

# GCLWC Guidelines 2024-25

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Welcome to all our returning and new members! Outlined here are our club's 2024-2025 Guidelines. We put these procedures together as a way to help facilitate how our club and events will operate throughout the year so that every member will have an enjoyable time participating in our activities.

These guidelines have been formed by the GCLWC Executive Officers using recommendations from our Event Chairpersons and our membership. We appreciate you reading them thoroughly, so that you will know what to expect as to how the club functions.

Our **GCLWC Code of Conduct**: The members of the GCLWC shall respect the duties of the Executive Officers as well as those of each Committee Chairperson; Conduct themselves in a manner that promotes good sportsmanship and decorum at all times; Be courteous and on time to each event for which they as a member have committed to attend; Notify the event chairperson as soon as possible, but preferably at least twenty-four hours in advance of any cancellation in attendance; Promote an environment that positively impacts the GCLWC, its members and all GCLWC activities.

## SIGN UP FOR EVENTS

- Sign up for events will *begin on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of each month.*
- Sign up for events will be on a *first come/first play basis* and is open to all our members.
- You may sign up at any time during the month, but please keep in mind that some events may fill up quickly.

It is each member's responsibility to look at the newsletter when it is sent out at the end of a month, determine which events fit with their calendar for the coming month, and then contact the chairperson on or after the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month via text or email (so the chair has a record with a day/time stamp) notifying her that you would like to play. Chairpersons will keep a list of the player's monthly sign up by the order of the day/time stamp.

Games that require groups of 4 will be determined by

- Number of players allowed (based on seating availability)
- First come/first served sign up for available seats.
- All other players will be saved on a "wait list" kept by the chairperson *in the order they requested to play and will be filled in that order in the event of a cancellation or more seats open up for play.*

Games and Events that are open to any number of players will still require members to sign up. The sooner members contact the chairperson the better, so that the chairperson will have a headcount for reservation purposes.

It is not required, but it is encouraged that the event chairpersons send out a text reminder a few days before play to all who have signed up. For the events that have an open number of attendees, it is recommended that the chairperson email everyone on her interest list and let them know there are still openings if they'd like to RSVP.

## **START TIMES AND ATTENDANCE**

Please note the start times for the events in which you participate. These are the **START times for play**. It is recommended that players arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start time.

9:30AM for the early morning games

- Bowling, Daytime Triple Play

11:00am

- for the afternoon games
- Mahjong, Cards and Games, Daytime Mexican Train, Daytime Weeping Canasta

12:30PM

- Samba

6:00 PM for the evening games

- Evening: Weeping Canasta, Triple Play, Mexican Train

## **CANCELLATIONS:**

Please carefully consider your personal schedule before signing up for an event. We certainly understand last minute emergencies and illness do happen; however, last minute planned trips or a “better offer comes along” cause our chairpersons to have to do extra work to find someone to fill the spot you requested. In cases of card games where we must have groups of 4 to play, these decisions impact other people. If there isn't someone to fill your spot – not only are you not playing, but the other 3 people who made up your group of 4 will also not be able to play.

Please notify the Chairperson as soon as possible if you do have to cancel so that she will have ample time to try and find someone to fill your spot.

## **ETIQUETTE:**

To help limit the passing of germs, protect our cards and game pieces please:

- Do not eat/snack at the tables during play.
- Keep all beverages off of the playing tables.

## **WHERE WE PLAY**

We play both at people's homes (evening games) and at local restaurants. We are all grateful that our hosts open their homes and that restaurants open their dining rooms to us, and we want to arrive and depart at reasonable times. Everything we can all do to help move the playing of games along (before, during, and afterward) is much appreciated.

## **HOME HOSTED EVENTS**

Members are not required to host an event in their home, but we do play our home hosted events for 12 months of the calendar year: Evening Weeping Canasta, Evening Triple Play, Samba, and Evening Mexican Train.

The chairperson will contact those interested in playing these events at the beginning of our club's calendar year in September asking for hosts to sign up for a particular month. Members who do offer to host need to let the chairperson know the maximum number of people they may be able to accommodate in their home. We do like to keep these events open to host 12, but we also understand that sometimes homes may only be able to comfortably hold 8 and we can manage with that number, too, as long as we know well in advance.

