-out Competition Secretary at the start of the Winter season and circulated to all participating teams so that fixtures may be arranged. The draw for subsequent rounds will be made within one week of each round's completion date and clubs will then be notified of their next opponents.
4. In the event of a draw at the conclusion of eighteen ends, an extra end shall be played until a result is achieved.
5. Semi-finals and finals will be played at neutral venues arranged by the Knock-out Competition Secretary.
6. The winning team will receive the Stephens Shield to be held for one-year, winning team to be responsible for engraving.

Mary Kent Memorial Triples

1. Clubs may enter one or more teams in this competition.
2. The format is triples (3 woods) and 18 ends. It shall be one leg only and not home and away.
3. Entries of teams shall be returned to the organiser by the due date on the form provided.
4. The draw for the whole competition will be made by the organiser after the closing date and published on the website.
5. The three players entered should play all matches with only one reserve permitted per round providing that the reserve has not previously played in the competition for another team.
6. In the event of a draw after eighteen ends a further end will be played to decide the winner until a result is achieved.
7. The semi-finals and final will be played at neutral venues arranged by the organiser.
8. The winning team will receive the Mary Kent Trophy and be responsible for its engraving.

Alan Wright Memorial Trophy

1. The competition shall be between teams of ten players.
2. The matches except the semi-finals and final will be played on a home and away basis and must be completed on or by the due date.
3. Players may only play in this competition for the club with whom they are registered with the ESMBA via their County Association.
4. Play will consist of four games of ten ends each, being one singles, one pairs, one triples, and one four. The singles player using four bowls, each of the pair's players using three bowls, each of the triples and four's players using two bowls.
5. The triples and fours will play first, followed by the pairs and singles.
6. The home team in the preliminary rounds will decide upon which mat each game will be played (two games on each mat).
7. The winner will be decided by the total number of shots scored over the whole match.
8. The home team will be responsible for supplying a marker for the singles match.
9. The semi-finals and final will be played on neutral mats as arranged by the Knock-out Competition Secretary.
10. In the event of a tie the match will be decided by one sudden death end played between the two singles players.

John Crossman Singles Competition

1. All members of Federation affiliated clubs can enter this singles competition.
2. Depending on number of entries, players will be assigned to a group for the preliminary round. All preliminary rounds will be on round robin basis with each player competing against everyone else in their group.
3. Play is 8 ends with 4 woods
4. Home player must supply a competent marker
5. Visiting the head will only be permitted during the last two ends.
6. 3 points will be awarded for a win, 2 points for a draw and 1 for a defeat. If points are equal at the end of play shot difference will be taken into account, then shots scored and if all equal one additional end will be played.
7. One player from each group will then play in the final round in the Butler Hall at Woolsery
8. The finals will be on a straight knockout basis also over 8 ends

APPENDIX A

FEDERATION DRESS CODE

Dress code applying to the North Devon & North Cornwall Short Mat Bowling Federation matches:

a) Players should be encouraged to play the game and dress code should not preclude them
b) Players should play in either white or club colours above the waist and in grey or club colours below the waist
c) It is upto individual clubs as to what their players play in but it should be as uniform as possible