



Milwaukee Lake Park Lawn Bowling Association, Inc.

2020 Membership Information

MAY 1 through APRIL 30

As a member of the Milwaukee Lake Park Lawn Bowling Association (MLPLBA), you are welcome and encouraged to participate in league and tournament play. This allows learning while playing, socialization, and friendly competition. You may also attend free public lessons on Tuesday evenings or private lessons with one of our club coaches. Membership includes access to the greens, clubhouse, and equipment during scheduled play times.

Our organization is run entirely by volunteers keeping our costs low, making the sport available to anyone, and allowing us to maintain the greens, clubhouse, and equipment to our specific needs. This also makes us responsible for running the club and the maintenance and repair of our facilities and equipment. As a part of an annual membership, each member is requested to offer their time and talent towards a committee tasked with meeting these needs.

When completing the Membership Form, please select the league(s) and tournament(s) you would like to play in and volunteer opportunities you are interested in. This helps us connect you to the other volunteers in charge. If you don't know your schedule this far in advance, this is not a commitment, just an indication of your interests. Following is a description of our leagues, tournaments, and volunteer opportunities.

Leagues

Odd Couple - A PAIRS game is played between two opposing teams of two players each. Participants play one game, 12 ends in length. Teams are composed of "odd couples," such as spouses, partners, workmates, or friends. If you don't have a teammate, we'll match you up with someone.

Team - Players are assigned to different teams and play games throughout the season against members of other teams, attempting to earn points for their team. We determine the discipline (SINGLES, PAIRS, TRIPLES, or FOURS) and length of play (time, number of ends, or first to reach a certain number of shots) based on the players present each week.

Throw Down - A PAIRS game is played between two opposing teams of two players each. On Thursday afternoon, participants play one game, 12 ends in length. Teams are determined by random draw. Opponents are determined by random draw.

Social - On Thursday nights, we invite local groups (co-workers, friends, families, etc.) to enter teams for league play. Each team can roster up to 8 players, 4 will compete each night. This is a coed league, so teams should consist of at least 1 male and 1 female player. **There is a separate charge and registration for the Social League.*

Tournaments

Blind Pairs - The Blind Pairs is played on Memorial Day weekend. Participants sign up as individuals. The tournament director designates participants as either a "lead" or "skip" and assigns teams. The lead and skip partners change each game (to promote mixing) and the teams are not revealed until the start of each game ("blind" tournament).

Mixed Pairs - The goal is to get more people interested in competitive bowling with fellow club members, who you may or may not have had the opportunity to bowl with before. Teams are composed of 1 male and 1 female and participants choose their own partners. The tournament is bracket style, double elimination, kicking off the first Monday in June. The first round is played that evening or within 2 weeks on a mutually agreed upon date/time between opponents. The second round starts the third Monday of June and every other Monday after that until the winners of each flight are determined.

Potlicker – This 2-day tournament is the first competitive tournament of the season. Participants determine their own teams. There is an entry fee, which goes towards the cash prize that is awarded to the winners. Teams earn points based on whether they win/lose and by how much each game. At the end of the play, the top scoring team is declared the tournament winner and will have their names engraved on a trophy in the clubhouse.

Breakfast Bowls - This series of games is intended to promote club fellowship. We start with breakfast followed by a morning of bowls on a Saturday in June, July and August. Teams will be determined based on the skill and experience level of the players present. Opponents will be determined by a draw. At the end of the series, prizes will be awarded to participants based on attendance and game success. An entry fee for each date will help cover the cost of breakfast and prizes. You do not need to play all three dates.

Super Singles – Similar to the Mixed Pairs, but the discipline is SINGLES. The tournament is bracket style, double elimination, kicking off the first Monday in August. The first round is played that evening or within 2 weeks on a mutually agreed upon date/time between opponents. The second round starts the third Monday of August and every other Monday after that until the winners of each flight are determined.

Sydney Steller and Otto Hess Invitational - This event is open to MLPLBA members and other Bowls USA members. Sydney Steller tournament is for women and Otto Hess tournament is for men (unless we can't get enough players for one of the tournaments, then we merge) Participants may sign up as teams or as individuals, in which case the tournament director will assign teams.

Veteran Novice Pairs - This tournament teams up veterans (more than 2 years of lawn bowls experience) with novices (2 years or less of lawn bowls experience). It is an excellent way for our novice bowlers to gain tournament experience. Participants may sign up as a team (veteran + novice) or as individuals, in which case the tournament director will assign teams. Teams earn points based on whether they win/lose and by how much each game. At the end of the play, the top scoring team is declared the tournament winner.

Chili Bowl - This is the last tournament of the season and, as the name suggests, chili is involved. Participants sign up as individuals and the tournament director assigns teams, which compete against each other in a variety of disciplines that may include SINGLES, PAIRS, TRIPLES, and FOURS. There is an entry fee, which goes towards the cash prize that is awarded to the winners.

Volunteer Opportunities

Games Committee - arranges the makeup of teams for regular games and Club tournaments; assigns rinks for all games and Club tournaments in consultation with the Greens Committee; provides the Secretary with all scores and results; and establishes fees for all games, Club tournaments, and social events.

House Committee – responsible for purchasing snacks, beverages, and supplies for the club house; maintenance and upkeep of the clubhouse and related furniture and equipment; keeps an accurate inventory of physical property; and keeps order by enforcing club rules.

Greens Committee - maintenance and upkeep of the bowling greens and all related equipment; prepares the greens for play; and shall rule on playing conditions, such as use of sheets or temporary closure.

Grounds Committee - responsible for the maintenance of the grounds between the greens and perimeter fence including landscaping; responsible for maintenance and repair of the benches, picnic tables, and exterior clubhouse; works with the Milwaukee County Parks Department to ensure the maintenance of the grounds surrounding the clubhouse and perimeter fence

Membership Committee – actively recruits new members through Open House events; act as mentors to new members; provides new members with a copy of the bylaws, rules of bowling, and a name tag; supports membership with the goal towards retention.

Marketing/Promotion Committee - responsible for the publicity and promotion of Club activities to the community and press; provides and updates information about the Club to the Central Division and Bowls USA; works with the Games Committee to encourage participation in regular games and tournaments; works with the Membership Committee to actively recruit and retain members

Group Events Committee - responds to event inquiries, books events, recruits club members to volunteer at events, collect the appropriate event fees and then turn over fees to the treasurer; communicates event bookings with the Greens Committee and website administrator; support efforts of the Membership Committee to convert event guests to members.