

CONSTITUTION

Summary Version
Comprising original 2002 version
and amendments made in
2010, 2013, 2019 and 2022

1. NAME OF CLUB

The Club shall be known as the Niagara-on-the-Lake Lawn Bowling Club.

2. CONSTITUTION, BY-LAWS AND AMENDMENTS

The Constitution, By-Laws and Amendments shall be effective when approved at an Annual Meeting or Special Membership Meeting after appropriate notice and information has been given.

Any member may initiate proposed amendments to the Constitution or By-laws. The mover and seconder must both be members of the Club. Such proposals should be submitted in writing to the Secretary in sufficient time to be included in the Notice of the Annual Meeting at which they are to be considered by the membership.

3. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Club are:

- to provide and maintain a high-quality playing area and adequate equipment and clubhouse facilities;
- to arrange and schedule games and tournaments at our home Club;
- to encourage participation in inter-club and provincial bowling activities;
- to provide affordable opportunities for recreation and fellowship to as many citizens as possible;
- to provide coaching for new bowlers that will enable them to learn about the game and be able to enjoy it at any level.

4. CLUB EXECUTIVE AND OFFICERS

The Officers of the Club shall comprise:

President
Vice-President
Immediate Past-President
Secretary
Treasurer

The Executive shall consist of the Officers and the following members:

Tournament Secretary
Chair - Membership and Publicity Committee
Chair - Greens and Grounds Committee
Chair - Supplies and Social Committee
Chair – Capital Improvements Committee

The Executive shall conduct the operation of the Club and shall be responsible to the general membership. The Executive shall normally meet quarterly. The President or any two officers may call extra meetings on one week's notice. A quorum for an Executive meeting shall be 6 members, one of whom must be the President or Vice-President. All questions shall be decided by a simple majority vote of the members attending. The President or his alternate shall not vote except to break a tie. If a vacancy occurs on the Executive, the Executive may appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting.

5. MEMBERSHIP

Regular membership shall be open to all who wish to lawn bowl, are prepared to receive coaching as required and pay the annual fee.

Social membership shall be open to all who are prepared to pay the annual fee. Social members may not participate in regular bowling, but are allowed to bowl as a guest a limited number of times.

Associate membership shall be open to all who are prepared to pay the annual fee. This membership is only open to those who are members of another club and pay the OLBA fee through that club. These members will pay a reduced fee.

Honorary membership may, on recommendation by the Executive, be awarded to a member for special services rendered to the Club. An honorary member will not be required to pay the annual fee.

6. MEETINGS

The Annual Meeting shall be held in the autumn of each year. Special Membership Meetings may be called by the Executive. Action at any meeting shall require a quorum of 50% of the members in good standing at the date of the meeting.

Notice (either by post or by electronic mail) of the Annual Meeting shall be sent by the Secretary 30 days before the meeting date to all paid-up members. Failure of any member to receive notice properly sent shall not invalidate any decisions taken or other proceedings of that meeting.

Proxy forms will be sent to all members prior to the Annual General Meeting and Special Membership Meetings.

7. NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

At each Annual Meeting the membership shall elect the following to serve for two years. This term of office can be extended once every two years with the membership's approval.

President
Vice-President
Secretary
Treasurer (or combined Secretary and Treasurer)
Tournament Secretary
Capital Improvements Committee
Membership and Publicity Committee
Greens and Grounds Committee
Supplies and Social Committee

The newly elected Executive will assume responsibility immediately following the Annual Meeting. Sixty days before the Annual Meeting, the President shall appoint three members of the Club, one being the Past-President, as the nominating committee to canvass possible candidates and prepare a list of nominees for each vacant Executive position. The Past-President will chair the committee. Members may be nominated at the Annual Meeting by any two members. A nominee must accept the nomination for it to be valid.

If there is more than one nominee for a position, voting shall be by secret ballot. The President shall appoint two members to count the ballots and report the results, after which the ballots must be destroyed. Members wishing to serve on a committee must submit their names to the Chair of that committee. Committee Chairs are expected to invite members to serve.

8. AFFILIATIONS

The Club shall maintain membership in the Ontario Lawn Bowling Association and District 6.

9. FINANCE

The fiscal year shall be from November 1 through October 31.

The financial resources of the Club are held in an Operating Fund which will consist of a bank account and guaranteed investments.

Signing authority for the bank account shall be the Treasurer, the President and the Vice-President. Any withdrawals from the bank account requires two signatures; the Treasurer and one of the President or Vice-President. In an emergency, the President and Vice-President may act as the two signers.

Withdrawals from the guaranteed investments may be made only by a majority vote of the Executive. Investment recommendations shall be submitted by the Treasurer to the Executive for their approval.

A reviewed financial statement of the Operating Fund shall be presented, and voted on, at each Annual Meeting.

10. FEES

Increases in membership dues shall be by majority vote of those members in good standing present at the Annual Meeting or a Special Membership Meeting.

Memberships (aside from Honorary Memberships) normally expire at the end of a season and members are required to renew at the beginning of the next season. However, when the Club is unable to open due to exceptional circumstances such as a pandemic, flood, or fire, memberships will be extended until such time as the Club is able to resume normal operation.

New members who join the Club after August 1st will be required to pay one-half the annual fee.

Persons who do not reside in Niagara-on-the-Lake will be required to pay an additional Non-Resident fee.

All persons who were regular members of the Club in 2010 or earlier will be exempt from this Non-Resident fee.

11. INDEMNITY

Every officer and executive member of the Club and their heirs, executors or administrators and estates and effects shall, at all times, be indemnified and saved harmless out of the monies of the Club, from and against any action or proceeding that is brought, commenced or prosecuted against them resulting from the authorized performance of their duties required by the Club.

12. DISSOLUTION

Upon dissolution of the Club and after payment of all debts and liabilities, the remaining assets shall be distributed to charitable organizations which carry out their work in the Province of Ontario.

13. REVOCATION

All Constitutions and By-Laws enacted or passed previously are hereby revoked.

Signed at Niagara-on-the-Lake, October 15, 2022

Paul McHoull, President

Angela Lynch, Secretary
