**HOW MUCH DOES PLAYING LAWN BOWLS COST?**

Is lawn bowls expensive? How much do I need to start playing lawn bowls? This cost guide will tell you how much you will need as a beginner

Lawn bowls is one of the cheapest games you can take up. Compared to other sports that require expensive equipment, lawn bowls only requires you to have a flat pair of shoes, everything else can be borrowed to start you off. When you approach a club as a new player they will usually have all of the necessary equipment ready for you to borrow so you can get going straight away.

However, if you decide to take up the sport, either competitively or just socially you’ll want to consider a few costs. A set of bowls will likely be the most expensive thing you might need before you start playing competitively (as opposed to socially). That said, there are other costs to be aware of before you can take to the greens.

**How much does lawn bowls cost to play?**

Whilst you can give lawn bowls a try for virtually nothing, you can expect to pay anything from $150 to upwards of $600 to get all of the necessary equipment.

If you do take it up then here is an overview of what you will need to pay for:

* Membership fees
* Lawn bowls
* Shoes and clothing
* Additional equipment

In this article we’ll run through the expected costs of each so you can get an idea on what to expect when you take the game on properly.

**Membership fees**

Every club will charge you an annual fee to join. This goes towards the upkeep of the green, the facilities around it, as well as the social events that take place. Most clubs have lower fees for new members as well as social bowls memberships.

The fee you pay will depend on the club, and what facilities/events they put on, however you should expect to pay in the region of $75-$150 per year.

**How much does a set of lawn bowls cost?**

When you start it’s absolutely fine to borrow a set from the club. Every club will have a well-stocked selection of bowls in every size. It is recommended that you don’t rush into buying a set of bowls until you learn the basics of the game. This will give you the opportunity to experiment with different sets of bowls of different weight and bias to see what you are most comfortable with.

Once you have done that, it is advisable to eventually get a set of your own. This allows you to find a set that:

* suits your playing style
* you feel comfortable with
* allows you to practice in your own time
* gives you the chance to know how your set plays in different conditions

Lawn bowls can be the biggest cost when starting up, however, if you are savvy you can pick up a decent set that won’t burn a hole in your pocket.

Your options are to either buy a brand-new set from a certified reseller, or to buy a set second hand from one of a variety of online marketplaces.

**New**

A brand-new set of bowls can be very expensive. Some of the leading makes and models can cost over $650. The price can go higher if you want extras, such as unique grips, or custom logos. However, for this cost you will be looking at the latest and greatest specifications, made to your taste.

Newer bowls come in a greater variety of colours than older bowls. Many manufacturers also put a lot of emphasis on research and development of new features - such as new grip designs. These can help make newer bowls perform better and more consistent than their older counterparts. Note that these improvements will likely only be noticed by top international players and will unlikely have too much impact on a club bowler’s game.

**Used**

Used lawn bowls are much cheaper than new. A decent set will set you back in the region of $150-$350. For this price you will get a quality set of bowls that will be ideal for most standards of play.

Bowls are made to last, so you shouldn’t have much trouble with excessive damage. A few minor scratches and marks are common with second-hand bowls, however these will have no bearing on how they will perform when in play.

As a new bowler you may not know what you need so purchasing a second-hand set is a cost-effective way of exploring the options.

You may also find that your needs might change down the line. As a new bowler you will find new roles handed to you as you get more experience, which in turn may require a different style of bowl.

Whilst the aesthetics of a new set of bowls is tempting, a brand-new set is needed for a beginner. This is why we think buying second hand is the best way forward.

**Shoes and clothing**

To start lawn bowls all you need are a pair of flat soled shoes, this is the only requirement. Flat soled shoes are needed as it protects the greens from damage. You can get shoes specifically for lawn bowls, however they don’t need to be by a specific brand, and any flat soled shoe will do.

If you commit to playing for a club, and you’ve paid your fees, you will be given a club shirt to wear, you will just have to purchase accompanying clothing (shorts, skirt or trousers). In Australia, a hat or cap is also recommended in the hotter months.

That’s all there is to it!

**Additional equipment**

As you move through different roles in a team, you will need some other items. These include:

* A bowls cloth
* A measure
* Chalk (solid or spray)

These are important items if you are playing any senior roles in a team - such as skip, or a 3rd.

Whilst these costs may seem daunting, these are mainly one-off costs. Your bowls and shoes will last for years, if not decades and you will get joy returned by the spade load!

We acknowledge the following Source for articles:

Jack High Bowls (www.jackhighbowls.com)