

**CORNHOLE - Open**  
**Singles/Doubles/Mixed/Non-Ambulatory**

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**QUALIFYING RULES**

For 2023, Cornhole event will be classified as an “OPEN Sport”. Athletes do not need to qualify at a 2022 qualifier.

**ENTRY REGULATIONS**

1. Athletes may compete in singles, doubles and mixed.
2. Anyone can register for the event regardless if a state qualifier offers it or not. It can also be counted as a third sport ONLY for the 2023 Games.

**FORMAT**

1. Tournament format will be double elimination play. Championship match will be a traditional double dip where player coming out of loser’s bracket must beat the player in the winners bracket twice.
2. The NSGA and ACO reserve the right to change the tournament format depending on entry numbers, space restrictions or other circumstances.
3. Awards will be presented to 1<sup>st</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> place for each event within each age division.

**SPORT RULES**

1. All Cornhole events will be conducted in accordance with the (ACO) American Cornhole Organization rules, except as modified herein. For copy of the rules please visit the ACO website [www.americancornhole/rules](http://www.americancornhole/rules)

American Cornhole Organization  
PO Box 978  
Milford, OH 45150

2. **Singles Play**

- a) Player A competes against Player B. Both players stay in their designated lane for the whole game.
- b) Players start the game at the headboard and will alternate pitching bags until each player has pitched all (four) of his/her bags.
- c) Players then walk to the end of their lane to the other court, take score, and resume pitching back to the other cornhole board.

3. **Doubles Play/Mixed**

- a) Team A competes against Team B-each team is comprised of two players.
- b) Each team will stay in their designated lane for the whole game.
- c) Players at the headboard will alternate pitching bags until each player has pitched all (four) of his/her bags.
- d) Players at the footboard will take score and resume pitching back to the other cornhole board.
- e) The older doubles partner will pitch from the same distance as the younger partner required for that age division.

4. **Length of Games**

The game shall be played to the pre-determined number of (21) points. The first player/team to reach (or exceed) that amount at the conclusion of a frame is the winner.

5. **Distance of Boards**

Age 50 to 69 – 27 feet front edge to front edge  
Age 70 to 79 - 25 feet front edge to front edge  
Age 80 Plus/Non-Ambulatory - 23 feet front edge to front edge

6. **Cornhole Scoring – Bag Terms**

Woody – refers to any cornhole bag that has been pitched and remains on the cornhole board playing surface at the conclusion of the frame.

Cornhole – refers to any cornhole bag that has been pitched and passes through the cornhole board hole at any time within the frame.

Foul Bags – refers to any cornhole bag that has not been determined as a “woody” or “cornhole” or was designated a foul bag as the result of rules violation.

7. **Scoring**

The method of scoring is “cancellation” scoring, the points of one player cancel out the points of their opponent. Using this method, one player can score in each frame.

- a) Each woody is worth one (1) point.
- b) Each cornhole is worth (3) points.

**Example:**

Red achieves one (1) woody and two (2) cornholes during the frame (7 total pts)  
Blue achieves two (2) woodies and zero (0) cornholes during the frame (2 total pts)  
7 points – 2 points = Red scores 5 points for that frame

8. **Recording the Score**

No cornhole bags shall be moved before the scoring is determined. If the decision is in doubt, a Certified Official or Sport Chair shall be called to determine the scoring for the frame in question.

Players are encouraged to pay close attention to the score at all times. Players are required to update their score on the score tower at the conclusion of each frame.

9. **Pitching**

a) Players alternate pitching bags (one player at a time) until each player has pitched all (four) of his/her bags.

b) A player must pitch all (4) cornhole bags from their designated cornhole pitcher's box.

c) Players must deliver the bag with an under-hand release.

d) One foot or appendage must be completely within the pitcher's box at the time of releasing the bag.

e) When pitching a bag, players must release the bag before any part of the player's body touches the ground on or beyond the foul line.

10. **Pitching the Next Frame**

The player/team who scored in the preceding frame shall pitch in the next frame. If neither player/team scores, the player/team who pitched first in the preceding frame shall retain first pitch in the next frame.

11. **Pitching Out of Turn**

If a player pitches out of turn at any time during a frame, their pitch will be considered a Foul Bag and swept from the playing surface.

If the out-of-turn bag affects any bags in play, their opponent has the option of returning all cornhole bags to their original position on the playing surface or leaving all bags as they are.

If the error is not discovered until after two (2) cornhole bags have been pitched, the frame shall continue and be score accordingly.

If no agreement can be reached a Certified Official shall be called. The official shall either determine the scoring or void the inning and order to be repitched.

12. **Touching Bags Before Frame is Complete**

If any bags in scoring positions are touched by a player, whether intentionally or unintentionally, before all bags during the frame are pitched, the frame is over. The offending team (team who touches the bags) forfeits all remaining bags and tallies the score for the bags they have already thrown during the frame. The non-offending team tallies 12 points as if they had thrown (4) cornholes during the frame.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** 12 pts. are NOT automatically added to the overall score (scoreboard). The 12 pts. are only used within this specific frame before cancellation.

13. **Time Limits – Pitching and Scoring**

**Pitching** - A player must pitch each cornhole bag within (15) seconds of their opponent's bag coming to rest.

In Singles play, once the final bag comes to a rest, each player has 30 seconds to walk to the other end pick up their bags, and ready themselves to pitch.

*\*Exception may be made by the Certified Official or Sport Director considering any physical disabilities or Difficulties.*

**Scoring** - The frame will be scored 5 seconds after the last bag is pitched, comes to rest, and all bags on the playing surface have stopped moving. Any bag that moves in position after 5 seconds be scored based on its previous position. If timing cannot be agreed on, the Certified Official or Sport Chair will score or negate the frame.

14. **Timeouts**

a) Each player or team is allowed two 1-minute time outs per game.

b) A player may only call a time out when it is his/her turn to pitch.

c) Both players may walk to the other boards to examine bag position during the time out.

d) Players may not touch the cornhole bags or boards during a timeout.

15. **Player Conduct**

A cornhole player/team while in competition, shall make no disturbing noises or movements that would distract the opponent or players on surrounding courts. Other inappropriate behavior would include profanity, abusive language, obscene gestures, flipping bags etc. First offense shall be a warning, second offense shall call for forfeiture of the game being played.

16. **Cell Phones** - While in the confines of the courts cell phones are prohibited for all participants.

17. **Alcohol and Tobacco** – Alcohol or any form of tobacco while in the confines of the courts is prohibited for all participants.