

The Backyard Competition League

Cornhole Rules & Regulations

- **PLAYING RULES:**

- Official Rules: The BCL's Cornhole rules are those of the American Cornhole Organization (ACO). It is imperative that each participant has a working knowledge of ACO rules in addition to those rules governing BCL Athletics.
- Participant Minimum: Singles tournaments shall be one against one. Doubles tournaments shall be two against two. Once individual or team match ups have been made, substitutions are not permitted. For doubles tournaments, if a participant is disqualified or otherwise unable to finish a game, the team may finish the game shorthanded.
- Playing Shorthanded: If a doubles team plays shorthanded, the missing player's score for each inning he or she is absent shall be zero. No bags shall be pitched for the missing player. However, this will not affect the missing player's cumulative statistics or handicap.
- Forfeit and Default: In the event of a forfeit or default situation. The offended team shall be designated the winner. If they led at the time, the score at the time of forfeit/default shall be final. Otherwise, the score will be recorded as 21-0. If a forfeit or default occurs after the 7th inning, all game statistics shall be included in the season totals and handicaps.

- **GAME RULES & REGULATIONS:**

- Regular Game: The first side to reach or exceed twenty-one (21) points at the end of a complete frame shall be the winner. It is not necessary to win by two or more points.
- Frame Game: Each side plays thirteen (13) full innings. Points are not canceled and the object is to score the most points with 152 being a perfect individual score and 304 being a perfect doubles score.
- Time Limits: If time constraints exist, the recommended format is a point-or-inning limit – 21 points or 13 innings, whichever comes first.

- **LEAGUE RULES & REGULATIONS**

- Distances: The BCL shall use the 24 foot distance between boards. The Junior/Wheelchair distance of 20 feet shall also be permitted.
- Scoring:
 - Bags that bounce off the ground and land on the cornhole board shall count for one point as if they landed directly on the board.
 - In regular games, points scored by opponents cancel each other out. Only those points not canceled out apply to the overall score.
 - In frame games, points are not canceled and players try to accumulate as many points as opposable over thirteen complete frames.
 - ***BCL Option***: Speed-up Scoring – Speed up scoring may be used with time limits or Junior Games. In this format, Bags in the hole can only be canceled by opponent bags in the hole. Similarly, bags on the cornhole board can only be canceled by opponent bags on the cornhole board. The result is that both sides can potentially score points in the same turn/frame.

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- Tie Games: Regular season games may end in ties if the game has no bearing on who wins the championship. In the event of a tie which must be broken, the following tie-breakers are recommended in order of preference:
 - One bag toss-off until one team outscores the other.
 - If it is not possible to conduct a tie-breaker, the handicapped score should be calculated to determine a winner. If a tie still remains, each side shall toss one bag and the side with the closest bag to the cornhole will be declared the winner.
- Skunk Rule: The BCL shall adopt an 11 point “skunk” rule. If the score is 11-0 or the winning team has an 11 point lead at the end of any complete inning, the game is over. (For doubles play, an inning is complete after both partners have played in that inning.)
- Shortened Games: In the event that weather or other acts of nature prevent a game from being played to conclusion, the score shall be declared final if seven (7) full innings have been played. If a game has not reached this point, it may be resumed from the point of interruption at a later time or canceled (with all statistics voided).
- Statistics: The BCL League Office shall maintain statistics for the current year. Lifetime statistics may be kept at its discretion. Statistics (at the minimum: innings, bags in the hole, net points, and games played) shall be kept for individual players, and not teams.
- Tardy players: Players arriving late in doubles competition may join their partner so long as the game has not reached the 7th inning. Once the 7th inning of a game has begun, the tardy partner cannot participate.
- Handicaps:
 - Handicaps shall be 80% of the difference between an individual’s scoring average and a scratch figure of 21.
 - The beginning handicap for any individual who has never played before shall be 8 (assumes a default average of 10½).
 - An individual that played in a prior season will begin the season with their previous handicap.
- Handicapped Scoring Example:
All handicaps will be rounded to the nearest integer.

Team A	Score/Handicap	Team B	Score/Handicap
Adam	12 + 7 = 19	Ben	7 + 11 = 18
Charles	9 + 10 = 19	David	6 + 12 = 18
	21 + 17 = 38		13 + 23 = 36
- Division Alignments: The BCL may establish divisions if there is sufficient membership in the desired divisional alignments to make divisions feasible.

• PLAYOFFS

- The BCL may sponsor season ending playoffs if there is sufficient interest, time, and a host site.
- Playoffs shall be doubles format with pairings be determined prior to competition on the basis of handicaps. The best handicapped individual shall be partnered with the lowest; the second best with the second lowest, etc.
- Recommended formats:
 - Two teams: Best two out of three series.

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- Three teams: Round Robin
 - Four or more teams: Single elimination with an optional third place game for semifinal losers.
- **VIOLATIONS & PENALTIES**
 - Violations of BCL rules and regulations shall subject the individual or team to any or all, but not limited to, the following: censure, probation with competition, probation without competition, forfeiture, suspension, and expulsion.
 - **LINKS**
 - ACO Playing Rules: <http://www.americancornhole.org/cornhole-rules.shtml>
 - **APPENDIX A: ACO Cornhole Rankings (for frame games only)**
 - NOTE: A perfect score is 156 (13 frames x 4 bags per frame x 3 points per cornhole).

Gross Frame Average	ACO Description	Possible BCL Classification
124 and up	Super-Pro Caliber	Blue
104-123	Pro Caliber	Red
80-103	Semi-Pro Caliber	Black
41-79	Amateur	Yellow
22-40	Sub-Am	Green
1-21	Stanker	Orange

- **APPENDIX B: ACO World/Social Ranking Points**

Final Place	World Ranking Points	Social Ranking Points
1 st	25	25
2 nd	24	24
3 rd	23	23
4 th	22	22
5 th /6 th	20	20
7 th /8 th	18	18
9 th -12 th	16	16
13 th -16 th	14	14
17 th -24 th	12	12
25 th -32 nd	10	10
33 rd -48 th	6	6
49 th or lower	4	4