

a m e r i c a n ★ c o r n h o l e



**CERTIFIED  
OFFICIAL  
GUIDE**

**SEASON IX OFFICIAL GUIDE**



# American Cornhole Organization

## Certified Official Guide

### Season IX

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## CHAPTER 1 – ACO Certified Official

### 1.1 What is an ACO Certified Official?

**Answer:** An ACO Certified Official (CO) is an individual qualified to run ACO Masters Series Regionals and administer Frame Games according to the standards set by the ACO.

**Requirement:** Certified Officials must have a computer, internet access, and a working knowledge of email and basic programs such as Microsoft Word and Excel. Much of the Certified Official's responsibility is to manage their Organization through the Certified Official Login Site by entering Membership info, Frame Game scores, Tournament Results, etc. Training in these processes will be provided through video training, but **prior knowledge of computer basics is essential and required.**

### 1.2 How to become an ACO Certified Official

1. Submit Certified Official Application (no obligation) – **task completed**
2. Certified Official Guide will be sent for your review – **task completed**
3. Purchase the Certified Official Package by phone at 888.563.2002 or online at our website.
4. Once purchased, you will be emailed the ACO Certified Official Agreement to complete and return.

Complete and submit all forms to Eric Hinerman. There are 3 ways to submit your forms:

1. Scan and email to [ehinerman@americancornhole.com](mailto:ehinerman@americancornhole.com)
2. Fax to 513-965-8689
3. Send by mail to: American Cornhole, LLC, PO Box 978, Milford, OH 45150

### 1.3 Fee for new ACO Certified Officials and what the fee includes

The ACO Certified Official Package is \$575 per calendar year and includes:

- 1 set of ACO Tournament Series "Star Logo" Boards - Valued at \$279.95
- 2 sets(1 Blue set, 1 Red set) of ACO Classic Players Choice Bags - Valued at \$44.90
- 15 ACO Memberships - Valued at \$300.00
- 2 Certified Official Certifications and ACO Memberships - Valued at \$200.00
- Shipping included - Valued at \$75.00

#### IMPORTANT NOTES:

ACO Memberships included in this Certified Official Package are included to help the CO recoup their initial fee. By selling 15 ACO Memberships, a CO will earn back a portion of their initial investment. Each Group can have an unlimited number of Certified Officials. Certification of two Officials is included in the initial fee. Additional Certified Officials can be added to your Group for a fee of \$100 each. ACO Certification will be valid through the ACO World Championships of Cornhole IX (July 2014)



### **1.4 ACO Certified Official renewal fee**

At the conclusion of Season IX, Certified Officials who wish to renew for Season X (July 2014 – July 2015) will be given two options:

- Purchase the new ACO Certified Official Program again OR
- Purchase \$300 of CO Inventory – Memberships (\$12 each) and/or Tournaments (\$25 each)

### **1.5 Expectations for Season X Renewal**

The following goals for the Season IX have been created as guidelines for those wishing to renew Season X:

Coordinate a minimum of 12 Masters Series Regional Tournaments during Season IX. There are 18 total opportunities – 9 Singles and 9 Doubles. Each Singles Tourney and each Doubles Tourney coordinated will count towards the total.

### **1.6 I've Been Certified! Now what?**

**Answer:** Once your certification has been approved, your Group:

- Will be added to our online directory of ACO Certified Officials
- Will be added to the private ACO Certified Official Facebook Group page. The FB Group is a forum exclusively for COs to ask questions, interact with other COs from around the country, vote on issues, receive early notifications, and more.
- Will be set up as an Organization in the ACO Members Login site, which will give you access to all training videos, forms, and processes to get you started. The Online Certified Official Login Site allows you to enter your own Tournament Results, Frame Games, Memberships, and update the World Rankings. The system tracks your activity and allows you to effectively manage your ACO Organization. Training on all processes are provided by online video tutorials

You are now eligible to:

- Host Masters Series Regionals
- Sell ACO Memberships
- Purchase ACO Products and Merchandise at wholesale or discounted prices
- Sell ACO Sponsorships
- Be contracted to run various ACO Corporate activities