## **HOSTING**

It is customary for the host to provide dessert, water and coffee. Please no snacks. If a host would like to provide other beverages, she is most welcomed to do so.

## **OUTSIDE VENUES:**

We are very fortunate that many local restaurants allow us to come for lunch and stay and play at their establishments for several hours. We ask all of our members to be cognizant that we are taking up their space and their wait staff's time over and above a normal patron. Please be considerate to all of the employees and allow your tips to reflect our appreciation for their space and service before and during our play.

## **WHAT WE PLAY:**

All of the rules that our club uses for play may be downloaded from our website: [Greater Crystal Lake Women's Club](#) under MORE – Interest Groups.

Feel free to bring the rules with you when you play.

## **CARDS AND GAMES – \*NO EXPERIENCE required**

This event does not necessarily have a player limit. Our Chairperson always chooses a game to play that is:

1. Easy to learn on the spot if you've never played it before
2. Doesn't require a specific number of players
3. A new game is played each month

Members may also gather to play other games at this time if they wish.

## **MEXICAN TRAIN – \*NO EXPERIENCE required**

This game doesn't need a specific number of players and usually there is no player limit\*. If you have never played before, we can teach you on the spot as we play.

\* Daytime Mexican Train (played at Chili's in Crystal Lake) has no player limit, but Evening Mexican Train held in someone's home does. Please check the monthly newsletter.

## **BOWLING LEAGUE - \*NO EXPERIENCE required**

Our league is a "for fun" group and open to all levels - including those who have never bowled before. Every player establishes a handicap the first time they bowl, and that is used to equalize the various levels of our bowlers. While we do have prizes at the end, our league play is more about socializing and maybe bragging rights at the end of play. It is a weekly commitment Sept. – December and/or January – April. Members may come to bowl as a "pacer" on one of our teams. (If space is available.) There is a cost to bowl. Contact the chairperson for more information.

## **MAHJONG – \* Must know how to play**

While we like having 4 players per table, we can play with 3. At the present time, *Georgio's in Crystal Lake* has been gracious enough to allow us to play and have lunch in their restaurant. We can accommodate most players. Again, sign up with the Chairperson for the month if you are interested.

## **WEEPING CANASTA, TRIPLE PLAY, and SAMBA - \* Must know how to play**

With all of the Canasta groups (Weeping Canasta, Triple Play, and Samba) the Chairpersons must put together groups of 4. Whether it is 1, 2, 3, or even 4 groups of 4 players, it depends on how many sign up each month.

Daytime Weeping Canasta is played at *IHOP in Crystal Lake* while Daytime Triple Play is played at *Sideouts in Island Lake*. Samba will be hosted at someone's home on a once-a-month rotating basis.

- At **IHOP** for Daytime Weeping Canasta we play in the section which is designated for our group.
- At **Sideouts** for Daytime Triple Play we are given the private room they have set us up for us to play.
- Evening Weeping Canasta and Evening Triple Play is played at someone's home, and the host for the month designates how many people she feels comfortable accommodating – 8, 12 or 16. It will be specified in the newsletter for each particular month.

## **LEARNING HOW TO PLAY GAMES –**

If you don't know how to play a game we have some wonderful people in our club who are great teachers and will happily set up a special time to teach those who would like to learn a new game. Sometimes it is done on Thursday after our bowling/lunch at Sideouts in Island Lake, and other times it is at someone's home at a time that is convenient for everyone. Please let Norma Wacaser or Carman Walkiewicz know that you would like to learn how to play something and they will arrange a time to teach you our versions of play.

## **THE BIG WIN**

For a few of our games (Daytime Weeping Canasta, Evening Triple Play, and Evening Weeping Canasta) players chip in the whopping sum of \$5.00 each, and we do split the money as prizes for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and the last place "Lucky Loser" finishers. This money isn't intended to treat the game as a competition, but rather simply to add an additional level of fun – a "friendly wager" to the game being played. During these wagered games, players are not to offer direction or "table talk" on how to play.

If you aren't sure if you should sign up for these groups – please ask the chairperson.

## **SPECIAL EVENTS – Open to all members**

From time to time we will have special events added to the calendar. These may include an outing of some type, a couple's night with spouses/significant others or even a gathering for a game that isn't on our monthly calendar as a regular event.

These events will be open to all members and an email will be sent to everyone notifying them of the specifics.