

SCBA WINTER LEAGUE FOR TEAMS OF FOUR

1. **THE WINTER LEAGUE** will consist of a **Premier** and a **Second Division** covering the whole geographical area, and two or more **Regional Divisions**. Each Division will have a maximum of eight teams.
2. **TEAMS** may include up to six members. Additionally, a team is allowed up to **two substitutes** per match. Such players may not be members of the same or a higher Division. A player included as a substitute in more than one match becomes a full member of that team. All members of Premier and Second Division teams must belong to SCBA, or to Essex CBA and be resident in North Essex.
3. **MATCHES** will consist of 24 boards. played in two sets of 12. A pair may not play the same opponents in both sets. Unless otherwise agreed, the **home team** will remain in the same seats in both halves. The **away team** may choose their first-half opponents.
4. **REFRESHMENTS**. It is suggested that these be kept to a reasonable minimum, there is no obligation to provide more than tea/coffee/soft drinks and biscuits.
5. **CONVENTIONS**. **Level 4** permitted conventions may be used in the Premier and Second Divisions, and **Level 3** permitted conventions in the Regional Divisions.
6. **TIMETABLE**. Matches should be played in the designated month. or earlier if agreeable to both captains. The away Captain should offer, before the month in which the match is scheduled, at least three weekday alternatives, not all in the same week or on the same day of the week. The onus is on the home captain to accept one of the dates. In the event of no agreement before the end of the designated month, the League Secretary should be informed. If a match is outstanding at the end of the season an assigned score will be imposed by the League Secretary. (*Details by footnote*).
7. **SCORING** will be by IMPs, converted into Victory Points (VPs) as right. (*This scale conforms to the EBU Victory Point scale for a match of 24 boards*).
8. **PROMOTION AND RELEGATION**. The winners of the Regional Divisions will be promoted to the Second Division. and an equal number of the lowest teams in the Second Division will be relegated. *If a Regional Division winner does not wish to be Promoted, their place will be offered to the second team.* The winner and runner-up in the Second Division will be promoted to the Premier Division, and the two lowest teams in the Premier Division will be relegated to the Second Division.

IMPs	VPs
0 – 1	10 – 10
2 – 4	11 – 9
5 – 8	12 – 8
9 – 12	13 – 7
13 – 16	14 – 6
17 – 21	15 – 5
22 – 26	16 – 4
27 – 32	17 – 3
33 – 39	18 – 2
40 – 50	19 – 1
51+	20 – 0

In addition to these procedures, the League Secretary retains the right (in consultation with the SCBA Committee) to promote other teams from the Regional Divisions, or to enter newly-formed teams directly into the Second Division, in order to maintain its complement of 7/8 teams.

In the event of two or more teams in a Division having equal VPs at the end of the season, their positions will be decided by their total IMP scores. If still equal, the match between the two teams concerned will decide the positions.

9. **LEAGUE TABLES** will be published regularly and distributed to team captains. They will be available on the Suffolk website www.suffolkbridge.co.uk
10. **THE LAWS OF DUPLICATE BRIDGE** as adopted by the EBU will apply, and the home captain should have a copy of these laws available. *Attention is drawn to the law that prohibits re-deals if all four players pass.*
11. **DISPUTES**. A form is available on which to give details of the dispute. The League Secretary will arbitrate in the first instance. The captains have a right of appeal against his decision.
12. **MASTER POINTS** will be awarded to all players winning or drawing matches. Bonus points will be awarded to teams placed first or second in their Division - these points are given to members who have played in at least half of their team's matches.
13. **AN ENTRY FEE** - currently £14 - is payable to SCBA.

Footnote: Assigned Scores. If a match cannot be played and the League Secretary considers that a team is not at fault, its score will be assigned as the highest of these options:

- a) The average of all their other matches played (*rounded down - i.e. 13.8 gives 13*)
- b) 20 *minus* the average of their opponent's score in all the opponent's other matches played
- c) 12 VPs.