## CHAPTER 2 – ACO Membership

### 2.1 Benefits of becoming a member of the ACO and ACO-PRO

#### ACO Members:

- Receive an ACO Membership Card with Membership Number and welcome letter in the mail
- Are added to the online ACO World Rankings list
- Are eligible to earn ACO World Singles and Doubles Ranking points at ACO Regionals and ACO Majors
- Receive access the ACO Members Login Site which allows them to view their own Season stats and manage their player profile
- Are eligible to participate in the ACO World Championships of Cornhole IX
- Are Cornyforty eligible
- Are TopGun Twenty eligible

#### Players who achieve ACO-PRO status are:

- Eligible to purchase an ACO-PRO Jersey
- Eligible for addition cash prize purses at ACO Major tournaments
- Eligible for ACO-PRO Only Invitational tournaments or Events that may arise



### 2.2 How to become an ACO-PRO player

A player can only earn ACO-PRO status through Singles play. There are two methods to achieving and/or maintaining ACO-PRO status for the current and the following season. **In order to reach ACO-PRO status, a player needs only to complete one of the two following options:**

#### OPTION #1 - Player must accomplish all (3) goals:

- 1) Acquire a minimum of 275 World Singles Ranking Points
- 2) Achieve a Singles SCR score of 120 or more
- 3) Participate in at least (2) Masters Series Major tournament during the Season

**OPTION #2 - Player must finish in the Top 64 in the King of Cornhole or in the Top 4 of the Queen of Cornhole at the ACO World Championships of Cornhole.**



### **2.3 Does a player have to be a member of the ACO to participate in my Event?**

**Answer:**

- **Masters Series Regionals and Majors** – Yes, All players/teams must be a member of the ACO or acquire ACO Membership prior to the start of the event **to participate in the points earning tournaments**. Players/teams may sign-up for a membership on the day of the event during registration.
- **ACO Invitational** – ACO Membership requirements may vary. See specific tournament details.
- **ACO Qualifier** – Membership is not required by the ACO for a player/team to win a Ticket to the ACO World Championships and is at the discretion of the CO. All players/teams must be a member of the ACO or acquire ACO Membership to be eligible to compete in the ACO World Championships of Cornhole.
- **Other** – Membership for all other tournaments added to an event, such as luck-of-the-draw tournaments, is not required by the ACO and is at the discretion of the CO.





## CHAPTER 3 – ACO Tournaments

### 3.1 Types of ACO Tournaments

ACO Tournaments are divided into two categories: Points earning and Non-points earning tournaments:

Non-Points earning Tournaments:

- ACO Invitationals
- ACO Qualifiers
- ACO World Championships of Cornhole

Points earning Tournaments – ACO Masters Series Tournaments:

- ACO Masters Series Majors – Singles and Doubles
- ACO Masters Series Regionals – Singles and Doubles

### 3.2 ACO Invitationals (NON-Points earning)

The term “ACO Invitational” refers to any non-points earning event coordinated by the ACO Corporate Team.

*ACO Corporate is constantly working with existing and future sponsors to continuously add bigger and better events in order to reward ACO Members. Some ACO Invitationals may be open to all players, while others may require a player to have reached “PRO” status or to have reached a certain level of points in order to participate. ACO Invitations will be added to the Event Calendar as they are secured.*

### 3.3 ACO Qualifiers (NON-Points earning)

- An ACO Qualifier refers to any tournament, league, or event in which the prize is an entry, or credit toward an entry to an upcoming ACO Event.
- Qualifiers are open to anyone to coordinate and will receive all promotional benefits of the ACO.
- COs can purchase upcoming Event tickets and coordinate Qualifiers whenever they choose. COs running ACO Qualifiers may receive a discount on ticket prices.
- The entry fee and format for an ACO Qualifier is at the discretion of the CO. Prize will be the purchased ticket to the ACO Event and other cash and prizes can be awarded at the discretion of the CO

### 3.4 ACO World Championships of Cornhole (NON-points earning)

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.

Complete details of the ACO Worlds to come.





