

# Cornhole Sports Rules

Updated 1/1/2025

**Special Olympics**  
West Virginia



Cornhole is offered in traditional and modified singles and doubles. It is now also Offered in Unified Doubles.

- To compete in Modified Doubles, both partners must be modified single players

## Court Size:

- Traditional Cornhole court is 27 feet (distance between the front of each board)
- Modified Cornhole court is 15 feet (distance between the front of each board)

## Attire

Players will dress in shorts, skorts, khaki type bottoms, or other attire that brings credit to them and the sport of cornhole.

Shirts should be nice, have Special Olympics specific county logo on them, can be collared. Shirts cannot have any other logos, branding, wording, be dirty, torn, or spaghetti strap type.

Players must also wear closed toe shoes at all times.

**JEANS ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING COMPETITION.** This will result in a forfeiture.

## Game Clock

**Games played during Summer Games events will be no more than 20 minutes.**

During a timeout, the game clock should continue to run. Any inning that starts should be finished even if time expires.

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

## Scoring

### Cancellation Scoring

In cancellation scoring, the points of one player cancel out the points of their opponent. Cancellation scoring will only take place at the end of each inning. 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 was designated a foul bag as the result of a rules violation. Each is worth zero (0) points.

**Dead Bags:** Refers to any bag that contacted the court or the ground before coming to rest on the board or any bag that struck a previously defined object such as a tree limb, wire, indoor court ceiling, etc. Each is worth zero (0) points.

### **Winning the Game**

The first player to score (or exceed) 21 points or to be leading when the time limit is reached shall be declared 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, release, or follow through.

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.

During any inning, a player can seek a ruling or clarification from an official to determine the status of a bag.



## Timeouts

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

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

A timeout cannot end the game. If a timeout is called and time expires, the current inning should still be completed.

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, 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 a citation for unsporting conduct according to the discretion of the court official.

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

## Rules for Divisioning:

- Each athlete will pitch 4 consecutive bags from the designated throwing area to complete a frame.
- After the 4th bag is thrown, the number of points earned (1 point for landing on the board, 3 points for going in the hole).
- The athlete will pitch 3 additional frames, for a total of 16 throws.
- The cumulative score from the 16 throws is the total.
- Throw in groups of 4.

For all rules and regulations, please visit [www.sowv.org/cornhole/](http://www.sowv.org/cornhole/)