N.S.M.B.A. Matchplay Rules 2027 Edition

THIS REPLACES ALL PREVIOUS MATCHPLAY RULE SHEETS

ALL MATCHES TO BE PLAYED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESMBA RULES

ARRANGING FIXTURES FOR LEAGUE MATCHES

NSMBA will endeavour to canvass clubs as to their intentions for league participation, giving ample time for clubs to consider, and for their replies to be sent to the League Coordinator by a set cut-off date.

After this cute-off date, the Coordinator will consider the Leagues ready to be formulated and will send off fixture sheets to the participating clubs with other necessary information.

Subsequently, appropriate time will be given between this notification, and the start of matches, for Club Fixture Secretaries to make contact, and to agree and confirm dates within the specified scheduled weeks.

All dates must be agreed within this period before the League start date, and the Coordinator will need, by email, confirmation from each Club Fixture Secretary that all fixtures are in place and agreed with the opposing Fixture Secretary.

It is perfectly in order for home teams entering Day Leagues to specify a start time in the morning or the afternoon.

The season will be split into two halves, 7th September to 12th December, then a break for Christmas and to restart on 4th January until 2nd April.

All games due to be played before 12th December must be played by this date, or the cancelling team will forfeit the match, and the opposition will be awarded the maximum points and 16 shots.

All games after the Christmas break commencing on 4th January must be played by the 2nd April if not the cancelling team will forfeit the match and the opposition will be awarded the maximum points and 16 shots.

ARRANGING A MATCH WITHIN YOUR OWN CLUB

Clubs with more than one team in the same League, or Division of a League, must complete all relevant home and away fixtures before the end of January.

PRIOR TO A MATCH IN LEAGUES

The Home Fixture Secretary must contact the Away Fixture Secretary to arrange dates, times and venues. Away teams cannot dictate dates and must be prepared to attend on the day of the week set by the Home team – this may be, in some cases, the Home team's only option.

Unless there are unavoidable exceptional circumstances, matches are to be played in the scheduled week. If the League Coordinator deems it necessary, additional weeks could be made available to clubs after the League finish date, and this would be notified to Club Fixture Secretaries.

Clubs wishing to avail themselves of the weeks before the Official League start date are free to make mutually agreed arrangements with opposing clubs if that is convenient.

MATCHPLAY REGULATIONS

All players participating in a match must be current members of the club they are playing for and must have been NSMBA registered, by that club, for a minimum of one week, must be in possession of a current registration card and must conform to NSMBA dress code.

Players may play for only one team in each NSMBA League or Division of League.

Mats and ancillary equipment must comply fully with ESMBA rules.

All 8 a side League matches will be played over 16 ends. After 8 ends have been played, the Home team shall supply, free of charge, to their opponents, a minimum of tea, coffee and biscuits. If time is a concern, this rule, relating to refreshments may be varied with the agreement o both teams. In the event of unforeseen factors (e.g. Power failure, etc.) causing the abandonment of a match, the following shall apply: Any match abandoned before ten ends have been completed on both mats will be re-arranged. For matches abandoned after ten ends have been completed on both mats the scores at the time of abandonment shall count as the result of the match.

For 5 a side Competition, and any future different Competitions, variations to the above regulations, with reference to ends played, points allocated, refreshments breaks etc, will be determined by the Organiser and communicated to the participants.

ALL MATCHES MUST BE PLAYED WHERE POSSIBLE

POSTPONEMENT OF A MATCH TO BE REARRANGED

All matches postponed because of exceptional circumstances must be notified at once, by email to the League Coordinator. A Club Fixture Secretary needing to make a postponement in exceptional circumstances should give us as much notice as possible to the opposing Fixture Secretary, with a minimum of 24 hours before the planned start of the match.

It is only allowable for a team to postpone a match once, a second postponement will result in the opposition team being awarded the match, with maximum points and 16 shots. In the event of an away team postponing a game from its original agreed date, within 48 hours of the agreed start of the game, the away club will be liable for any unavoidable financial loss reasonable incurred by the home club. This rule will not apply if the postponement is by mutual agreement between the two clubs.

An 8 a side team being one or two players short will not be regarded as a valid reason to postpone a match, ESMBA Rules set out a clear, correct playing order for teams having only 6 or 7 players.

Any postponed matched must be re-arranged within two weeks and must be played within four weeks of the date of postponement, but no later than the final date set by the League Coordinator. The League Coordinator must be notified, by the Home Team, of the new date.

CANCELLATION OF A MATCH THAT IS NOT SUBSEQUENTLY PLAYED

Any teams that cancel a match and fail subsequently to fulfil the fixture within the period allocated, by the League Coordinator, for all fixtures to be completed, will receive penalties deemed appropriate by the NSMBA Committee. At a minimum, the offended team, not responsible for the unplayed match, to be awarded maximum points and 16 shots. Responsibility for the unplayed match to be ascertained by the NSMBA Committee before any sanctions are applied, with an appropriate appeals process being applied if deemed necessary.

STARTING A MATCH

Mats must be set out prior to the start of all proceedings. Once set, no mat shall be moved unless both team captains agree. Captains will complete their scorecards and include each player's first name (or name usually known by), and last name. The captains will exchange scorecards, and will place one opposition card onto each mat, face down, in the only method recognised by ESMBA – players may not select the mat they wish to play on.

The captains shall toss a coin for the option of taking possession of the delivery mat, a decision that will apply to both mats. **No** roll-up will take place before the match, but only one shot will be awarded to the team winning the end on each of the first two ends of each game.

In addition, in keeping with an unwritten rule we have always abided by, clubs are reminded that on the day of a game there must be no prior practice by any player due to play on any mat allocated for the match.

RESULTS OF ALL MATCHES

Please ensure accuracy when submitting results. All results must reach the League Coordinator, by email, within 7 days of the match date, and be sent by both teams. All mat scores must be shown and the home team clearly identified as the first mentioned team. At the conclusion of the match, skips must check and agree mat scores, Scorecards to be retained until the end of the season.

LEAGUE MATCH SCORING

In 8 a side games, team shall receive 1 point for each mat that it wins. In the event of a drawn mat, each team on that mat shall receive half a point. The team with the higher number of shots gained over the two mats shall receive an additional 3 points. In the event of a tie on the overall score each team shall receive points. 5 points are awarded in total for each match.

Any variation in these arrangements, for 5 a side matches or additional competitions, will be set out by the Organiser and communicated to participating teams.

NSMBA DRESS CODE

To apply at **all** NSMBA events and competitions, including County Competitions.

Men. White collared shirt or club shirt. Tailored Trousers or shorts or shorts, black or grey. Club colour trousers or shorts, manufactured by a recognised bowl wear manufacturer, can be worn. No jeans, cargo trousers or cargo shorts. Flat soled footwear. manufactured by a recognised bowls wear manufacturer.

Ladies. White collared blouse or Club shirt. Skirt, tailored trousers or shorts, black or grey. Club colour trousers or shorts, manufactured by a recognised bowls wear manufacturer, can be worn. No jeans, cargo trousers or cargo shorts. Flat soled footwear manufactured by a recognised bowls wear manufacturer.

NOTE: All members of a team must be dressed in the same colours. If worn, sweater in white or club design as appropriate. Bowls shoes must be changed into after arrival at the venue.

ESMBA Dress Code for County matches and other ESMBA events restricts trouser colour to black or grey only or club colours as appropriate. All members of a team to select the same.