

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SINGLES CORNHOLE RULES

HOW TO PLAY SINGLES CORNHOLE | 1 PERSON TEAMS

Overview

Two athletes compete head-to-head to determine a winner. The first player to reach a total of 21 points wins the cornhole match.

Setup | The Court

Court Dimensions

A cornhole court shall be a level rectangular area 10-12 feet wide and a minimum of 40-45 feet long. The court consists of two cornhole boards, designated pitcher's boxes, and foul lines. A vertical clearance of 12 feet is strongly recommended for indoor or sheltered cornhole courts.

Pitcher's Box

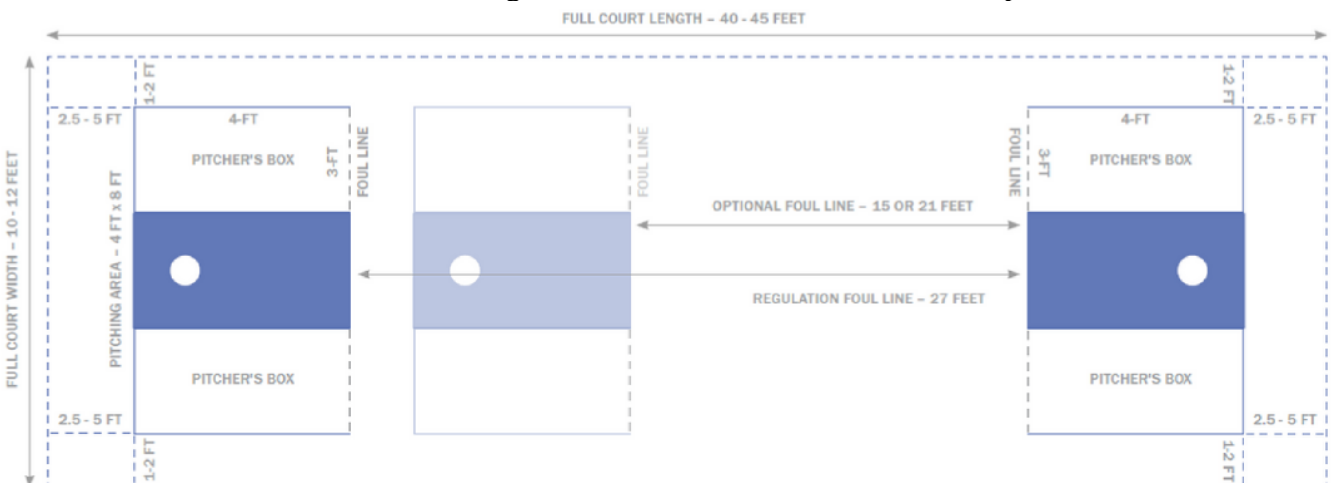
The pitcher's box is a rectangle 4 feet by 3 feet at each end of the court, parallel with, and on both sides of the boards. Each player must remain in the pitcher's box while pitching a cornhole bag.

Foul Lines

The foul lines are imaginary lines parallel to the front of each cornhole board. The foul-line distance for official gameplay is 27 feet. However, local programs may choose to offer a 15-ft. or 21-ft. throwing distance, according to an athlete's skill assessment.

Multiple Courts

To eliminate distraction and safely separate activity, cornhole courts adjacent to each other shall be a minimum of 10 feet wide. A greater distance of at least 12 feet is preferable.



A standard court layout with extra spacing dimensions

Setup | Equipment

Cornhole Boards

OFFICIAL SPECIFICATION STANDARDS

The following dimensions and measurements serve to determine standards and specifications for cornhole boards.

- Each cornhole board shall be 47½ to 48 inches in length and 23½ to 24 inches wide, made of smooth plywood that measures at least ½-inch in thickness.
- The hole in each cornhole board shall be 6 inches (+-¼-in) in diameter. Its center shall be 9 inches (+-¼-in) from the top and 12 inches (+-¼-in) from each side of the board edges.
- The front of the cornhole board shall be 3-4 inches from bottom to top.
- The back of the cornhole board shall be approximately 12 inches (+- ¼-in) from ground to the highest point of the deck.
- The board finish shall be sanded to a very smooth texture, and there shall not be any blemishes on the wood surface that might disrupt or distort play.
- Application of non-permanent foreign substances onto cornhole boards is strictly prohibited. This includes talc, resin, spray, or powders.

Cornhole Bags

OFFICIAL SPECIFICATION STANDARDS

The following dimensions and measurements serve to determine standards and specifications for cornhole bags.

- The cornhole bags shall be made from two fabric squares 6¼ x 6¼ inches with a ¼-inch stitched seam on all four sides.
- Bags should be made from durable fabric.
- The thickness of the bag when lying flat on a hard surface should be approximately 1 inch (+-⅛-in) thick.
- Each bag shall be filled with plastic pellets or corn feed and finished bags should be roughly 6 inches square and weigh 14-16.25 ounces.
- All bags in a set of four shall be identical in color, design, or pattern.
- A player may not switch bags during gameplay unless a bag is damaged or broken during a game.
 - In the case of a broken bag during a game, an identical or equivalent set of 4 bags may be substituted for the player.

