Winter League Rules

2026

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

THE ESMBA "LAWS OF THE GAME"

1. To be eligible to play in Federation leagues ALL players must be registered with the ESMBA through their respective County Association, the appropriate fee paid to the County, and a registration number obtained.
2. The matches comprise 2 teams of three playing 3 wood triples, with home and away legs.
3. Points will be awarded as follows: -
   One point will be awarded for the win on each mat, or 0.5 points to each team if the game on that mat is tied.
   A third point will be awarded to the team with the overall shot win. If, however, both teams have the same number of shots, 0.5 points will be awarded to each team.
4. The season starts October 1st and all matches must be concluded by 14th March
5. All matches are to be played under current ESMBA and Federation Rules including the dress code (see also Appendix A).
6. Clubs must nominate the players for each of their team(s) and submit the list to the League Secretary at the start of each season, along with each player's ESMBA/County number.
7. All club members if registered with the County/ESMBA are eligible to play in the Winter League.
8. Within their club, nominated players may play for a team in a higher division than they are nominated for, for up to 3 matches, but cannot play in a lower division. After playing four matches in the higher division, the player automatically becomes a member of that higher team. They may not then return to play for their original team.
9. If a club has multiple teams in the same division, players can only play for their nominated team
10. Refreshments should be provided at the conclusion of a match.
11. Result cards must be sent to the relevant results secretary within 7 days of a match being played, via email to the results@ndncsmbf.org
12. The scorecard must be completed with the full name of each team, team member and signed by both team captains.

13. Once fixtures have been made between teams they cannot be changed except for the following reasons:
    Unavailability of the venue
    Abandoned match,
    Death/funeral of a player
    Inclement weather

14. Any club who changes a fixture for none of the above reasons and does not consult the League Secretary, will forfeit the match.

The inability to raise a team

The inability to raise a team will lead to forfeiture of the match, the opponents will be awarded 3 points and 20 shots, the team forfeiting team 0 points and -20 shots. A fixture can be played with 'Absentee Players' in accordance with ESMBA rules. A Triples match can be played with minimum 4 team players. The order of play will be in accordance with ESMBA rule F9 'Absentee Players' (See also Appendix C).

Unavailability of the Venue

If the venue should suddenly become unavailable, the home team should immediately inform the visiting team and agree an alternative date. The League Secretary should then be informed.

Abandoned Match

If a match in progress must be abandoned due to any unforeseen circumstances (e.g. power failure or sudden illness), and at least 10 ends on both mats 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. The League secretary must be informed as soon as possible

Inclement Weather

Snow, gales, flooding can cause dangerous driving conditions, and no match supersedes player safety.

Disputes and Appeals

If there is a dispute, the League Secretary together with two other officers 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.

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 up to the individual clubs as to what their players play in but should encourage it to be as uniform as practicable.

APPENDIX B

ESMBA Rule F4 Absentee Player

A Triples or Fours game will commence with the missing player being considered as the 'second' and a definite order of play will be maintained.

It shall be.

LEAD, LEAD, SECOND

LEAD, LEAD, SECOND

A is the team with absentee.

A' going first		B' going first	
A Lead		B Lead	
B Lead		A Lead	
B Second		B Lead	
A Lead		B Second	
B Lead		A Lead	
B Second		B Lead	
A Lead		B Second	
B Lead		A Lead	
B Second		B Second	
A Skip		B Skip	
B Skip		A Skip	
A Skip		B Skip	
B Skip		A Skip	
A Skip		B Skip	
B Skip		A Skip	