Featured titles include:

- King of Cornhole (Single best player in the World - Man or Woman)
- Queen of Cornhole (Single best Woman player in the World)
- World Doubles Championship (Best Doubles team in the World)
- King of Sling (Social Singles Champion)
- Social Doubles (Social Doubles Champions)
- World Games Champion

### 3.5 Golden Tickets - World Championships

A "Golden Ticket" is (1) entry into the ACO World Championships of Cornhole and includes:

- (1) Singles entry to all Events
- (1/2) of a Doubles entry to all Events
- (1) World Games entry
- (1) Queen of Cornhole Entry (may be transferred)

### 3.6 Golden Ticket Player Discount Chart

Singles players who participate in the ACO Masters Series throughout the Season and earn ACO Singles World Rankings have the opportunity to purchase their Golden Tickets at the conclusion of the Season (after Cornhole DeMayo Regional) at discount prices according to the chart below:

World Singles Ranking Points	Player Price	Prize
300	FREE	Worlds IX T-shirt
275	\$25	Worlds IX T-shirt
250	\$50	Worlds IX T-shirt
225	\$75	Worlds IX T-shirt
200	\$100	Worlds IX T-shirt
175	\$125	Worlds IX T-shirt
150	\$150	Worlds IX T-shirt
125	\$160	
100	\$170	
75	\$180	
50	\$190	
25	\$200	
0	\$250	

*Any player achieving 150 points in Season IX will be awarded one entry into the Worlds Prize Drawing. Players must be in attendance at the ACO Worlds to be awarded a prize.*



### **3.7 What is the ACO Masters Series (Points earning tournaments)?**

**Answer:** The ACO Masters Series is a world-wide Cornhole “league” in which ACO Members compete for points and prizes in Singles and/or Doubles tournament play to acquire or achieve a World Ranking. The ACO Masters Series is comprised of a series of points tournaments held between September and May each calendar year. A player may choose to compete in singles and/or doubles.

### **3.8 About the ACO Masters Series Tournaments (Points earning)**

There are two types of ACO Masters Series tournaments in which players and/or teams can earn points:

- ACO Majors
- ACO Regionals

**NOTE:** ACO Majors will always have Singles and Doubles tournaments and ACO Regionals may be Singles and/or Doubles, either in the same day within a Region, or on different days at the discretion of the CO.

### **3.9 ACO Masters Series Majors**

- Events in which players from all Regions and throughout the cornhole community come together at one location to compete for points and prizes.
- Coordinated by the ACO Corporate Team
- Consists of a Singles Points Tournament and a Doubles Points Tournament. Additional divisions may be added to overall event.
- There will at least (3) Majors during ACO Season IX and more may be added if secured. These will be held at unique locations across the U.S.
- Playing format at each Major will be standard from one location to the next throughout the Season
- Of the Majors held throughout the season, a player/team’s (2) best finishes will count toward their World Ranking Points total. Once a player competes in his/her 3rd Masters Series Major, their lowest score will be dropped from the list, and so on)

### **3.10 Silver Tickets - ACO Majors**

A “Silver Ticket” is (1) entry into an ACO Masters Series Major and includes:

- (1) Singles entry to all Events
- (1/2) of a Doubles entry to all Events
- (1) Luck of the Draw entry

Silver Ticket pricing:

- \$80 - general public purchasing online or by phone
- \$60 - Certified Official pricing. CO are eligible to buy an unlimited quantity of Silver Tickets for \$60 and may gift, sell, or transfer the tickets at any time up until the closing of registration



### 3.11 ACO Masters Series Regionals

- Events in which players compete at a local level for World Ranking Points and prizes.
- Consists of a Singles Points Tournament and/or a Doubles Points Tournament. Additional divisions may be added to overall event at the discretion of the CO.
- Coordinated by an ACO Certified Official in his/her local market at a location of his/her choice.
- Held once a month beginning in September (2013) and ending in May (2014).
- Each month's Masters Series Regional is identified by its surname.

### 3.12 Regional General Rules

- A player can only compete in one Regional points tourney per month for Singles and one Regional points tourney per month for Doubles, either at the same location or different locations.
- A player can only choose 1 teammate to compete with in Doubles per month.
- A Regional Singles tourney must have a minimum of (7) players for points to count.
- A Regionals Doubles tourney must have a minimum of (3) teams for points to count.
- Of the (9) Masters Series Regionals held throughout the season, a player or team's 6 best finishes will count toward their final point total. Once a player competes in his/her 7<sup>th</sup> Masters Series Regional, their lowest score will be dropped from the list, and so on.

