



AMERICAN CORNHOLE ORGANIZATION

OFFICIAL ACO PLAYER'S GUIDE 16

CORNHOLE SEASON 16





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1 ACO MEMBERSHIP

NEW
FOR SEASON 16

1.1 ACO MEMBERSHIP

There are two levels of ACO Membership:

ACO MEMBERS

- ACO Membership is not required for participation in any Division at ACO Majors, however, players will NOT be eligible to receive points or prizes/prize money unless they have a paid Membership PRIOR to the start of the tourney. Points will not be retroactively added after the tournament has passed.
- Exception - Only for the month of September 2020- Players may participate in ACO Majors without a Membership, but still receive their points. To receive points, they must purchase a Membership from their Certified Official at their first Regional.

ACO REGIONALS

- ACO Certified Officials will be able to choose their own Membership option when scheduling their Regional.
- At the time of scheduling a Regional, Certified Officials will be given two options under their tournament listing. The tourney listing will be listed on the public ACO schedule, Americancornhole.com and ACO FaceBook.
 - » Option #1 - Non-ACO members may participate, but will not be eligible for points or prizes
 - » Option #2 - All players must have an ACO Membership to participate
- Each CO chooses the option for their Regional.

1.2 ACO MEMBERSHIP COST

- Purchase from an ACO Certified Official = \$35
- Purchase at AmericanCornhole.com = \$50

1.3 ACO MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

ACO MEMBERS:

- Allows participation in all Divisions and grants eligibility to earn points and prizes/prize money
 - » World Singles Division
 - » World Doubles Division
 - » World Seniors Division
 - » World Womens Division
 - » World Juniors Division
 - » World Womens Doubles Division
 - » World Seniors Doubles Division
 - » World Coed Division
 - » World Blind Draw Division
- Are added to all eligible online ACO Standings lists
- Are eligible to earn ACO World Standings points at ACO Regionals and ACO Majors
- Are eligible to earn prizes and/or money purses at ACO Regionals and ACO Majors when available
- Receive a welcome email with login credentials to access to the ACO Members Site which allows them to view their own Season stats and manage their player profile
- Are eligible to be invited to compete in the ACO World Championships of Cornhole 16
- Are ConnyForty eligible
- Are TopGun Twenty eligible





1 ACO MEMBERSHIP

1.4 HOW TO BECOME AN ACO-PRO PLAYER

- ACO-PRO status is only achievable through World Singles play.

TO ACHIEVE ACO-PRO STATUS, A PLAYER NEEDS TO ACCOMPLISH ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Finish ACO Season 16 ranked in the top 80 of the ACO World Singles Standings
- Finish in the Top 96 in World Singles at the ACO World Championships of Cornhole 16

PLAYERS WHO ACHIEVE ACO-PRO STATUS ARE:

- Eligible to purchase an ACO-PRO Jersey
- Eligible for ACO-PRO Only Invitational tournaments or Events that may arise

IMPORTANT NOTES:

Once a player achieves ACO-PRO status, they will retain the status for the following 2 Seasons. Players who achieved ACO-PRO status at any time in the past may be subject to tournament or divisional restrictions.

1.5 ACO WORLD SINGLES CHAMPIONS WILL RECEIVE:

- Lifetime ACO-PRO status
- Lifetime ACO Membership
- Lifetime unlimited free entries to the ACO World Championships, ACO Majors, and Conference Championships

NEW
FOR SEASON 16

1.6 ACO WORLD CHAMPION BENEFIT:

- All past ACO World Champions (1st place at an ACO Worlds) will receive free entry to the Division in which they won at all ACO Majors throughout ACO Season 16



2 ACO TOURNAMENTS

2.1 ACO REGIONALS

- Events coordinated by ACO Certified Officials in his/her local market at a location and date of his/her choice in which players compete at a local level for World Standings and Social Standings points and prizes.
- Certified Officials can pick and choose which Regional Divisions they would like to coordinate in their areas based on the demand from players in that market.