Pregame | Coin Toss

Prior to beginning the game, a coin toss will determine playing lanes and sequence of play. An official present assigns heads and tails to each player.

The player that wins the coin flip will choose ***either*** their throwing lane or choose to throw first in the first round of play.

The player that did not win the coin flip will choose the remaining option.

Singles Cornhole Rules

Two single players compete against one another until a single winner is determined.

Both players stay in their designated lane for the whole round.

Players start the round at the headboard and alternate pitching bags until each player has pitched all four of their bags.

Players then walk to the end of their lane to the other court, officials take score, and players resume pitching back to the other board.

An inning is completed when both players, pitching from one board, pitch all eight bags (four each).

Scoring

Cancellation Scoring

In cancellation scoring, the points of one player cancel out the points of their opponent. Using this method, only one player can score in each inning.

Bag In-The-Count (Woody): Any bag which comes to rest anywhere on top of the board. Each is worth one (1) point.

Bag In-The-Hole (Cornhole): Any bag which is thrown through the hole or knocked through the hole by another bag. Each is worth three (3) points.

Foul Bags – Refers to any bag that has not been determined as Bag In-The-Count or Bag In-The Hole or was designated a foul bag as the result of rules violation. Each is worth zero (0) points.

Winning the Game

The game shall be played to the predetermined number of twenty-one (21) points. The first player to reach (or exceed) that amount at the conclusion of an inning is the winner.

Pitching

The player who scored in the preceding inning has the honor of pitching first in the next inning. If neither player scores, the player who pitched first in the preceding inning shall retain first pitch in the next inning.

A player must pitch all four bags from their designated pitcher's box.

Players must pitch the bag with an underhand release.

A player may not step over or contact the foul line during their pitching or release of a cornhole bag.

A player must wait until the previous bag has come to a complete stop for at least 2 seconds before pitching the next bag.

Players may not jump, blow, kick, or otherwise do anything that may affect the cornhole board or the position of bags during an inning.

Touching, adjusting, or aligning a cornhole board during an inning is prohibited. Court officials may align the cornhole board between innings at the request of a player.

Overtime

Each game may be given a time limit according to the competition manager's discretion. (See "Game Clock" section below).

If neither player has reached 21 points before time expires, the round is over and the player that is winning the round at that point wins the match.

In the event the score is tied after time expires, one more inning is played.

If no player scores after one tiebreaker inning, a Sudden Death bag is played.

- In this round, following the natural flow of the game, the last frame winner tosses a single bag.
- The opponent then tosses one bag, attempting to match or beat the first player's throw.
- Whichever player scored more points from the Sudden Death Bag is considered the winner of the game.
- Additional Sudden Death Bags may be played until a winner is declared.
- All Sudden Death Bags should follow the natural flow of the game.

Rosters

Roster Size

In traditional singles competitions, teams may carry one additional player available for substitution.

Substitutions

Substitutions may be made at the end of any inning of play, with approval from the court official.

Officials must be notified of substitutions at the time of substitution.

Once a player has been removed from the match via substitution, the player may not re-enter the match at any point. Once a substitution has been made, the substitute player must complete the match.

Forced Substitutions

In the event of a forced substitution during a match due to medical or another verified emergency and the team has no substitute players available, the team must forfeit the match.

Forfeiture

Teams with less than the prescribed number of players before the match begins must forfeit the match.

The score of a forfeited game shall be 21-0 in favor of the team not at fault.

Violations and Penalties

Foul bags and rules violations are divided into impacting fouls and non-impacting fouls. A court official is responsible for spotting and calling penalties. The court official must determine if a foul bag was impacting or non-impacting.

Non-Impacting Bag

If a foul bag does not impact game play or any other bag in play, the bag is considered dead and is removed from play at time of infraction. This bag scores 0 points for the round. All other bags remain in play.

No other movement of bags is permitted at this time.

The only person allowed to remove a bag from play is a court official.

Impacting Bag

If the bag in question impacts the position of one or more bags in play, it is an impacting bag foul.

- Leave the bag in question and all affected bags in play.
- Continue the round until the end of the inning without touching or removing any bags.
- At the end of the inning, the player that threw the offending bag removes the highest value bag in play.

The only person allowed to move bags is a court official.

Example: Player A steps over the line during their 3rd toss of the round. The offending bag knocks a bag from Player B off the board. Bags are not replaced or affected at this time. At the end of the round, subtract *the highest scoring bag* from Player A from the scoring calculation.

- If 0 points were scored for Player A in the inning, no scoring updates are made.

