

WORLD SHORT MAT BOWLS COUNCIL CONSTITUTION **(Amended 2002)**

1. NAME

The International controlling body for the game of short mat bowls shall be called **THE WORLD SHORT MAT BOWLS COUICL**: hereinafter referred to as **THE COUNCIL**.

2. The office of The Council shall be the residence, or the business address, of the Secretary to The Council, to whom all correspondence for the consideration of The Council shall be forwarded.

3. OBJECTS.

The objects of The Council shall be as follows:-

(a) To promote, foster and safeguard the game of short mat bowls throughout the world and to encourage the growth of the sport on a world-wide basis.

(b) To formulate the rules and regulations of short mat bowls, which shall apply to all games played under the auspices of The Council and to add to, or revise, these rules as and when required.

(c) To be responsible for the promotion and organisation of all World Championships.

(d) To consider and deal with all matters submitted to The Council in accordance with this Constitution.

(e) To offer help and guidance to all countries who seek to set up the game and consider their application(s) to join The Council.

4. CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP.

(a) FOUNDER MEMBERS.

At the date of the adoption of this constitution (March 1996), the following National Associations shall be deemed as Founder Members with full membership rights:- The English Short Mat Bowls Association: The Irish Indoor Bowls Association: The Manx Short Mat Bowls Association:- The Welsh Short Mat Bowls Association:- The Belgian Curve Bowls Association: The Scottish Short Mat Bowls Federation.

(b) Full membership shall be awarded to those National Associations which are affiliated, and who control, short mat bowling clubs: This conditional upon them presenting to The Council a constitution: a set of rules, and the appropriate joining fee and all of these receiving the approval of the Council.

(c) Full members shall have the right to nominate Officers and exercise all the rights of full members as decided by The Council.

(d) **ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP** may be granted to those Clubs, or individuals whose main purpose is to set up a National Association and who are prepared to accept the rules and guidance of The Council.

This membership to be followed by full membership at the appropriate time and when all the other conditions have been met.

(e) Application for membership of The Council shall be submitted to the Secretary not later than (90) clear days before the date fixed for the next general meeting. On receipt of applications the Secretary shall forthwith notify all member Associations and the application will be considered at the next general meeting. Any application received less than 90 days before the next general meeting may be held over until the next meeting at the discretion of The Council.

(f) Considerations of applications:- applications properly received and notified to members under sub-clause(e) shall be considered at the next General Meeting and election to membership shall be approved by a two-thirds majority of members present personally, or by proxy, and entitled to vote: provided that it shall not be competent for The Council to grant membership to more than one National Association in each Country.

(g) **RESIGNATION OF MEMBERSHIP:-** No member Association shall resign from The Council without giving the Secretary at least Six (6) months notice of the intention to do so. No resignation shall release the member Association from any obligation to The Council, monetary or otherwise, contracted during membership.

(h) **EXPULSION FROM MEMBERSHIP:-** It shall be competent for The Council, after due investigation of the facts and, if need be the examination of witnesses and relevant documentary evidence, to suspend, or terminate, the membership of any member association by a majority of two-thirds of the votes cast by the delegates personally present, or by proxy and entitled to vote. No suspension, or expulsion, shall be considered by any general, or special, meeting unless the Secretary

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shall have dispatched to all member Associations, not later than **Sixty (60)** days before such a meeting prior notice of the proposed consideration of such action.

(I) On receipt of notice of acceptance to membership, either full or associate, The National body shall inform The Secretary of their acceptance and from that Date keep the Council Secretary informed of any change they have made to the appointment of their Officers, Delegates, along with their addresses.

(j) PROXY DELEGATES:- If a delegate is unable to attend a meeting of The Council they shall be entitled to appoint a proxy delegate to attend that meeting and any adjournment thereof. A proxy delegate must be a member of a Club affiliated to, or under the jurisdiction of, The Member National Association. They shall have the same voting powers as has the delegate whose proxy they hold, but they shall not be entitled to hold any office of The Council.

(k) The appointment of each proxy delegate shall be made in writing with the consent of the Nominee endorsed thereon and shall reach the Secretary of The Council at least 24 hours before commencement of the meeting. The instrument of proxy may indicate the extent and manner in which the proxy shall exercise the vote: If no such indication is given the proxy shall exercise the vote as they see fit.

(l) In certain instances proxy voting may be done by post: this at the discretion of The Council.

5. OFFICE BEARERS.

(a) The Officers of The Council shall be:- President, Senior Vice-President, Junior Vice-President, Immediate Past President, Secretary and Treasurer.

President:- Who also acts as Chairman - and shall normally be a person nominated by The National Association next in line to host The World Championships.

