

Greater Crystal Lake Women's Club Ladies Bowling League Rules

Revised 10/8/2023

Eligible Bowlers – All regular bowlers on a team must be paid members of the Greater Crystal Lake Women's Club. Anyone can bowl as a Pacer. A Pacer's score does not count towards the team score for the week. A Pacer bowls in place of an absent bowler or a vacant spot to help keep the pace in sync between the teams.

Scheduling – The season lasts for 30 weeks. If the weather is bad enough to call off school, then we will also cancel bowling that week. There may or may not be a makeup date scheduled. Banquet details will be discussed throughout the year as the dates approach.

At the discretion of the League Officers, it may be decided to split the season into two halves, with position prize money awarded after each half.

Fees – The Bowling Fee is \$12.00 per week. \$9.00 is to cover the cost of bowling, \$3.00 is added to the prize fund. Each bowler must have paid for all 30 weeks of bowling by the 29th week, so that money is available for prizes awarded at the banquet on the 30th week. If we split the season and award prize money at the holiday luncheon, bowlers must have paid for all weeks of the first half of the season by one week before the awards date. If a bowler has not paid in full, the amount owed will be deducted from their prize money.

Pacers pay \$9.00 per week to cover the cost of bowling.

- If the pacer is taking the spot of an absent regular bowler, and the regular bowler has already pre-paid, then the \$9.00 will be given back to the regular bowler.
- If the pacer is taking the spot of an absent regular bowler and the regular bowler has NOT already pre-paid, then the league keeps the \$9.00 to cover the bowling cost and the regular bowler is only responsible for the \$3.00 to contribute to the prize fund for that week.
- If the pacer is bowling in a vacant spot, the league also keeps the \$9.00 to cover our cost.

General Rules – Bowling practice starts at 9:20 am, Bowling begins at 9:30 am. Tardy bowlers must be on the alley by the end of the third frame to count their score. If a bowler arrives after the end of the third frame, they do not bowl the first game, they are marked absent, and their absent score (average minus 10) is used. They can still bowl the second and third games and those scores will count. If a person must leave early during the third game, she may bowl out after the fifth frame if that is agreeable to both teams.

Pre-bowling – A bowler may pre-bowl if she knows in advance that she will not be able to bowl on the scheduled date. A bowler may only pre-bowl up to four weeks prior to their absence. Simply inform the desk you will be pre-bowling for the Greater Crystal Lake Women's Club League. If you are unable to pre-bowl, your average minus 10 pins will be used.

Bowler Absences and/or Removal – If a bowler knows she will be absent for two or more weeks she may pay in advance. Bowlers absent for two or more weeks **without notification to the team captain or a league officer** will be dropped from the league. An emergency will be considered if the league is notified. If for any reason a bowler must quit, one of the league officers should be notified two weeks prior to the date leaving. All prize money will be forfeited. The vacancy will be filled at the discretion of the league board.

Forfeit – No longer will a team be required to forfeit if only one regular bowler is present. One bowler makes a legal line-up. If all of the bowlers on a team are not present and none of them pre-bowled, the team forfeits.

Teams and Scoring –Individual handicaps are based on 90% of 180. Once an average is established, the handicap is 90% of the difference between the individual's average and 180. For example, if a bowler's average is 140, then their handicap is $(180 - 140) * 90\% = 40 * 90\% = 36$.

Returning bowlers will retain their ending average from the previous season (also known as Book Average) until nine games have been completed in the new season. At that point, the average will be calculated based on those nine games and will be recalculated each week. New bowlers' averages will be calculated after the first three games (also known as establishing an average). The league may decide on different methods to calculate averages at the beginning of each season.

Team standings are determined by points earned each week. There are a possible seven points per week: two points are awarded per game and one point for series. If there is a tie for these game points, then pin count will determine position. If there is still a tie at the end of the season or half-season when prize money is to be determined, teams shall bowl an additional frame scored like the 10th frame. This frame shall be bowled on the same lane where the final games of the playoffs were bowled. If the tie is still unbroken, the teams will continue to bowl alternating lanes until the tie is broken. One tenth of the team's handicap is added to the extra frame. If there is a fraction of the handicap, it will be dropped.

If we have an uneven number of teams, one team will bowl alone. That team must bowl within 30 pins of their average to win a game.

Team Captains – Captains are responsible for collecting team fees, notifying the treasurer if players are absent, and required to teach team members how to operate the automatic scoring machine. Ask for help if you need it!

Basic Etiquette –

- Be sure the lane on either side is clear for bowling before stepping onto the approach.
- Step off the approach if you are waiting for your ball or the pinsetter so bowlers on the lanes next to you know you are not ready to bowl.
- The bowler on the right has the right of way.
- Bowlers must be ready to bowl when it is their turn.
- Smoking is not allowed inside the bowling alley.
- Bowling shoes are not to be worn outside – if you must step outside, change to street shoes or put covers on your bowling shoes.

Prizes – Each member must bowl at least 75% of the time to be eligible for both individual and team prize money. **If a bowler attempts to pre-bowl but is unable to, the absence is excused.** New bowlers entering after the midpoint (15th week of a 30-week season, 7th or 8th week of a half season) of bowling or later are not eligible for prize money; however, they will only be responsible for the same amount as a substitute - \$9.00 per week.

League Officers: Linda Agress (815) 451-1079, Donna Nikodem (847) 212-4968