CERTIFIED OFFICIALS CAN CHOOSE FROM THESE DIVISIONS TO COORDINATE:

- World Singles – Open to all players
- World Doubles – Open to all players
- World Womens – Open to all female players
- World Seniors – Open to all players 55 years and older. A player can start the season if they are 54 yrs. old, if they turn 55 yrs. old by July 31st, 2021.
- World Juniors – Open to all players 17 years and younger. A player may compete throughout the season as a Junior if they are 17 as of 9/1/20, regardless of turning 18 during the season.
- World Womens Doubles Division – Open to all female players. Doubles play with teams consisting of two females
- World Seniors Doubles Division – Open to all Seniors players. Doubles play with teams consisting of two players, each 55 yrs or older
- World Coed Doubles Division – Open to all players. Doubles play with teams consisting of 1 male and 1 female
- World Blind Draw Doubles Division – Open to all players

2.2 ACO REGIONAL GENERAL RULES

- Players/teams may compete in as many monthly Regionals as they would like, in as many Divisions in which they qualify, either at the same location or different locations
- A player or team's 6 best finishes of the Season will count toward their final point total. Once a player/team competes in their 7th Regional, their lowest score will be dropped from the list, and so on.

DOUBLES NOTE: A player may switch partners an unlimited number of times during the Season. A new World Doubles Standings spot will be created for each new team assembled. For example: The team of Chris Clark and Dale Tanner may be ranked 23rd, and the team of Chris Clark and April Clemons may be ranked 75th.

MINIMUM PLAYERS

- In order for Regional points to count, the following participation minimums for each Division must be reached
 - » World Singles – Minimum of 7 players
 - » World Doubles – Minimum of 3 teams
 - » Womens Singles – Minimum of 2 players
 - » Seniors Singles – Minimum of 2 players
 - » Juniors Singles – Minimum of 2 players
 - » World Womens Doubles – Minimum of 2 teams
 - » World Seniors Doubles – Minimum of 2 teams
 - » World Coed Doubles – Minimum of 2 teams
 - » World Blind Draw Doubles – Minimum of 4 players

2.3 ACO REGIONAL POINTS SCALE

- ACO Regionals – All Divisions
 - » 1st Place = 25pts
 - » 2nd Place = 24 pts
 - » 3rd Place = 23 pts
 - » 4th Place = 22 pts
 - » 5th – 6th Place = 20 pts
 - » 7th – 8th Place = 18 pts
 - » 9th-12th Place = 16 pts
 - » 13th- 16th = 14 pts
 - » 17th and over = 12 pts

2.4 ACO REGIONAL TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Seeding – Regional Divisions will be seeded based on that Division's Standings. If no Standings are available for the first Regional of the Season, then the bracket will be randomly seeded
- Once the seeding has been determined, bracket play can begin. Double elimination bracket.
- A player can come from the loser's bracket and earn first place.



2 ACO TOURNAMENTS

2.5 BLIND DRAW DOUBLES FORMAT

- Each player must register individually
- No walkers. There must be an even number of players. Last person to register may be required to drop out
- Once all players have registered, doubles teams are randomly drawn
- Place randomly seeded teams into a double elimination bracket. A team can come from the loser's bracket and earn first place
- ACO Blind Draw Doubles points will be awarded to each individual player on the team based on their finish, and the Standings will consist of the individual players

2.6 ACO REGIONAL SCHEDULING

- The CO may choose to schedule Regionals anytime during the season in which they choose but there must be 1 week between scheduling the same Division in the same zip.
- Examples:
 - » A CO may choose to coordinate all their Regionals over a 6-week period to complete their players' season
 - » A CO may choose to spread Regionals out over several months or the entire season
 - » A CO may schedule as many Regionals in a zip code during a season as they like if there is 1 week between scheduling the same Division.

