

# **SHAB LEAGUE**

## **GENERAL RULES OF PLAY**

**Amended: July 2026**

1. The playing season will be from the second Sunday in October until the third Sunday in April.
2. Teams wishing to enter must be registered with the Match Secretary by the 30<sup>th</sup> June each year. Entry fees will be decided by the SHAB League Committee. A Club may enter more than one team in the SHAB League providing there are sufficient playing dates available for all teams.
3. Matches will be on a Home and Away basis. The Match Secretary will provide a list of the constituent teams for each division to Club Secretaries prior to the start of the new season.
4. League matches and re-arranged matches shall be played within the period shown in Rule 1. In the case of a re-arranged match, both Team Captains will contact the Match Secretary who must be informed of the new time and date as soon as it is known.

If a team can field six players for a match, then the game shall go ahead, as arranged by the Match Secretary (see ESMBA Law on Absentee Players, paragraph e).

If a game is not played on the arranged or re-arranged date, the defaulting team will concede the match and four points will be awarded to their opposition, together with a +8 -8 shot difference. In the event of failure to play, without reasonable cause, an appropriate fine can be levied in order to reimburse the expenses incurred by the non-defaulting team.

5. The number of teams allocated to Divisions 1, 2 & 3 for the following season will be decided by the Committee at each July meeting. Normally, the bottom two teams of Divisions 1 & 2 are to be relegated at the end of the season and the top two teams of Divisions 2 & 3 are to be promoted.

5a All new teams entering the SHAB League for the first time will automatically be placed in the 3rd Division.

6. All teams must give to the Match Secretary prior to the start of the new season the following information :
  - a) Name, address and telephone number of Club Secretary (all correspondence to be addressed to the Club Secretary)
  - b) Name of team
  - c) Names of members of each team and ESMBA registration number
  - d) Name of team Captain and telephone number

e) Time and day when home games will be played

7. Each match game shall be of 2 rinks of four players, playing 18 ends. There will be a brief interval after the first 9 ends. After the interval, the teams will change mats and the remaining 9 ends will be played on the alternative mat.

7a. All clubs that have a time limit to their premises will have this shown on the Divisional League Fixture list.

7b. In the event that a team has an absentee player(s) at the designated start time of the game, a period of 15 (fifteen) minutes will be given to await their arrival. When this has elapsed, the game will commence as per the Laws of the Game.

7c. Abandonment of a Match. If for any reason a match has to be abandoned the following rule will apply:

i) If only nine ends or fewer have been completed, the result shall be declared a draw.

ii) If one mat has completed 10 ends then the result on the score cards will stand.

8. One trial end, each way, will be allowed on each mat.

9. The Rules of Play will be as those laid down by the English Short Mat Bowling Association, with the following exceptions:

i) Knocking the jack off the side of the mat – 2 points to the opposing team.

ii) No team may play with “3s Up”

These two rules are brought in because of the time factor involved.

10. It is up to the Club Captain, or the match captain on the day, to ensure that all of their teams' bowls have the correct Club stickers. Failure to do so, on the first occasion, will result in a formal warning to the Club by the SHAB Match Secretary.  
In the event of further infringements, a four (4)-shot penalty will be imposed on the offending Club.

11. Players must be registered with the English Short Mat Bowling Association prior to playing in a SHAB League match. No player can be registered to compete in any current season after 31st January of each year.

*a) Before the start of the season each Club will need to nominate players as part of their team's squad*

*b) Nominated players for the team(s) in the highest division or the club's first team are not permitted to play for the club's second team or other team within the club.*

*c) Players nominated for the club's second team and/or playing in a lower division may play for the club's first team on a maximum of two (2) occasions in a season as and when needed, to avoid cancelling a match.*

12. One point will be awarded to each winning rink, ½ point will be awarded to each side if rink scores are level. Two bonus points will be awarded to the team scoring the most shots over the two rinks. If, after the 18 ends have been played the combined scores of each rink are

level, each team will receive one bonus point.

13. The winning team will be responsible for phoning or emailing results to the Match Secretary within 24 hours of the game being played (failure to comply with the rule will incur a loss of 1 point from the result) and posting or emailing the result sheet, signed by both captains, again to the Match Secretary, within five days. If the result is a drawn game, the home team will be responsible for the above. The home team will supply the result sheet. The Match Secretary will circulate results and League positions to all participating Clubs, on a fortnightly basis, after the 2nd week of commencement of the playing season.
14. The home Club will bear the visiting team's costs for green fees. Refreshments can be provided at the home Club's discretion.
15. The above rules may only be changed, or amended, at a Meeting of the SHAB League, or at an Extraordinary Meeting.
16. Disputes of a general nature should be referred to the League Chairman, for action by the Committee.

**Amendments:**

- July 2026 - item 11 following agreement at AGM.