

RULES FOR COUNTY KNOCKOUT CUP

1. Eligibility

- a. Only players registered with both the ESMBA and the County are eligible to play.
- b. Teams will comprise of 8 players, playing as two teams of four. ESMBA Rules concerning shortage of players apply.
- c. Players may only play for the Club they are registered with when they play their first Knockout Cup game.
- d. No player may play for more than one team during a season.
- e. Any requests for transfer to a new Club after the start of the season must be made in writing to the League and KO Cup Secretary who will refer the matter to the Management Committee.

2. Season

The knockout Cup season will run from 1st September to the end of the first week in April each year. The timetable for each round will be sent out with the details of the draw. There shall be an entry fee of £5.00 per team (two mats).

3. Arrangement of Matches

- a. Matches may be played any time of the week, mutually convenient to both teams. The Home teams must offer at least 3 dates including one weekend to their opponents. Weekend dates when County Premier or A team matches are scheduled may be rejected by the Away team. In such a case an alternative weekend date must be offered. If the Home team cannot offer 3 dates then they may elect to play away or at a neutral venue.
- b. Dates must be offered to the Away team before the 31st August for 1st round matches and within fourteen **(Amended AGM 2008)** days of the completion of the previous matches for subsequent rounds. Knockout Cup Secretary to advise relevant clubs when matches have been completed to advise who their next opponent is. **(Added AGM 2008) The Away team must accept one of the dates offered within seven days of the dates being offered.**
- c. In the offering and accepting of dates for Knock Out Cup matches the Cup match should take priority over any friendly match and, if necessary and with the prior agreement of the League and KO Cup Secretary, a League match may be re-arranged to allow the Cup match to be played.
- d. A match fee of no more than £3 per player shall be payable by the away team to the host club. **(Amended AGM 2008)**
- e. **If two teams from the same club are drawn to play against one another the Management Committee reserve the right to insist that a neutral observer is present.** *The purpose of this rule is to stop any favouritism being shown by one team in a Club to another of its Club's teams.* **(Amended AGM 2011)**

4. Fixture List

The home club shall be responsible for notifying the League and KO Cup Secretary of the dates of Knockout Cup fixtures once they are arranged.

5. Match Format

- a. The format will be two mats with a minimum separation of 15 inches between the mats and a minimum distance between mat and the sidewalls of 6 inches and between mats and spectator area of 18 inches. 32 ounce jacks must be used. All matches to be played over 21 ends and ESMBA rules will apply.
- b. No player in a Cup match shall play on the same mat on the day of such a match before play commences, under penalty of disqualification from the Cup competition for the rest of the season.
- c. The Captains shall each complete two score cards with the names of the players on them. The Home Captain shall indicate which is Knockout Cup Mat 1 and which is Knockout Cup Mat 2 and then each captain shall mark one of these mat numbers on each of their two score cards. The players shall then play on the mat as numbered on the card.
- d. Captains to toss for the mat at the commencement of play. Two trial ends must be played unless both Captains agree not to do so.
- e. At the end of the game the scores from the two mats shall be added together and the team with the

highest aggregate shots scored shall be declared the winner.

- f. If after 21 ends the result is a draw then extra end(s) must be played by the same teams on both mats until a result is obtained.
- g. The winning team must send the Match Result Form to the League and KO Cup Secretary within four days. The form must be fully completed and signed by both captains.

6. Incompleted Matches

Should a match be started and be unable to be completed for reasons outside the control of either Club the following will apply:

- i. if the aggregate of both mats is 20 or fewer ends that have been completed the match will be re-arranged and replayed as a new match. A revised date for the match shall be arranged to enable the match to be played prior to the closing date for the Round. This revised date shall be notified to the League and KO Cup Secretary within 14 days of the date of the incomplete match.
- ii. if the aggregate of both mats is 21 ends or more that have been played the match will be considered as completed and the score will stand.

7. Re-arrangement of Matches

- a. Should it become necessary, and in exceptional circumstances only, a match may be re-arranged subject to the agreement of the League and KO Cup Secretary.
- b. Exceptional circumstances are defined as:
 - i. The non-availability of the venue over which the Club has no control;
 - ii. The precedence of a higher level competition i.e. Inter County;
 - iii. A shortage of players due to illness or accident;
- c. Should a match have to be re-arranged, the Club responsible for the non-fulfilment must in advance give a written explanation (or if less than 48 before the match a verbal notification followed by a written one) to the League and KO Cup Secretary as to why the match is required to be re-arranged. They should then contact the opposition in order to arrange a revised date. Clubs should be aware that when a postponement is requested due to 'lack of players' - in order that the Management Committee are in full possession of facts in order to decide if 'exceptional circumstances apply' - the League Secretary will request from the club details of why each player registered is unable to play on that particular date. **(Amended AGM 2011)**

When seeking to arrange a revised date, all possible dates shall be explored, including weekends, different evenings and where possible different weekdays. Dates where League, KO Cup or ICC matches are already arranged, are not acceptable dates and a mixture of up to 10 different dates should be considered if necessary. Unlike original dates offered prior to the start of the season, the oppositions views must be considered as they are the 'non guilty' party in such instances but once 10 varied dates have been offered they are required to accept one of those dates offered within the timescale detailed below. **(Amended AGM 2011)**

- d. This revised date when arranged, shall be notified to the League and KO Cup Secretary, by both clubs, within 14 days of the decision to re-arrange the match. Where teams are unable to agree on a date for the re-arranged match, both teams shall notify the League and KO Cup Secretary in writing, within seven days, giving reasons why they are unable to agree a revised date. The matter will then be discussed by the League and KO Cup Secretary with members of the Management Committee who shall decide upon a date and if necessary, a venue, after hearing representations from each Club. This decision will be binding on both clubs.
- e. The Club responsible for the non-fulfilment of any match must meet any costs incurred for the original match arrangements. All non-fulfilled matches must be re-arranged to be completed within the published timescale. . A match can only be conceded with the specific agreement of the League and KO Cup Secretary.
- f. The reasons for any re-arrangement of a match will be subject to review by the County Management Committee and action may be taken against the club responsible for the non-fulfilment.

8. Dress.

Full ESMBA dress regulations will be in force at all stages of the competition. Clubs may dress in their own colours provided that all players are the same; otherwise it must be mid-grey below the waist and white above. Proprietary bowling shoes or bowling sandals must be worn whilst playing on the rink mats.

9. Bowls Stickers

Bowls stickers, if used, must be the same on all of the team members bowls.

10. Disputes

In all disputes and in any interpretation of these rules the County Management Committee's decision will be final.

(Paras. 3b and 3d. amended at the AGM 2008)