

DORSET LEAGUE RULES

1) The League

- a) The league will be played under the current ESMBA and Dorset League rules.
- b) All players must be affiliated through a club to the Dorset SMBA and on to the English SMBA
- c) Affiliated players may play for any Club in the League regardless of which Club they are affiliated through. Once playing for the nominated Club they cannot play in the League for any other Club that season.
- d) All players should be aware of all DSMBA League and ESMBA rules.
- e) All clubs shall take part in the Dorset SMBA insurance scheme
- f) Any new Team/Club wishing to join the league may do so at the start of any season but MUST join the lowest division

2) Team Players

Where a Club has more than one team in the Dorset League, registered players may be permitted to play in any team for that Club, with the following conditions:-

- a) Five players must be nominated for each team by the 1st of October and should play in at least half of the league fixtures for their nominated team.
- b) The nominated players for the team(s) in the highest division for that Club are not permitted to play in any other team. Where a Club has more than one team in the higher division this condition applies to all these teams.
- c) Players nominated for teams in lower divisions may play for other teams from their Club for a maximum of two games in a season.
- d) Registered players not nominated for a team may play in any team but, when they have played seven times for any one team, they may only play in that team for the remainder of the season; special dispensation from this rule will be considered by the League Secretary.
- e) Where a nominated player due to personal circumstances is unable to play in at least half the league fixtures it will be the responsibility of the club to advise the League Secretary of the reasons.
- f) Dress Code – all players shall wear white, or club colours, above the waist and mid-grey below and regulation bowls footwear, but dispensation will be given to a junior or a new bowler whereby soft flat soled shoes or slippers may be worn. All bowls footwear MUST be put on at the venue.

3) League Matches

- a) Matches will take the format of a four playing two woods per player of fifteen (15) ends and a triple playing two woods per player of twenty (20) ends.
- b) The following shall apply should a match need to be abandoned. If either the Fours has played 12 ends (including agreeing shots) **OR** the Triples has played 15 ends (including agreeing shots) then this will constitute the match having been played and the result will stand. If the aforementioned number of ends has not been reached then the match should be rearranged. Any reason for abandonment MUST BE reported to the League Secretary.

- c) Team captains will toss a coin with the winner deciding who bowls first
- d) Two (2) trial ends will be played before the beginning of the match.
- e) All players will make themselves familiar with the identifying marks on the bowls of each player.
- f) Play is continuous without a break.
- g) The home team is to ensure that any other activities do not interfere with play.
- h) If one mat finishes before the other, noise should be kept to a minimum.
- i) A Club with two or more teams in the same division **MUST** play both fixtures by 31st January.
- j) If a player intends to play a forcing or firing shot they **MUST** give a **Verbal and Visual** warning as ESMBA rule Section E no 6
- k) Two points will be awarded to the winners of each rink, with the points being shared in the event of a draw.
- l) An additional two points will be awarded to the team with the highest aggregate score, the points being shared in the event of a draw.

4) **Fixtures**

- a) The League Secretary will arrange a meeting of all league teams by 31st August each year to mutually arrange fixtures.
- b) It will be the responsibility of all teams to send a representative to this meeting
- c) It will be the responsibility of a team who failed to attend the meeting to mutually agree their fixtures with all other teams in their Division by 15th September
- d) It will be the responsibility of the League Secretary, by the 15th September, to notify all clubs of the fixture dates agreed at the meeting along with team contacts listing telephone number, email address (if possible), game start time and playing day(s) also details of second named contact
- e) By 30th September, Clubs finding a fixture to be unsuitable may rearrange the fixture, by agreement with their opponents and, once agreed, inform the League Secretary of the new date.
- f) After 30th September, there shall be no rearrangement of a fixture unless there are extenuating circumstances for the postponement and the reason has been submitted in writing to the League Secretary and if necessary put before the League & Competition Sub Committee for their decision which will be binding. Failure to give extenuating circumstances to the League Secretary will result in forfeiture of the match as **Rule 5(c)**
- g) Following the decision, the League Secretary shall advise the clubs of the outcome and should there be a need to rearrange the fixture the home team shall provide alternative dates to their opponents within 14 days of the notification and once a date is agreed notify the League Secretary of the new date.

5) Fulfillment of Fixtures

- a) All league fixtures must be fulfilled
- b) Should a fixture not be fulfilled, both teams must submit a report to the League Secretary within 14 days of the match date the League Secretary will make a decision and if necessary convene a meeting of the League & Competition Sub Committee for their decision. If the League Secretary has a vested interest in either club, the matter **MUST BE** referred to the League & Competition Sub Committee. The decision of this Sub Committee will be binding.
- c) If after applying rule 4(f) a match is forfeited, the offending team shall normally suffer a penalty deduction of 6 points and 5 shots per rink. The non-offending team will normally receive 6 points and 5 shots per rink.
- d) Any hall hire charges incurred will be reimbursed by the defaulting team.
- e) Any team failing to fulfill their fixtures may be required to appear before the League and Competition Sub Committee to explain their reasons. In exceptional circumstances, the maximum penalty could be a 1 year ban from the Leagues. The team would be able to reenter in the lowest division.
- f) All fixtures should be completed by 30th April.
Any over-run of this date must be agreed by the League Secretary.

6) Results

- a) It is the responsibility of the home team to ensure that the result card provided is properly completed and forwarded to the League Fixture Secretary within 7 days. Results may be submitted through the Dorset SMBA Web Site, if using the Web Site cards need only be returned at Committee Meetings or after 7 games and again at the end of the season.
- b) The League Fixture Secretary will provide results and league tables at committee meetings and online
- c) The winners of each division will be determined by:
 - i. Points
 - ii. Shot difference
 - iii. Shots for
 - iv. The better accumulative match result between teams.
- d) The winners and runners up of each division, except Division One, will, normally, be promoted to the next higher division. The bottom two teams in each division, except the lowest division, will, normally, be relegated to the next lower division.
- e) In order to maintain the balance in all divisions and to cope with the addition or withdrawal of any team(s) into or from the league, the need for promotion and relegation will be decided by the League Secretary

7) Awards

- a) Perpetual League Trophies will be awarded along with up to ten (10) individual memento trophies (extra trophies if required can be purchased through the League Fixture Secretary) to the winners and runners up of each Division, alternatively if a club so decides a single trophy can be ordered and if any monies are left over this will be passed to the Club. If a Club so decides they can request the financial equivalent of the cost of trophies. The bottom team in each Division will receive a Perpetual Wooden Spoon.

- b) Perpetual Trophies will be awarded to the best Triple and best Four.
- c) Any team gaining an award should have a representative at the Presentation Ceremony to collect the award.
- 8) The following fixtures are listed in order of precedence:
- England Matches (Including Full squad, Ladies and Under 21 matches and training weekends)
 - Inter-County Competition Matches
 - National/Member qualifying rounds and Finals
 - Dorset League
 - Other Organized Leagues
 - Invitation Events and Matches
- 9) The Rules Revision Committee should convene every 2 years. Items for consideration should be made in writing to the League Fixture Secretary.
- 10) The **RULES REVISION COMMITTEE** shall be the League Secretary or their appointed representative and where possible one representative from each league division. A minimum of 4 people will be required to form a quorum
- 11) The League & Competition Sub Committee shall be convened from 5 impartial affiliated members of the association.
- 12) Any circumstances not covered by these rules may be referred to the League & Competition Sub Committee, whose decision shall be final.
- 13) Any abuse of these rules will be referred to the League and Competition Sub Committee