List of Fouls

The following are foul violations that must be spotted and called by an assigned judge. A foul is assessed to the offending player.

- Any bag pitched when the player has made contact with or crossed over the foul line.
- Any bag pitched when the player has started or stepped completely outside the pitcher's box before the bag is released.
- Any bag not delivered within the 20-second time limit.
- Any bag pitched from a different pitcher's box than the first bag.
- Any bag that is not pitched with an underhand release.

Interrupting Gameplay

A player shall not touch, alter, move, or affect the board or any bags on the board or in the hole before scoring has been agreed upon for the inning.

- If this foul occurs during play, please refer to IMPACTING BAG section above.
- If this foul occurs at the conclusion of an inning, and before a court official has taken score, the non-offending player receives 3 points for each bag removed prior to scoring confirmation.

Fouling Out

Any player that commits 3 or more fouls in a match automatically loses the match. The match ends immediately.

The non-offending player is awarded up to 21 points and wins the match.

The offending player ends the game with the score they have when the 3rd foul occurs.

Dead Bags

Any bag that contacted the court or the ground before coming to rest on the board shall be ruled a dead bag.

Any bag that struck a previously defined object such as a tree limb, wire, indoor court ceiling, etc. shall be ruled a dead bag.

- Immediately remove the bag from play and continue the round. The offending player is not assessed any penalty or foul.

- If the bag impacts another bag, remove the offending bag where it lies and leave the remaining bags as they lie and continue play. The offending player is not assessed any penalty or foul

Additional Foul Rules

A bag that leaves a player's hand once the final forward swing of the delivery process has started shall count as a pitched bag.

A bag that is accidentally dropped by a player before the final forward swing has started shall not be considered foul and may be picked up and pitched.

If players believe they have thrown all bags, clear the board for the next round, but then realize they missed one bag, the round ends. Points are scored as if the round ended, and the missed bag is forfeited.

Any action or intentional use of a penalty that undermines the integrity of the game, as determined by the court official, will result in the player's disqualification and forfeiture of the match.

Game Clock

The competition manager may limit games to a maximum game clock at their discretion.

A 30-minute clock is recommended for play. However, if an event has time limitations, a shorter game clock can be implemented. It is not recommended to use a game clock of less than 15 minutes.

During a timeout, the game clock should continue to run.

The official may stop the game clock at their discretion during an extended delay due to weather, injury, or other unforeseen circumstances.

Timeouts

Each player is permitted one (1) 2-minute timeout per match.

The player calling the timeout must have possession of play and throw.

A timeout cannot end the match.

The official may grant a timeout whenever the circumstances appear to be valid.

Coaching

Coaches or spectators shall be prohibited from engaging in discussions with any athlete and/or partner once the athlete and/or partner steps onto the field of play area as designated by the program coordinator, except during a timeout.

If a court official determines a coach is strategically communicating with a player, the official may provide a verbal warning, or citation with unsportsmanlike conduct according to the discretion of the court official.

Discussions or disputes related to scoring or rules should be directed toward the court official.

Court Officials

Each cornhole court should have at least one assigned court official. Court officials must be easily identifiable at an event.

Each player has the right to object to a designated official for any reason before the start of a match. The competition manager considers and decides upon this objection.

No member of a team or registered substitute of a team is permitted to assist in officiating a match in which that team is playing.

Delay of Games

If the official believes that the game is intentionally delayed without sufficient or valid reason, the official must issue a warning.

If the delaying player does not immediately resume play, they will forfeit the match.

For delays caused by weather, acts of God, civil disorder, or other unforeseen circumstances, the ruling of the competition manager is decisive and final.

Modifications / Adaptive Devices

Any assisting device being used for adaptive purposes must not give the athlete a competitive advantage and must be approved by the Competition Director prior to competition.

Protests

It is the responsibility of each player or coach to sign the scorecard after a match. The signatures will indicate the indisputability of the final score. Games in which protests will be filed should not be signed by any captain, or coach who disagrees with the score or its validity.

Any protest to an official's or competition manager's decision must be made by a Special Olympics certified cornhole coach within 30 minutes of the completion of any game or the decision made by the official or competition manager will be considered as accepted.

Protests will be acknowledged and judged on the basis of merit in circumstances not specifically proved for hereunder.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Players shall act in a sportsmanlike manner at all times.

Any behavior deemed unsportsmanlike, such as using insulting language, attempting to distract an opponent, or displaying inappropriate gestures, actions, or words, may result in disqualification at the discretion of the court official.

Purposely interfering with an opponent's pitching motion will disqualify a player and result in forfeiture of the match.

Any action or intentional use of a penalty that undermines the integrity of the game, as determined by the court official, will result in the player's disqualification and forfeiture of the match.

Attire

Players will dress in a manner which will bring credit to them and the sport of cornhole.

It is recommended that all players wear closed-toe athletic shoes.