2.7 SPLITTING REGIONALS

- On the day of a Regional, if there are 34 or more players/teams registered for any Division, the Certified Official has the option of splitting the Division into separate 17 player/team brackets and awarding separate Standings points to each, without prescheduling.
- For every additional 17 players/teams registered thereafter, the CO has the option of splitting again, and so on
- Each split bracket must have a minimum of 17 players/teams to ensure that least 1 player/team in each bracket receive the lowest amount of points available
- COs are not required to split and have the option of keeping all players in one big bracket

2.8 ACO MAJORS

- Events in which players from all Regions come together at one location to compete for points and prizes
- Coordinated by the ACO Corporate Team
- Playing format at each ACO Major will be standard from one location to the next throughout the Season. Players/teams will participate in pool play with the top finishers from each pool advancing to the Championship bracket. Schedule may vary based on location
- Of the Majors held throughout the season, a player/team's (3) best finishes will count toward their Standings total. Once a player/team competes in their 4th ACO Major, their lowest score will be dropped from the list, and so on
- Check the event calendar on AmericanCornhole.com

2.9 ACO MAJOR PRIZE JERSEYS

- A player during ACO Season 16 will have the opportunity to win an ACO Purple Prize jersey by winning any division at any Major during that Season. However, if a player wins multiple Majors during the year, they will not receive an additional jersey until the end of the Season.
- At the end of Season 16 the ACO will create an additional Purple Prize jersey for those players winning division titles at more than one Major during the Season. These Purple Prize Jerseys with patches of all the different Majors they won titles at will be delivered to the players prior to the World Championships for that Season. A player will only be eligible to win a maximum of two FREE Purple Prize jerseys. The player is able to request purchasing additional prize jerseys for a fee of \$75.00 plus \$10.00 shipping

2.10 ACO MAJORS POINT SCALE

WORLD SINGLES AND WORLD DOUBLES

- Players/teams who advances from Pool Play will play in the Championship bracket and will be awarded according to the scale below:

1st Place = 50pts	9th Place tie = 41 pts
2nd Place = 49 pts	13th Place tie = 39 pts
3rd Place = 48 pts	17th Place tie = 37 pts
4th Place = 47 pts	25th Place tie = 35 pts
5th Place tie = 45 pts	33rd Place tie = 33 pts
7th Place tie = 43 pts	49th and over = 31 pts



2 ACO TOURNAMENTS

- Every player/team who does not advance from Pool Play will receive points based on their finish in the Pool according to the Regional Scale above

NEW FOR SEASON 16

- At select Majors with appropriate space, players who do not advance to the Championship bracket in Singles and/or Doubles will have an extra opportunity to earn points by dropping into Single elimination Tier tournaments.

Tier 2 = 1 pts for each game won in the bracket
Tier 3 = 1/2 pt for each game won in the bracket

- World Womens, World Seniors, World Juniors, World Seniors Doubles, World Womens Doubles, World Coed, and World Blind Draw

1st Place = 35pts
2nd Place = 34 pts
3rd Place = 33 pts
4th Place = 32 pts
5th Place tie = 30 pts
7th Place tie = 28 pts
9th Place tie = 26 pts
13th Place tie = 24 pts
17th and over = 22 pts

2.11 ACO CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

- ACO Conference Championship tournaments will crown the best players within each ACO Conference
- ACO Corporate and ACO Conference Commissioners will determine the location and date of each Conference Championship
- Tournament format will be determined by the Conference Commissioners and ACO Corporate
- Only players who reside within the Conference will be permitted to participate. A Valid Driver's License or State ID will be required
- The ACO Conference Championship tournaments will be points-earning events, however, the points will only count towards the players/team's Conference Standings. They will not count towards World Standings.

2.12 ACO STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS

- ACO State Championship tournaments will crown the best players within each ACO State
- ACO Corporate and ACO Conference Commissioners will determine the location and date of each State Championship
- Tournament format will be determined by the Conference Commissioners and ACO Corporate
- Only players who reside within the State will be permitted to participate. A Valid Driver's License or State ID will be required
- The ACO State Championship tournaments will be points earning events, however, the points will only count towards the players/team's State Standings. They will not count towards World Standings.