Senior Vice-President:- Who shall normally be a person nominated by The National Association next but one in line to host a World Championships.

Junior Vice-President:- Who shall normally be a person nominated by The National Association next but two in line to host a World Championships.

(b) The Presidency shall be rotated among the member associations of The Council.

(c) If the President is absent, the Senior Vice-President will take the Chair: If they are absent the Junior Vice-President will take the Chair; If all are absent a Chairman may be nominated by the delegates present.

(d) Secretary:- The Secretary shall be appointed by The Council at its general meeting and shall keep a record of all minutes at any meeting, deal with all correspondence and present a report to the General Meeting of the activities undertaken since the last meeting. The Secretary shall be deemed to have resigned at the next General Meeting when a new Secretary shall be appointed.

(e) Treasurer:- The Treasurer shall be appointed by The Council at its General Meeting: shall receive and bank all monies in such bank as The Council may direct: shall pay all accounts: cheques shall be signed and counter-signed by at least two persons nominated by The Council: shall keep proper records of all financial transactions occurring between General Meeting and the next: have the accounts balanced and audited by December 31st and present a report to that meeting. The Treasurer shall be deemed to have resigned at the next General Meeting and a new one appointed.

(f) Other Officers:- The Council shall have the power to appoint other Officers to perform specific tasks as it sees fit. These appointee`s positions coming up for election at The General Meeting. The Council shall also have the power to appoint Sub-Committees to deal with a specific subject as it sees fit.

(g) Expenses:- Administrative expenses incurred by the Secretary and Treasurer shall be reimbursed by The Council and a report of these included in the balance sheet: as will any other expenses approved by The Council.

6. GENERAL MEETINGS.

These meetings shall be held to coincide with the World Championships event and at a date and venue set for such events.

Full member associations will be entitled to **THREE (3)** Delegates, each with the right to one vote.

A quorum shall consist of at least Two-Thirds of those members entitled to vote, or their proxies, being present and a resolution shall be deemed to be passed, or lost, by a majority of Two Thirds of votes

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cast by those present. If there is a tied vote the President shall have the casting vote.

If a member Association does not have any delegate present, or has not sent in a postal vote they shall be deemed absent.

For Chairmanship see number 5- President.

7. SPECIAL OR EXTRAORDINARY MEETINGS.

These may be called by any Full Member of the Council, or by The Council itself, to deal with any such matters that require urgent attention. The object(s) and subject(s) of any such meetings should be notified to The Secretary of The Council, who shall inform all Member National Associations and send notice of such agreed meeting at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of meeting.

GENERAL PURPOSE COMMITTEE.

The Office Bearers, shall form a General Purpose Committee, along with any full member delegates as specified by The Council, with the powers to deal with all routine and emergency matters arising between General Meetings. They shall then report on all such matters at the next General Meeting. Each member shall have one vote: The Chairman having one deliberative and one casting vote. A quorum shall be two thirds of those entitled to vote.

8. NOTICES OF MOTION.

A notice of motion to rescind, amend, or add, to the Constitution must be submitted in writing to the Secretary of The Council giving at least Sixty (60) days notice before a proposed General Meeting. Only at a General Meeting, or a meeting specifically convened for that purpose, may such a notice of motion be submitted to Delegates for approval, or not.

9. POWERS OF THE COUNCIL

(a) The Council have the entitlement, and are entitled, to exercise complete control in all matters within the authorities permitted in this constitution.

(b) They shall be empowered to raise finances and disburse them, recognising at all times the objects of the Council.

Without prejudice to its paramount authority it may delegate the exercise of such powers to any committee, appointed by the Council, on such terms and for such period of time as it thinks fit: provided that the committee so appointed shall submit a full report of its activities to the next General Meeting.

(c) The Council shall have the power to set: A joining fee: an annual, or biennial, subscription fee: any payment due for entrance to one of its organised championships: these subject to change at a General Meeting.

(d) They shall have the power to set the sum for any fines imposed, and the power to claim forfeiture of rights until such time as these fines are paid.

(e) They have the right to check on any arrangements made for International competitions and make recommendations for change, if that is thought to be necessary.

(f) Any member association which does not meet the deadline for payment of the subscription fee laid down within one month of due date shall be excluded from taking part in any event organized by the Council: shall forfeit all voting rights and have to re-apply for membership.

10. LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

At a General Meeting the Council may elect any person to Life Membership, if they deem that person, for whatever reason, to be worthy of that honour.

11. INSURANCE.

The Council shall undertake to insure any item of value which is the property of the Council: The Council to decide that value. The Council shall also undertake to provide such insurance cover that is required by law to cover any event it may organize: this to include such Public Liability Insurance required under such act of Government.