

Mount Dora Lawn Bowling Club

Frequently Asked Questions

How much does it cost to join the club?

Dues are paid annually once per year prior to January 1st for the following calendar year. Dues for members who join during the year are prorated. Partners of a couple who choose not to become active bowling members may join as associate members and participate in all of the club's social activities. The current annual dues for new members are as follows:

Active bowling member \$ 237.25

Associate member \$ 105.18

The above amounts include dues, a one-time \$25 initiation fee for active bowling members, membership in regional and national lawn bowling organizations, membership badge and sales tax.

New members joining in October or later in the year pay the annual dues for 2017 and effectively receive the benefits of the club for the balance of 2016 for free.

There is no per use charge for social bowling games and most tournaments.

Do I have to be a certain age in order to join the club?

Membership in our club is open to anyone who learns how to bowl and pays the annual dues. Our members currently range in age from 23 to 98. Those working full time during the day can become members and bowl in our evening games and on Saturday.

What kind of equipment will I need and how much does it cost?

Each bowler needs to have a set of 4 identical bowls. Every set has a different design. Sizes vary – the smallest being 00; the largest being a size 6. New members have an option of either purchasing a used set of bowls from current members or the club and these generally can be purchased for under \$50, or you may want to immediately purchase a new set of bowls which cost between \$260 and \$375 depending on the manufacturer chosen and delivery methods. Bowls with special colors on them can be purchased for an additional premium.

Flat soled shoes must be worn. These can be purchased locally for usually under \$60 or you can have a flat soled bottom put on an existing pair of shoes at local shoe repair shops.

If you wish to participate in some of the club's tournaments, you will need to wear white clothing or a club or matching team shirt.

You should also purchase a lawn bowling measuring tape, which costs \$32 and you may want to consider a carrying case for your bowls if one doesn't come with the set you purchase.

The club provides lockers, free of charge, in the pavilion to store your equipment, if desired.

How much training/instruction is required to become an active bowling member and is there a cost?

The club provides free training/instruction to become an active bowling member. The club provides lessons the two weeks following each Open House from Monday-Friday between 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. each day. Our next Open House is scheduled for October 1st and 2nd, 2016 and classes begin on October 3rd, 2016. This is the preferred method of training/instruction and we encourage you to attend as many of the lessons as possible. We find that taking lessons with others in a group setting provides the best training/instruction possible and provides you an opportunity to get to know others who will be joining the club with you.

Should your schedule and other commitments not allow you to attend these scheduled lessons, then we can alternatively make other arrangements for you. These could include combining you with others in similar situations and setting up lessons with an authorized instructor in small groups on days and times convenient to the group. In some situations, we can arrange for evening training and instruction, or individual tutoring can be arranged.

The key is we want you to know we are willing to be flexible to accommodate your schedule and to allow you to learn the game and become a member of our club.

How often will I be able to bowl?

The club has social bowling games six days per week from Monday through Saturday. Between October – April, organized social bowling games occur three times on most days. Between May – September, organized social bowling games occurs twice per day on most days. The club's social bowling games are organized in a non-team environment which maximizes a member getting to know other members quickly.

Included in the above noted organized social bowling is evening bowling on Monday – Thursday throughout the year. Eight of our rinks are lighted allowing for bowling even after it gets dark. Games start at 7 p.m. and conclude from 8:30 – 9:00 p.m. Along with Saturday mornings, this provides opportunities for those working during the day to actively participate in our club.

There is no per use charge for social bowling games and most tournaments. If you become a fairly active bowler, the above schedule results in the club dues and overall cost, including equipment, being a very inexpensive sport to participate in compared to other alternatives.

What are the social activities available at the club beyond lawn bowling?

The club has a modern clubhouse with a fully equipped kitchen and refrigerators stocked with refreshments, including wine and beer. The club has 10 organized parties each year, generally connected to holidays, and generally involving a social bowling game followed by a lunch and program related to the holiday.

In addition, the club has organized periodic games played in the clubhouse including bridge, euchre, mah jongg, bunco, trivia and art classes.

Our lawn bowling club, currently with 319 members, is considered to be the largest organized social outlet in Mount Dora and, based on total membership, we are the largest lawn bowling club in the USA.

How many club bowling tournaments are held each year?

The club hosts 16 intra club bowling tournaments each year between October – April. You may participate, but are not required, to enter in as many of these as you desire. Some are one day events and some last as long as a week. You don't need to have developed a specific skill level in order to participate in the tournaments and we encourage members to participate in the tournaments as soon as they feel comfortable in doing so.

In addition, there are a variety of inter club tournaments which occur, usually between October – April involving other clubs in Florida.

The club also hosts its annual Holiday Bowl, held during the first weekend of December. 28 teams participate, 7 from our club and 21 teams from other clubs in Florida and elsewhere in the USA and Canada. It is a five game, three day tournament coinciding with some of Mount Dora's Christmas events.

Do I have to live in Mount Dora to become a member?

No, anyone can become a member after receiving the appropriate bowling training and instruction. We have members who live in Eustis, Tavares, Leesburg, Apopka, Umatilla, Howey-in-the Hills, etc. Everyone is welcome to join regardless of where you live.

Can I join as a new Associate member and not bowl if I don't have a partner who is an active bowling member?

No, our club policy does not allow for membership as an Associate member unless a partner of a couple is an active bowling member.

Will I be asked to volunteer to do work on club bowling and social events and activities?

Yes. The strength and foundation of our club is based on members volunteering to help with bowling and social events and activities related to the facilities. Our club would likely not be as large or vibrant as it is without members volunteering to help out. By participating as a volunteer, you also get to know other members better, enriching your overall club and social experience.

Please go to our web site link "bowling" and click on the video to learn the basics of lawn bowling, how the game is played, scored, etc.