2.13 ACO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS OF CORNHOLE

- The ACO World Championships of Cornhole is the annual ACO Season ending tournament held in July which crowns the best cornhole players in the World.
- ACO Membership is required for all World Divisions
- Qualifying details and ticket pricing TBA



3 ACO STANDINGS

NEW
FOR SEASON 16

All Standings lists will be updated at the time of results being entered.

3.1 ACO WORLD SINGLES STANDINGS

- The ACO World Singles Standings is the list of ACO Members who have earned points competing in the World Singles (one-on-one play) Division. The list is arranged with players who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- The World Singles Standings Points are used to:
 - » Position players to win cash and prizes
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
 - » Seed players at various ACO Events
 - » Identify the CornyForty
 - » Earn a spot for a World Championships ticket
 - » Identify ACO-PRO players
- ACO World Singles Standings consists of:
 - » A player's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A player's 3 best Major finishes (any location)

3.2 CORNYFORTY

- The CornyForty refers to top 40 players in ACO World Singles Standings. Players earning a position in CornyForty at the conclusion of the points season win a free Golden Ticket to the ACO World Championships. The CornyForty will be seeded 1-40 in the World Singles Bracket.
- The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO World Singles Standings will be named "ACO World Singles / Player of the Season"

3.3 ACO WORLD DOUBLES STANDINGS

- The ACO World Doubles Standings is the list of the teams (2 player per team) who have earned points competing in the World Doubles Division. The list is arranged with teams who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.

- The World Doubles Standings Points earned are used to:
 - » Position teams to win cash and prizes |
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
 - » Seed teams at various ACO Events
 - » Identify the TopGun Twenty
- ACO World Doubles Standings consists of:
 - » A team's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A team's 3 best Major finishes (any location)

3.4 TOPGUN TWENTY

- The TopGun Twenty refers to top 20 teams in ACO World Doubles Standings. Each member of a team earning a position in TopGun Twenty at the conclusion of the points season win free a free Golden Ticket to the ACO World Championships. The TopGun Twenty will be seeded 1-20 in the World Doubles Bracket.
- The team finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO World Doubles Standings will be named "ACO World Doubles / Team of the Season"

3.5 ACO WORLD WOMENS STANDINGS

- The ACO World Womens Standings is the list of ACO Members who have earned points competing in the Womens Singles (one-on-one play) Division. The list is arranged with players who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- The World Womens Standings Points are used to:
 - » Position players to win cash and prizes
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
 - » Seed players at various ACO Events
- ACO World Womens Standings consists of:
 - » A team's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A team's 3 best Major finishes (any location)
- The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Womens Standings will be named "ACO World Womens / Player of the Season"



3 ACO STANDINGS

3.6 ACO WORLD SENIORS STANDINGS

- The ACO World Seniors Standings is the list of ACO Members who have earned points competing in the Seniors Singles (one-on-one play) Division. The list is arranged with players who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- The World Seniors Standings Points are used to:
 - » Position players to win cash and prizes
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
 - » Seed players at various ACO Events
- ACO World Seniors Standings consists of:
 - » A player's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A player's 3 best Major finishes (any location)
- The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Seniors Standings will be named "ACO World Seniors/ Player of the Season"

3.7 ACO WORLD JUNIORS STANDINGS

- The ACO World Juniors Standings is the list of ACO Members who have earned points competing in the Juniors Singles (one-on-one play) Division. The list is arranged with players who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- The World Juniors Standings Points are used to:
 - » Position players to win cash and prizes
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
 - » Seed players at various ACO Events
- ACO World Juniors Standings consists of:
 - » A player's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A player's 3 best Major finishes (any location)
- The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Juniors Standings will be named "ACO World Juniors / Player of the Season"

