March 2024

WEST LONDON BOWLING CLUB

Members' Guests and Guest Fees policies

(These policies supersede Rule 6x and related rules of the November 2021 rules as approved at the AGM in November 2023)

1. General principles

The Club is committed to welcoming non-members to play sport and to participate in social events, and to offering good value for money to newcomers who get involved part-way through the membership year (1 May to 30 April). Nevertheless, at a time of increasing costs in running the Club, it is the Committee's duty to ensure that all efforts are made to recover some financial contribution to Club finances when non-members enjoy the sports and events facilities. The following arrangements apply to all non-members participating in Club sports or social activities at the invitation of individual Members or the Club.

a) Members are encouraged to invite non-member guests onto the Club premises. All guests **must** be signed in the Guest Book by the host
b) If a large group (over 5) is being hosted then member WhatsApp groups, (details of which can be found on the club website) and/or an officer of the Club or the Membership Secretary must approve to ensure guests and members can be accommodated at the same time. (A close and continuous review by the Committee will be undertaken.)
c) The 'host' Member is responsible for their guests following the Club's code of conduct and the rules of any sport they play, and for paying the guest fee if applicable (see exceptions below). This includes respect for fellow members and responsible consumption of alcohol.
d) The relevant sport captain, or event organiser, should act as 'host' Member if the guest is invited to participate in an event but not personally invited by a player or attendee.

2. Restrictions on guest attendance

There is not a limit on the number of times a guest may be signed in. However, frequent guests should be strongly encouraged to join and members are expected not to take advantage of guest fees as a way of avoiding the annual subscription.

3. Guest fees

A fee must be paid by the 'host' Member when a guest either plays a sport or attends an event organised by the Club.

a) Fees for guests playing sports: A member who invites guests to play sports (bowls, croquet or pétanque) must pay a guest fee of £5 per guest or the then fee level set by the Management Committee and notified to the members.
b) Fees for guests attending social events organised by the Club: A member who invites guests to a social event organised by the Club must pay the guest fee applicable to the specific event, as decided by the Committee. As an indication, social event fees previously charged have been between £5 and £33 per person.

4. Exceptions to the guest fee requirements

March 2024

All non-members present on Club premises must be signed in as guests by a 'host' member, but guest fees need not be paid if:

a) Someone who is not a member attends one of the scheduled sports sessions organised by the Captains of bowls, croquet or pétanque, to try out the game in question. Non-members may attend up to three such 'taster sessions' in a year without a guest fee being payable.
b) Players from another club or association attend to play a WLBC team as part of an official competition.
c) Non-members use the sports and/or social facilities and pay, or attend free of charge, under arrangements specific to the event and agreed in advance by the Committee.
d) A non-member visits but makes no use of the clubhouse facilities and is neither playing a sport nor attending a social event.
e) A member of an overseas bowls / pétanque / croquet club visits on a single occasion to greet the Club and play their sport with members.

5. Arrangements for payment of Guest Fees

Ideally payment should be paid online using the number 7 followed by the member surname. E.g. 7Smith Alternatively, if this is not possible there are envelopes available by the guest book for cash or cheques, which can be labelled and posted through the office door by the 'host' Member.

6. Review of this policy

The Committee will review the feasibility of introducing 'pay and play' arrangements for use in these circumstances for the 2025 season.