



Downeast Cider Cornhole League Rules

Summer 2024

Begins June 1, 6:00 PM

Everyone has their own unique way of playing cornhole. Read below to learn about our league rules!

Our first and most important rule is to **have fun!** Like all recreational sports, everyone comes out for a good time, so please exercise sportsmanship!

The Game:

A game is made up of frames wherein each team rotates, tossing their team's four bags until all bags (8) have been tossed towards the opposite board. At the conclusion of each frame, the score is calculated and added to the team's net total. A winner is determined when a team reaches or surpasses 21 at the conclusion of a frame.

Set-Up:

Each court consists of two boards spaced 27 feet apart front-to-front and two sets of 4 bags. The league manager will measure boards before the first scheduled game time. All boards are provided by Manor Lanes. Manor Lanes will also supply bags; however, teams will be allowed to bring their own bags.

Schedules and Game Time:

Each team will play nine matches each week against nine different opponents. Our season will be a total of 6 weeks, ending on August 24, 2024.

Scoring:

The object is to be the first team to reach or surpass 21 points. Points are scored by landing a tossed bag on the board (1 point) and by having a tossed bag drop into the hole (3 points). Players calculate the points scored per team once all eight bags have been tossed. The team with the higher number of points is awarded the point difference. *Example:* "Team A" scores 8 points in frame 1, and "Team B" scores 2 points in frame 1.

"Team B"'s 2 points are subtracted from "Team A"'s 8 points awarding 6 points to "Team A"'s net total.

Scoring Discrepancies:

All scoring discrepancies need to be taken to the league manager immediately. The league manager will make the final ruling on all discrepancies. Please remember, we are out here to have fun! At the end of the day, it is just cornhole with friends!

Beginning a Match:

The captains begin the match with a coin flip or playing rock, paper, scissors. The winner determines the end from which play will begin and gets the first throw. In the playoffs, the higher-seeded team has those privileges.

Knocking Opponents' Bags Off Boards:

This is a risky strategy some players like to use. It is fair game.

Violations Resulting in Bag Being Removed from Board:

Bags may be removed from the board if the player crosses the foul line before releasing the bag, the bag hits the ground and bounces onto the board, or the bag strikes an object such as a tree limb, indoor ceiling, person, etc.

Winning:

The first team to reach a minimum of 21 points at the end of a frame wins the game.

Skunk:

There are no "skunks" in our league. We use total points as a tie-breaker.

Playing Court:

Players may stand anywhere to the left or right of the board but must stay on that side for the entire match. The court area is anywhere behind the front of the board. Teammates stand at opposite boards but must play on the same side.

Foul Line:

The foul line is located at the front of the board. All players must toss from behind the foul line. If a player crosses the foul line on his or her toss, that toss does not count, and they cannot toss that bag again.

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 pitcher's box. Players must deliver the bag with an underhand release. Players must not cross the foul line with their feet before the bag has landed.

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 the first pitch in the next frame.

Raking Cornhole Bags

If bags become piled inside the cornhole board hole and may interfere with or obstruct the next pitch, or if there is a question about whether a cornhole bag would have naturally fallen through the hole, a player may request to "rake" the cornhole bags that have fallen inside the hole.

Important note: During raking, all efforts should be made to leave bags on the playing surface undisrupted, in their natural state, and to leave bags that may hang on the rim of the hole from falling inside the hole unnaturally. If a bag is resting on a piled bag and unavoidably falls into the hole as a result of raking, then it shall be counted as a "cornhole."

Player Requirements and Substitutions:

A minimum of 2 players per team must be present to play. Teams are co-ed and can be made up of any gender.

Substitutes are allowed; however, all substitutes must be added to your team roster no later than the fourth week of play. A substitute can only play during playoffs/championships if they have played at least three weeks. Teams are allowed to have two substitute players on any given week EXCEPT for the last week of play (playoffs/finals).

Forfeits:

A team will forfeit their match if at least two players do not show up within 15 minutes of their scheduled playing time or do not provide 24 hours notice awarding the opposing team the win.

"No-Shows"/24-hour notice:

A "no-show" is when you do not provide 24-hour notice that you will not make your match or do not show for your match; it will be recorded as a forfeit. **If a team "no-shows"/forfeits twice in one season, they will forfeit their registration and the remainder of the season.**

Team Rankings:

Rankings will be determined by most wins. A win receives 1 point and a loss receives 0 points. Total points scored will be used as a tie-breaker. If a team does not show up they will forfeit all matches and receive zero points for that week.

Playoffs:

All teams qualify for the playoffs! We will divide the league into two different divisions based on the standings after week 5. This will ensure that at least one team at the bottom of the standings will compete for a chance to win the Downeast Cider Cornhole Championship. For a player to play during the playoffs, you **MUST** be listed as a player on the team's roster, and that player must play at least three weeks before the playoffs.

Play Level:

Please remember that we are a social league and gather together to meet new people and break up the week with some fun.

Manor Lanes Weather Policy:



Rule of thumb: ALWAYS assume your game is on. We play through rain, snow, and less-than-optimal conditions to make sure all games are played as scheduled. Of course, in special circumstances – blizzards, lightning, alien takeover – we will postpone the games. When in doubt, call us at 875-8814.

NEW FOR 2023!

Each team member will receive ONE FREE DRINK OF THEIR CHOICE each week. A team may get a pitcher of DOMESTIC beer only. No craft beer pitchers are included.

Prize Money:

Based on 30 teams...losers of Round 2 receive \$50, losers of Round 3 receive \$75, losers of Round 4 receive \$100, losers of Round 5 receive \$200, overall league champion receives \$300.

