

HIGHWOOD BOCCE CLUB

Membership Guide

December 2018



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ABOUT US

Referred to by many as the “bocce capital of the U.S.,” the Highwood Bocce Club was established in 1969 and has been growing and improving ever since. We have the finest bocce courts in the United States, are a frequent host of regional, national and international tournaments, and enjoy the support of over 500 members.

MISSION AND OBJECTIVES

The goals and purposes of the organization are to protect and further the interest and welfare of its members and the club as a whole, and to enhance community accord and friendship.

We seek to accomplish this by focusing on the following objectives:

- promote the game of bocce
- educate the public about the game of bocce
- provide social activities for the members
- create awareness of Italian heritage and culture



CLUB STRUCTURE

The Highwood Bocce Club is run and managed completely by volunteers. Although there is no volunteer requirement of membership, all members are encouraged to do what they can to assist in Club events, activities, and maintenance.

The Club is governed by the Administration or Board consisting of the following officers: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary. Additionally, there are seven trustees that are part of the Administration. All officers and trustees are volunteer positions with two-year terms, with elections held every two years in November. All members with one year or more of membership are encouraged to run. See the Club Bylaws for further information on Administration responsibilities and procedures.

In order to support key responsibilities and activities needed to run the Club, the President typically forms committees with committee chairs and invites members to participate. Examples of committees include Kitchen, Bar, Facilities, Leagues, Membership and others.

HISTORY

Highwood wasn't always known for bocce, the traditional Italian lawn-bowling game. Originally settled by Germans in the 19th century, it was home to a thriving liquor industry and some notorious taverns. The only "wet" town between Evanston, Ill., and Kenosha, Wis., it once held the Guinness World Record for most taverns per square mile, filled nightly



with soldiers from nearby Fort Sheridan. President Teddy Roosevelt once called Highwood "the toughest town in America." Before agreeing to build the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in 1904, Congress insisted on passing the Highwood Act,

which prohibited bars near military bases.

Italian immigrants began to move into the neighborhood in the early 20th century. Many were stonecutters and tradesmen from and all around Modena who helped build the luxurious mansions that still define the Northshore suburbs from Wilmette to Lake Forest.

Since Italians settled in Highwood in the early 1900s, the game of bocce came with them. Gathering to play was of course done for the enjoyment of the game. However, it was also a good excuse for holding social gatherings and served a vital role in building community and friendships while honoring Italian traditions and heritage. This was especially important when too frequently these Italian immigrants felt isolated from society and were forced to combat stereotypes and discrimination.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s, there were several groups of men playing bocce in Highwood's large open spaces. One of our community's favorite individuals Dr. Bernardi, helped to foster the sport. He and a group of men played on Sunday afternoons in the field behind his office building. Arturo Amidei hosted another group and played where the City Hall is now. Eventually, many of these men got together and petitioned the mayor for a place to play. Mayor Fidel Ghini offered a nice piece of property along the tracks that the city had just acquired. This property has been the location of the Highwood Bocce Club ever since, and the Club retains a long-term lease with the City of Highwood that ensures it will continue to be there for a very long time.



According to Mario Massa, a founding member and once an International Delegate to the Bocce World Congress, the first public outdoor courts were built here in either 1967 or 1969 (there is some disagreement on the exact date). Under an agreement with the city, they had to be flooded every winter and used for ice-skating. A few years later, a roof was added to the club and the agreement to use the courts for ice skating in the winter was eliminated.

In the early 1970s, the players, along with the blessing of the mayor, replaced their courts with a building they pretty much built themselves. "Within the Italian community, we had every type of contractor," Leo Ori explained, "every field from start to finish: concrete, masonry, bricklayers, plumbers, etc.". Even though many of the men and women worked full-time jobs, they spent countless hours after work and on weekends donating their time and materials to build the Club. As the men labored, the women were busy cooking and ensuring all the workers were well fed. And so the Highwood Bocce Club began its existence.

There have been several additions in the intervening decades to bring the building to its current state. Most recently, the roof of the court building was raised and the courts were refabricated with state-of-the-art synthetic court material. The contractor and the materials came from Italy, helping to create some of the best in the country.

In many ways, the bocce courts are a remnant of another time. "Bocce was a part of everyday life in Italy," Mr. Massa said. "When we moved here, we brought it with us."

SITE OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL PLAY

We have hosted the U.S. National championships three times and most recently in 2017. We were also chosen to be the site of the first Bocce World Cup event ever held in America. Held in 1996, teams from sixteen different countries participated with Highwood's team finishing sixth overall. Also, our courts hosted the final US qualifying tournament for the 2017 World Games in Poland.

