

PLAY LIKE PROS - ACO OFFICIAL RULES

Whether you're a backyard cornhole player or a tournament level pro, these are the cornhole rules that are officially followed worldwide for the sport.

CORNHOLE RULES, CHAPTER 2 – Cornhole Court Layout

2.1 CORNHOLE COURT LAYOUT

Cornhole Court: A regulation size cornhole court is 8 feet wide and 40 feet long with a recommended vertical clearance of twelve (12) feet.

This court consists of two (2) player's lanes:

Lane 1: Designated pitchers boxes, on the left side of the board when your back is to the scoring tower

Lane 2: Designated pitchers boxes, on the right side of the board when your back is to the scoring tower

Cornhole Boards: Boards are positioned 27' from the front edge to front edge of the board.

Cornhole Pitchers Boxes: A designated pitchers box is a 4' x 3' area at each end of the court and on both sides of each board; (4) boxes in all.

Cornhole Foul Lines: The front edge of the cornhole board is the foul line.

CORNHOLE RULES, Cornhole Scoring

3.1 LENGTH OF GAMES

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

3.2 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”.

3.3 DESIGNATED FOUL BAGS

Any bag pitched without at least one foot or appendage completely inside the pitcher's box at the time of release.

Any bag not pitched within the 15 second time limit.

A bag pitched from a different pitcher's box than their designated pitcher's box.

Any bag that contacted the court or the ground before coming to rest on the playing surface.

Any bag that comes to rest touching the ground and the board.

3.4 METHODS OF SCORING

Woody: Each woody is worth one (1) point

Cornhole: Each cornhole is worth three (3) points

3.5 RECORDING THE SCORE

No cornhole bags shall be moved before the scoring is determined. If this decision is in doubt, a Certified Official shall be called to determine it.

Recording the Score: 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.

Calling the Score: When a third party is being used to manage the score tower, it is the responsibility of the player/ team who scores in each frame to call out the score to the score keeper. It is the responsibility of the players/teams to ensure the score is represented correctly.

CORNHOLE RULES, Play of the Cornhole Game

4.1 OVERVIEW OF SINGLES AND DOUBLES PLAY

Doubles Play:

Team A competes against Team B – each team is comprised of two (2) people.

Each team will stay in their designated lane for the whole game.

Players at the headboard will alternate pitching bags until each player has pitched all (4) of his/her bags.

Players at the footboard will take score and resume pitching back to the other cornhole board.

4.2 PITCHING ROTATION, LANE ASSIGNMENTS, & BAG COLOR

The First Pitch, Lane Assignments, and Bag Color: The format of the tournament will help determine first pitch, lane assignments and bag color.

Randomly Seeded Tournaments In doubles play: a coin-toss is used to determine which player/team selects one of the following options:

1. Choose the lane assignments

2. Choose their opponent to pitch against (head-to-head)

If option #1 is selected, the coin toss winner chooses their lane and takes their positions in the Pitcher's boxes, then the opposing team chooses their own Pitcher's boxes to determine head-to-head match-ups.

If option #2 is selected, the coin toss loser chooses their lane and takes their positions in the Pitcher's boxes, then the coin toss winner will choose their own Pitcher's boxes to determine head-to-head match-ups.

If playing best 2 out of 3 matches, the First Pitch and Pre-Match option choices go to the coin toss loser in the second game. If a third game is necessary, another coin toss will decide who has the options.

4.3 PITCHING CORNHOLE BAGS

Pitching

Players alternate pitching bags (one player at a time) until each player has pitched all (4) of his/her bags. A player must pitch all (4) cornhole bags from their designated cornhole pitchers box.

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

One foot or appendage must be completely within the pitchers box at the time of releasing the bag.

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

Pitching the Next Frame:

The player/team who scored in the preceding frame shall pitch first 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.

Accidental Release

Any cornhole bag that leaves a players hand once the final step (if taken) and final forward swing of the delivery process has started, shall count as a pitched bag. A cornhole bag that is accidentally dropped by a player before the final step (if taken) and final forward swing has started, shall not be considered a foul bag and may be picked up and pitched.

Pitching

A player must pitch each cornhole bag within fifteen (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.

** Exceptions may be made by the Certified Official 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 will be scored based on its previous position.

If timing cannot be agreed on, the Certified Official will score or negate the frame.