3.8 ACO WOMENS DOUBLES STANDINGS

- The ACO Womens Doubles Standings is the list of the teams (2 player per Team, 2 females per team) who have earned points competing in the Womens Doubles Division. The list is arranged with teams who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- The Womens Doubles Standings Points are used to:
 - » Position teams to win cash and prizes
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
 - » Seed players at various ACO Events
- ACO World Womens Doubles Standings consists of:
 - » A team's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A team's 3 best Major finishes (any location)
- The team finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Womens Doubles will be named "ACO Womens Doubles Team of the Season"

3.9 ACO SENIORS DOUBLES STANDINGS

- The ACO Seniors Doubles Standings is the list of the teams (2 player per Team, 2 Seniors per team) who have earned points competing in the Seniors Doubles Division. The list is arranged with teams who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- The Seniors Doubles Standings Points are used to:
 - » Position teams to win cash and prizes
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
 - » Seed players at various ACO Events
- ACO World Seniors Doubles Standings consists of:
 - » A team's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A team's 3 best Major finishes (any location)
- The team finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Seniors Doubles will be named "ACO Seniors Doubles Team of the Season"



3 ACO STANDINGS

3.10 ACO COED DOUBLES STANDINGS

- The ACO Coed Doubles Standings is the list of the teams (2 player per Team, 1 male and 1 female) who have earned points competing in the Coed Division. The list is arranged with teams who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- The Coed Standings Points are used to:
 - » Position players to win cash and prizes
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
 - » Seed players at various ACO Events
- ACO World Coed Standings consists of:
 - » A team's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A team's 3 best Major finishes (any location)
- The team finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Coed Doubles will be named "ACO Coed Doubles / Team of the Season"

3.11 ACO BLIND DRAW STANDINGS

- The ACO Blind Draw Doubles Standings is the list of individual players who have earned points competing in the Blind Draw Division. The list is arranged with players who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- The Blind Draw Standings Points are used to:
 - » Position players to win cash and prizes
 - » Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
- ACO World Blind Draw Standings consists of:
 - » A player's 6 best Regional scores (any location)
 - » A player's 3 best Major finishes (any location)
- The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Blind Draw Standings will be named "ACO Blind Draw Player of the Season"

3.12 ACO CONFERENCE STANDINGS

- The ACO Conference Standings are the lists of ACO Members who have earned points competing in points earning events within a given Conference. World Singles, World Doubles, World Womens, World Seniors, World Juniors, Coed, and Blind Draw Doubles will all have their own individual Standings lists. The lists are arranged with players/teams who have earned the most points at the top of the Standings.
- An ACO Conference Standings consists of:
 - » A player/team's 6 best Regional scores (from Regionals within the Conference only)
 - » A player/team's 3 best Major finishes (from Majors within the Conference only)
 - » The player/team's finish at the ACO Conference Championship

NOTE: Players who do not reside within a Conference are permitted to participate in any Regionals and/or Majors. However, those points earned will only be applied to their World Standings and will not apply to that Conference's Standings. Players who do not reside within the Conference will not be listed on the Conference Standings, they will only be listed on the Conference Standings in which they reside.

3.13 TIEBREAKERS

- There will be a separate Standings list on AmericanCornhole.com for each Division
- Tiebreakers for all Standings lists will be as follows:
 - » 1 - Most major points earned
 - » 2 - Best finish in a major
 - » 3 - 2nd best finish in a major
 - » 4 - Best finish in a regional
 - » 5 - 2nd Best finish in a regional
 - » 6 - 3rd Best finish in a regional
 - » 7 - 4th Best finish in a regional
 - » 8 - 5th Best finish in a regional
 - » 9 - Random
- If there is a tie for 1st place in any Division, there will be a playoff at the ACO World Championships of Cornhole 16 for Player/Team of the Season and Divisional seeding.



4 ACO CONFERENCES

4.1 ABOUT ACO CONFERENCES

- ACO Conferences and ACO Conference Standings provide an opportunity for players to compete in a complete "Series" and qualify for the ACO World Championships of Cornhole 15 without ever traveling outside of their Conference all season!
- The U.S. is split into 11 ACO Conferences
- An ACO Conference Commissioner will oversee all Certified Officials within the Conference
- There are Conference Standings lists on AmericanCornhole.com for each Division in each Conference
- Each Conference will have a Conference Championship tournament, exclusively for players who reside within the Conference, in which players will have the opportunity to earn points towards their Conference Standings and win Conference titles. These points will not be applied to World Standings.

