

## About Us

The English Short Mat Bowling Association is the National Governing Body for Short Mat Bowls in England. We were founded in 1984 and represent approximately 14000 registered players across our network of County Associations. We are Partners in the Bowls Development Alliance and work actively with the other Bowls National Governing Bodies; Bowls England (Lawn Bowls), English Indoor Bowling Association (Indoor Bowls) and British Crown Green Bowling Association (Crown Green Bowls) on Safeguarding, Development and Coaching.

We have an England Senior Squad, an England Ladies Team and an Under 21 Academy.



If you would like more information on Short Mat Bowls, setting up a club, registering with the ESMBA or finding a club, please find contact information on the back page



Want to give Short Mat Bowls a try?  
Already play bowls and want to find your local club or County Association?

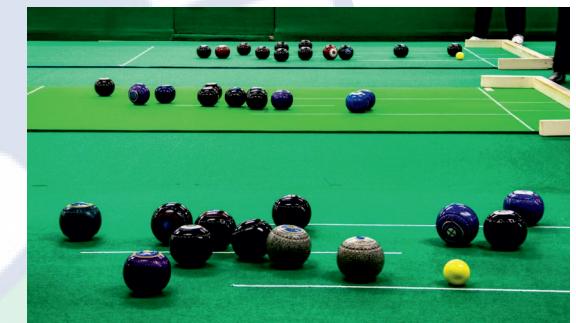
Scan the QR Code below and it will give you a list of County Contacts, or alternatively email [enquiries@esmba.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@esmba.co.uk)



[www.esmba.co.uk](http://www.esmba.co.uk)

ENGLISH SHORT MAT BOWLING  
ASSOCIATION

play  
Short Mat Bowls



## Fancy giving it a go?

Short Mat Bowls is a sport for all - any age, any ability - and we play all year round. Short Mat Bowls was derived from Outdoor Lawn Bowls and has been actively

played in England since the 1960s.

Short Mat Bowls is played on a special 45ft x 6ft Carpet which has specific markings only relevant to



Short Mat Bowls. The Sport is often found in Village Halls, Community Centres, Indoor Bowls Halls and Outdoor Bowling Club Pavilions.

Although it's a more condensed version of Outdoor Bowls it's no lesser of a sport, in fact it requires a great deal of skill.

Short Mat Bowls can be played at all levels; from simply having a friendly roll-up at your local club to playing on the International Circuit and representing England at the British Isles Championships or the World Championships.

### COACHING

Here in England the 4 Principal Bowls Governing Bodies subscribe to a Nationally recognised Coaching Program: CoachBowls.

This means all of our Coaches are trained to a specific standard to coach both new and existing Players of all abilities.

### EQUIPMENT

Short Mat Bowls is played on a specialist 45ft x 6ft Carpet playing surface which is able to be rolled up and easily stored or transported. They come in a variety of speeds and different surface colours. In the middle of the Carpet is an obstacle called the block to prevent bowls from being played straight up the middle.

We use the same Bowls as both Lawn and Indoor Bowls which are available in different sizes and bias (Bias makes the Bowls turn). Most Bowls Manufacturers now offer the ability to customise the colour and engraving of the bowls.

### INCLUSIVITY

Not all Children want or are able to play the traditional school sports of Football, Rugby, Hockey, Netball and Cricket, however Bowls is a game that is accessible to all abilities. Short Mat Bowls can be played in School Halls, Sports Centres and even classrooms.

In England we have an Under 21 Academy, allowing under 21s of all abilities to receive coaching and being able to represent England at youth level.



### GRANT SCHEME

Interested in setting up a club? Have ageing or worn equipment and can't afford new? The ESMBA have introduced a new Grant Scheme which can be found at [www.esmba.co.uk/development/grants](http://www.esmba.co.uk/development/grants).

Contact us at: [enquiries@esmba.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@esmba.co.uk)