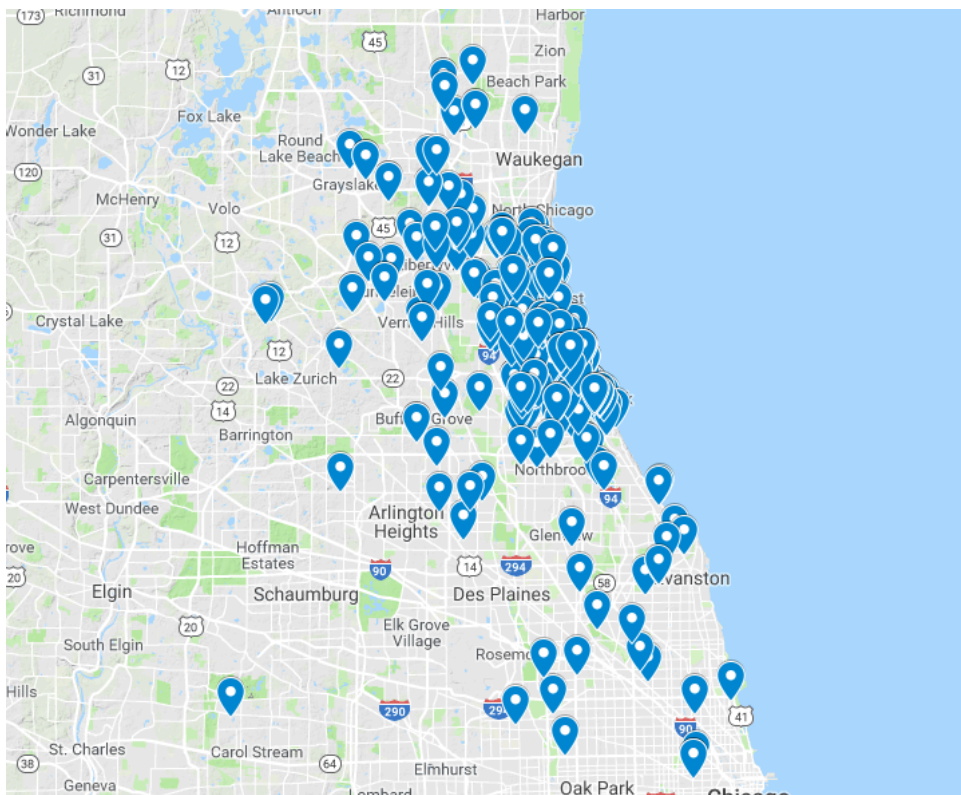
PAVAROTTI VISIT

One of the Club's proudest moments occurred when world famous tenor and bocce fanatic Luciano Pavarotti stopped by for a visit. He was visiting Chicago to sing at the Lyric Opera but made sure to make time and come to our courts to play. Unfortunately, due to his contract, he was forbidden from singing when away from the Lyric Opera.



MEMBERSHIP

Our members are located throughout the Chicago Northshore and surrounding areas.



Total Members
We have approximately 600 total members living in our surrounding communities.

...and Growing
Membership has increased 57% since 2013 and 9% in 2018 alone.

Membership is open to any individual 12 years of age or older who files an application for membership and is sponsored by a current member in good standing. Individuals of 12-24 years of age are able to join with a discounted Junior membership.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Junior

- *\$50 per year, 12 to 24 years of age (Can only vote if they are 18 or older)*

Single

- *\$125 per year (Full voting rights)*

Spouse/Partner (Couple)

- *\$200 per year (Full voting rights for both individuals)*

Senior

- *85 years or older, Dues are waived although they still must pay a \$25 administrative fee to retain membership (Full voting rights)*



MEMBER MEETINGS

General meetings of the membership are held quarterly, typically in January, April, July, and October. These meetings include a quarterly financial report, updates on recent and upcoming events, as well as reports from each of the appointed committees such as membership, facilities, and leagues.

Also, a special general membership meeting is held every year in November in order to elect members to the HBC Administration.

MEMBER GUESTS

We encourage members to invite their friends and family to enjoy the Club. All guests must be accompanied by the hosting member. See the section on Member Conduct for more information.



MEMBER CONDUCT

All members and their guests will abide by the Club rules and the Bylaws of the Highwood Bocce Club.

Members are responsible for the behavior and actions of their guests. The conduct of all members and their guests shall be in the best interest and welfare of all members, administration, guests, and staff while on the Highwood Bocce Club's property.

Misconduct shall include but not be limited to:

- 1. Any action causing physical damage to the Club and its property*
- 2. Inappropriate or abusive language or physical actions which directly attack a person and/or group*
- 3. Default in payment of dues or any other money owed to the Club*

