

The ESMBA Management Committee puts forward the following proposals to update and modernise the current Constitution, bring it in line with current day thinking and for clarification on certain points.

- 1) Change the title to The ESMBA Constitution from ESMBA Rules & Constitution.

Rationale - Always referred to as the Constitution and may confuse people with reference to rules as they may think it is the laws of the game.

- 2) *Section 3 Paragraph j quotes*

Player registration is open to people of all ages, both sexes, regardless of disability, upon receipt of a correctly completed registration form and application fee, subject to the approval of the E.S.M.B.A. Management Committee.

The revised section would read:-

Player registration is open to all people upon receipt of a correctly completed registration form and application fee, subject to the approval of the E.S.M.B.A. Management Committee.

Rationale - In this day and age we need to ensure everyone is included therefore suggest we remove "of all ages, both sexes, regardless of disability," and add "all" before people. The reference to people implies everyone is included regardless of age, gender or disability.

- 3) *Section 5 Paragraph a quotes*

The E.S.M.B.A. shall be structured on a county basis. The E.S.M.B.A. General Secretary shall communicate directly with the County Association Secretary and pass to him/her the précis of the minutes of all E.S.M.B.A. Committee Meetings held throughout the year.

The revised section would read:-

The E.S.M.B.A. shall be structured on a county basis. The E.S.M.B.A. General Secretary shall communicate directly with the County Association Secretary and pass to them the précis of the minutes of all E.S.M.B.A. Committee Meetings held throughout the year.

Rationale - Replace "him/her" with "them" as this takes all reference away from gender so is more fit for purpose in these time.

- 4) *Section 6 Paragraph cii quotes*

The receipt of a report from the Treasurer which must include the full audited accounts of the Association for the year ended 30 April.

The revised wording would be:-

The receipt of a report from the Treasurer which must include the Accounts of the Association certified by an independent registered Accountancy firm for the year ended 30 April.

Rationale - Replace “full audited accounts of the Association” with “Accounts of the Association certified by an independent registered Accountancy firm”. The status of the ESMBA means that the accounts do not have to be audited as long as they are certified by a recognised independent Accountancy firm. This also ensures the cost of the examination is at a reasonable level.

5) Section 6 Paragraph d add

All reports, notices of motion and amendments including changes to the playing rules must be received by the County Contacts at least 28 days before the date of the AGM.

Rationale - Adding this paragraph ensures that County Associations receive all of the necessary paperwork at least 28 days before the AGM and holds the ESMBA responsible for ensuring this happens.

6) Section 6 Paragraph d quotes

All notices of motion (see Appendix Constitution and Rule Amendments) must be received by the General Secretary on or before the last day of December for submission to the AGM or RRM for the years in which it is held. The following timetable shall then be followed.

The revised wording would be:-

All notices of motion (see Appendix Constitution and Rule Amendments) must have a Proposer and Secunder and must be received by the General Secretary on or before the last day of December for submission to the AGM. For the Proposal to be considered at the General Meeting the Proposer or Secunder must be present. The following timetable shall then be followed.

Rationale - The proposal is to add “must have a Proposer and Secunder and” and also “For the Proposal to be considered at the General Meeting the Proposer or Secunder must be present” to overcome the problems raised last year where proposals were submitted and accepted without a seconder. This ensures it will not happen again and makes it quite clear about what is required to submit a proposal as detailed in the appendix.

To support this change a new bullet point would be added to the Appendix.
The wording would be:-

Must be proposed and Seconded by a current registered player at the time of the AGM or other General Meeting and the Proposer or Secunder must be present at that meeting.

7) Section 6 Paragraph e (first) quotes

Both general meetings shall be open to all County Associations, their member clubs and individual players. All bona-fide County Associations, Clubs and players may submit notices of motions, amendments to motions and nominations for office.

The paragraph becomes:-

All general meetings shall be open to all County Associations, their member clubs and individual players. All bona-fide County Associations, Clubs and players may submit notices of motions, amendments to motions and nominations for office.

Rationale - Replace "both" with "All". This ensures in future that all general meetings are open to everyone eligible to attend.

8) Section 9 quotes

The laws of the game governing Short Mat Bowls shall apply to all games. County Associations can, however, make or sanction such regulations as they deem necessary to govern their own internal competitions.

The paragraph becomes:-

The laws of the game governing Short Mat Bowls are set by the ESMBA and shall apply to all games. County Associations can, however, make or sanction such regulations as they deem necessary to govern their own internal competitions.

Rationale - On the first line insert between Bowls and shall "are set by the ESMBA and". This supports the proposal to withdraw the need for a Rules Revision Meeting.