NOTE: To have a Conference Championship, a conference must have a minimum of 100 ACO Members

4.2 GOALS OF ACO CONFERENCES

- To allow players more localized opportunities to compete in a ranked series
- To allow players a more localized opportunity to earn prizes and titles
- To allow players a more localized opportunity to earn a spot into the ACO World Championships of Cornhole 16. Top players from each Conference will be granted reserved spots at the ACO Worlds 16.

4.3 ACO CONFERENCES AND COMMISSIONERS BREAKDOWN

- Conference Commissioners add another level of support and supervision for Certified Officials

MID-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

States included: WV, VA, MD, DE, PA
Commissioner: Katherine Kennedy
kkennedy@americancornhole.com / 804-212-7470

HEARTLAND CONFERENCE

States included: MI, IN, OH, KY
Commissioner: Scott Melby
scott@indycustomcornhole.com / 317-339-0780

SOUTH-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

States included: NC, SC, GA, FL
Commissioner: Ryan Labelle
rynlbl@yahoo.com / 864-706-2126

MID-WEST CONFERENCE

States included: IL, WI, IA, MO, NE
Commissioner: Brian Jones
bjonesjcc69@gmail.com / 618-779-9824

BIG SOUTH CONFERENCE

Commissioner: Troy Houser
States included: TN, AL, MS, AR, LA
blackjackcornhole@gmail.com / 423-845-0558

MOUNTAIN WEST CONFERENCE

States included: NV, UT, CO, AZ, NM
Commissioner: Erik Hubbard
erikhubbard@ymail.com / 702-499-7043

OLD WEST CONFERENCE

States included: OK, TX, KS
Commissioner: Eric Rico
ericrico7@gmail.com / 316-807-7565

WEST COAST CONFERENCE

States included: CA, HI
Commissioner: William Howell
whowell@americancornhole.com / 951-440-6489

NORTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE

States included: WA, OR, ID, AK
Commissioner: Kody Layton
kodylayton@hotmail.com / 916-335-4283

GREAT NORTH CONFERENCE

States included: ND, SD, WY, MT, MN
Commissioner: Open for future development
play@americancornhole.com / 888-563-2002

NORTH-ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

States included: ME, VT, MA, NH, CT, RI, NY, NJ
Commissioner: Open for future development
play@americancornhole.com / 888-563-2002



5 EQUIPMENT & RULES

5.1 RULES FOR ACO EVENTS

- ACO Rules MUST be followed during all ACO Events. Please refer to our complete ACO Rules Guide, refer to www.americancornhole.com

5.2 ACO APPROVED EQUIPMENT

- Not limited to ACO branded equipment – it need only comply with the following criteria to be ACO Approved Equipment Specs

BOARDS

- Hardwood plywood playing surface of 47.5" to 48" x 23.5" to 24" rectangle.
- The playing surface has a minimum thickness of 5/8" with cross-section backing, or 3/4" with or without cross-section backing.
- Each hole is 6" diameter, centered 9" from the top of the board and 12" from each side edge.

- The front of the board is 3" to 4" from the ground to the top of the playing surface.
- The back of the board is 12" from the ground to the top of the playing surface.
- The playing surface should be finished - sanded to a smooth texture. There should be little to no blemishes in the wood surface that may disrupt or distort play.
- The playing surface can be painted with a high gloss latex paint or varnish. The surface should allow bags to slide when thrown, but not be so slippery that the bags slide back down the platform.

NOTE: Exceptions may be made for other boards based on the discretion and approval of the ACO

BAGS

Visit americancornhole.com for a complete list of ACO Approved Bags and guidelines



AMERICAN CORNHOLE ORGANIZATION



GAME ON!



CORNHOLE SEASON 16

