



**Lakewood Tennis Club**

**2024 Admissions Packet**

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**Please read the below info about Lakewood, and then complete the online new member application at the bottom of the page**

***Dear Applicant:***

Thank you for considering membership in Lakewood Tennis Club. Because (with exceedingly rare exceptions) members once admitted have “lifetime tenure”, the Board and Club membership consider the admissions process to be of utmost importance. Please read the following information and decide if Lakewood is right for you before applying.

**Rotation Play is the hallmark feature of Lakewood Tennis Club and occupies a substantial part of the prime playing hours.**

The communal nature of rotation places special demands on our admission process:

- Each applicant must be able to support his/her end of the game.
- Each applicant must be a person with whom other members will enjoy sharing a court.

The Board seeks to enhance the quality of rotation play for all members. We encourage recruitment and admission of both intermediate and advanced players. For players with advanced skills, Lakewood schedules several Advanced Rotation sessions every week. **Members are not required to participate in rotation play, but new members must meet the rotation criteria in order to join the club.**

## ***The Lakewood Tennis Club Community***

Lakewood is a volunteer-run organization, comprised of members, not customers. All members, new and existing, belong to the Club with the willingness to participate and help out - whether that is serving on the board or a committee, facilitating an event at the courts, or just keeping an eye out for the condition and neatness of the courts.

***Lakewood is Self-Governing*** Lakewood does not have a paid staff to enforce the Club's (relatively few) rules and regulations. Instead, we rely on all members to know and willingly adhere to the rules, filling in any ambiguity with common sense and good will. Violations of the rules are taken seriously, with consequences including suspension/termination of membership.

## **Sponsors**

Sponsors are personally vouching for an applicant's character and his/her level of play. To that end, the sponsor needs to have played tennis with the applicant and know he or she is collegial, courteous, honest and conscientious.

## ***Admission Criteria***

The Lakewood Board of Directors has established the following criteria for applicants wishing to be admitted as new members:

- Members, other than junior members (children of members), must be 18 years of age or over as of April 1 of the current season.
- Immediate neighbors of the Lakewood courts, former members, spouses and children of members who meet the other criteria have priority.
- Newton residents have priority.
- Applicants must demonstrate a minimum tennis skill level, as described below.

## ***What Minimum Skills Must a Candidate Member Bring to the Court?***

A suitable candidate for membership in Lakewood is one who would contribute to an enjoyable game of doubles, both by their tennis skills *and* their pleasant and respectful demeanor on the court. Each applicant must play at or above the 'minimum skill' (defined below) level for regular rotation and/or advanced rotation. **The minimum skills that the candidate must possess** are:

- Dependable strokes on both sides under moderate pressure
- The strength, ability and willingness to move on the court and chase down shots
- The ability to volley at the service line and at the net
- The ability to serve with reasonable reliability

## **New Member fees for 2024**

\$500 initiation fee plus \$325 membership dues (payments explained below)

### ***Admission Process - Application Packet – due Sunday April 21, 2024.***

The completed Application Packet must be *received* by **Sunday, April 21, 2024** by the New Member VP. The Application Packet consists of:

- Sponsorship Questionnaire from- completed by a current Lakewood member
- [Membership Application](#)-completed by the applicant, including upload of a headshot photo (used only to introduce applicants to the membership)
- A check for \$250(one-half of the \$500 initiation fee)made payable to Lakewood Tennis Club and mailed to Lakewood Tennis (address above). OR Pay \$255 (fees included) by Venmo@[LakewoodTennisClub](#). If the applicant is not accepted, \$250 will be refunded. Please note that the Venmo fee is non-refundable

***Orientation/Evaluation Sessions – to be scheduled Sunday, May 5 from 1:30-4 pm and Tuesday May 7 from 5-7- weather permitting. Rain dates are Saturday May 11 9 am - 11 am and Tuesday May 14, 5pm - 7 pm.***

Prospective members are required to attend one of the Orientation/Evaluation Sessions, where the rules - especially those governing Rotation, Advanced Rotation, and Arranged Play - are explained. The session also includes one to two hours of rotation play and evaluation by board members and other club members at the session. This also gives applicants a chance to experience our rotation system and judge whether Lakewood meets their expectations. If an applicant cannot attend one of the two Evaluation Sessions they will not be considered for admission.

***The ‘Dance Card’ – One month after the Orientation/Evaluation sessions and final payment. Due no later than June 11, 2024***

After the Orientation/Evaluation Session, a Dance Card will be sent to each accepted applicant. Applicants complete their Card by coming to rotation **at least three times including, at least once on a weekend (Saturday/Sunday) and once during the week (Monday/Wednesday between 4:30 – 7:00)**. Applicants, like all members, must observe court courtesy and sportsmanship, and abide by Lakewood's rules and regulations at all times.

The Dance Card must be completed and *received* by a date to be announced, along with completion of the Dues form, payment of 2024 Dues (\$325) and \$250 balance of the initiation fee (\$575 total). If payment is made by Venmo, [@LakewoodTennisClub](#), a total of \$586 (including fees) is due. Incomplete Cards and Cards returned after the due date will *not* be considered. Up to this point, any candidate who is rejected or decides not to join will have their payment(s) returned (less any Venmo transactions fees). The dance card should be uploaded or mailed to Lakewood Tennis Club, PO BOX 610221, Newton, Massachusetts 02461, along with a check for \$575 (\$586 if using Venmo)

## **Vaccinations**

All Members are strongly encouraged to follow the most up to date CDC guidelines for COVID-19 vaccinations.

## ***Provisional Membership***

Lakewood's Board will meet to determine which applicants should be granted provisional membership, consulting, as necessary, with members for their impressions of applicants' play and demeanor. Upon the Board's acceptance, the applicant becomes a provisional member of Lakewood, with all rights except voting. All provisional memberships are reviewed by the Board before the Annual meeting in November. If approved by the Board, each provisional member becomes a full member and may vote at the Annual Meeting. A provisional member not approved by the Board ceases to be a member of Lakewood Tennis Club at the end of the current season.

## ***Online Membership Application***

Please complete New Member application by clicking [here](#)