



Policy Statement on Players with a Disability

West Sussex County SMBA promote the game of Short Mat Bowls in our County. It is fully inclusive and can be played and enjoyed by all ages.

West Sussex follow the ESMBA guidelines and procedures, which promote and encourage the highest possible standards of care towards any player at risk. Our clubs are encouraged to do likewise.

League and Knockout matches are governed by West Sussex rules which allow for players with disabilities, visible or otherwise, to participate. The rules from 2023/24 season are:

“1. During a match one substitute, if available, may be made for any team member who may not be able to complete the full number of ends because of their disability or for a medical reason.

2. A period of up to 10 minutes should be allowed for the substitute to join the team. The new player should be of a similar standard to the player being substituted.

3. The team Captain of the opposition should be advised of the substitution and play should resume with the end being completed.

4. If there is no substitute then the order of play is as stated in the 2020 edition of the ESMBA Laws of the Game.”

There is a comprehensive section (Appendix 5) in the ‘Laws of the Game’ setting out guidelines for bowlers with bowling difficulties. This is mainly about aids that can be used.

Good sportsmanship and fair play should be the overall deciding factor.