COURT INFORMATION AND RULES

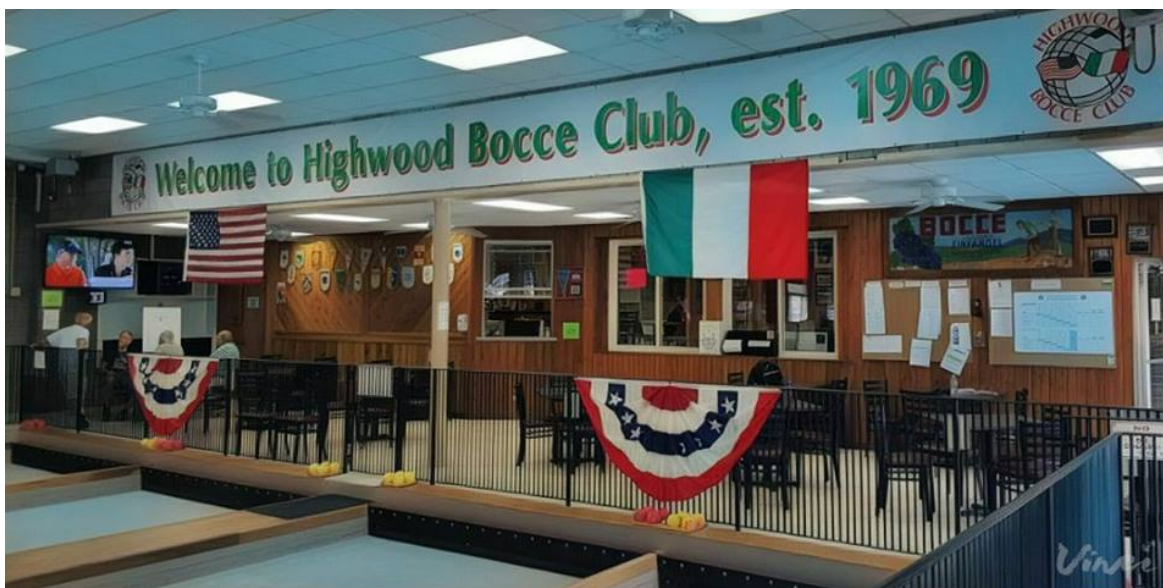
In May of 2009, the Club brought in the firm Aurelio Colleoni from Gorgonzola, Italy to install world-class surfaces on all four of our indoor courts. The quality of our

courts is an intense source of pride for our members and an important asset that allows us to attract players to the regional, national, and international tournaments we frequently host. **Protecting and taking care of our courts is a responsibility of all of our members.**

COURT RULES

The below rules must be followed by all members and guests. No exceptions.

- 1. Only flat rubber or tennis shoes can be worn on the courts. Shoes with heels are not allowed. All shoes must be clean and free of debris and they cannot be the shoes you walked into the Club wearing.*
- 2. Absolutely no drinks or food are allowed on the courts.*
- 3. No drinks or food are allowed over the rails.*
- 4. No children under the age of 10 years old are allowed on the courts.*
- 5. Players must put balls back in the rack once play is completed.*
- 6. Return empty glasses to the bar.*
- 7. Close the gates to the courts before playing. Bocce fees are 50 cents per game per player for non-league or non- tournament play.*



SHOES

As stated above, only flat rubber or tennis shoes can be worn on the courts. Shoes with heels are not allowed. All shoes must be clean and free of debris and they cannot be the shoes you walked into the Club wearing. Shoes are available for

rent and must be used if an individual does not have appropriate footwear. Check with the bartender if rental shoes are needed.

CLUB HOURS

With the recent implementation of a new security system, each member will be given a key fob. These key fobs grant members access during the hours below, and help us all feel more secure while enjoying the Club. They also allow members to use the Club even when there are no bartenders or other volunteer staff working. The court section will be open although the bar and banquet areas will not be accessible unless volunteer staff is present.



Courts: Available to all members from 6AM to 10PM seven days a week.

(Note – This is subject to change by the Administration and may also vary for special events and holidays.)

Bar and Banquet Areas:

- *Sunday - 12 noon to closing*
- *Monday thru Saturday – 6:30PM to closing*



Note – Closing times vary depending on member use of the Club and availability of volunteers, but if many members are present the Club will typically be open until 10PM or later.

BOCCE LEAGUES AND OPEN PLAY

LEAGUES

Bocce leagues run throughout the year on Monday thru Thursday evenings. The winter months tend to be booked solid with leagues from November through March and April. Recently, a demand for new leagues has made the months from May through October fairly busy as well. The summer months tend to be fairly open.



Check with a member of the Administration or send an email to highwoodbocceclub@gmail.com if you would like to understand specific league schedules or would like to participate in a league.

OPEN PLAY

Friday evenings are reserved for open play and courts should always be available. Exceptions are few and must be approved by the Administration. Saturday's and

Sunday's are also typically available for open play, although membership private parties will at times reserve the courts for use. Any weekday on which there is not a league scheduled is also available for open play.

MEMBER EVENTS

A calendar of events is made available to the members at the beginning of each year. Typical events include the below, with other events scheduled based upon membership demand and volunteer availability. For most events member guests are welcome although there may be an additional charge.

- *St. Patrick's Day Party (March)*
- *Easter Coccetto (April)*
- *Member Dinner Dances (quarterly)*
- *Annual Members Picnic (summer)*
- *Halloween Party (October)*
- *Children's Christmas Party (December)*
- *New Year's Eve Celebration (December)*



PRIVATE PARTIES

Members are encouraged to take advantage of our banquet facilities, bar, and excellent cuisine. Our extremely reasonable rates make it the perfect venue for family gatherings, professional parties and celebrations of any kind!



If you are interested in holding an event at the club, please contact the current President or send an email to highwoodbocceclub@gmail.com.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Like our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/highwoodbocceclub/>) or go to our website (<http://highwoodbocce.com/news-posts/>) for more information about our Club.

You can also send an email to highwoodbocceclub@gmail.com if you have any questions about your membership or the Club.