### 3.13 Regional Schedule and names:



ACO Cornhole Classic	September, 2013
ACO Hole-0-Ween	October, 2013
ACO Turkeyhole	November, 2013
ACO Hole-I-Day Bash	December, 2013
ACO MaizeKraze	January, 2014
ACO Icehole	February, 2014
ACO Cornhole Madness	March, 2014
ACO Spring Fling	April, 2014
ACO Cornhole De Mayo	May, 2014





### 3.14 Regional Points Scale

Singles players and Doubles teams participating in ACO Regionals are awarded ACO World Ranking Points based on their finish according to the following scale:

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	25pts
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	24 pts
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	23 pts
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	22 pts
5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> Place	20 pts
7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Place	18 pts
9 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> Place	16 pts
13 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> Place	14 pts
17 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup> Place	12 pts
25 <sup>th</sup> -32 <sup>nd</sup> Place	10 pts
33 <sup>rd</sup> -48 <sup>th</sup> Place	8 pts
49+ Place	6 pts

**NOTE:** Players participating in ACO Majors will have the opportunity to earn double Regional points

### 3.15 Coordinating a Regional

#### Entry Fee for Singles:

- Entry fee for players competing for points, cash, and prizes is at the discretion of the CO
- Entry fee for players competing for points-only must be allowed to participate for a maximum of \$10; prizes awarded at the discretion of the CO
- Even though players may have the option of two different entry fees, they are all competing within the same bracket for the same points.



### **Tournament Format for Singles:**

- Seeding - based on day-of Frame Game results
- After registration, send 3-4 players to each set of boards with Frame Game Forms. The players take turns performing Frame Games – 1 person pitches, 1 person scores, 1 person witnesses.
- Once all forms have been returned, players can then be placed in the double elimination bracket, with highest Frame Games seeded number 1 in the bracket and all others following in line.
- Once the seeding has been determined, bracket play can begin. Double elimination bracket; The CO has the option of 1 game OR best 2 of 3 in the winner's bracket (to be determined at time of scheduling). Seeded double-elimination tournament brackets can be downloaded at [www.printyourbrackets.com](http://www.printyourbrackets.com)



### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- All Frame Games performed are Official, must be performed on ACO Certified equipment, and must be entered in the CO Login Site for each player.
- If two players tie on their Frame Game, the higher seed will go to the player who had the most Cornholes in the Frame Game. 2<sup>nd</sup> tiebreaker is a Frame by Frame comparison. 3<sup>rd</sup> tiebreaker is coin-toss.
- A player can come from the loser's bracket and earn first place

### **Entry Fee for Doubles:**

- Entry fee for teams competing for points, cash, and prizes is at the discretion of the CO
- Entry fee for teams competing for points-only must be allowed to participate for a maximum of \$10; prizes awarded at the discretion of the CO
- Even though teams may have the option of two different entry fees, they are all competing within the same bracket for the same points.



### **Tournament Format for Doubles:**

- Seeding - based on day-of Frame Game results
- After registration, send 3-4 teams to each set of boards with Frame Game Forms. The teams take turns performing Frame Games – 1 team pitches, 1 team scores, 1 team witnesses.
- Once all forms have been returned, teams can then be placed in the double elimination bracket, with highest Frame Games seeded number 1 in the bracket and all others following in line.
- Once the seeding has been determined, bracket play can begin. Double elimination bracket; The CO has the option of 1 game OR best 2 of 3 in the winner's bracket(to be determined at time of scheduling). Seeded double-elimination tournament brackets can be downloaded at [www.printyourbrackets.com](http://www.printyourbrackets.com)



**IMPORTANT NOTES:**

- All Frame Games performed are Official, must be performed on ACO Certified equipment, and must be entered in the CO Login Site for each team.
- If two teams tie on their Frame Game, the higher seed will go to the team who had the most Cornholes in the Frame Game. 2<sup>nd</sup> tiebreaker is a Frame by Frame comparison. 3<sup>rd</sup> tiebreaker is coin-toss.
- A team can come from the loser’s bracket and earn first place
- A player may switch partners during the season if he or she chooses. A new World Doubles Ranking spot will be created for each new team assembled. For example: The team of Kortney Borowitz and Dallas Parsley may be ranked 23<sup>rd</sup>, and the team of Kortney Borowitz and Steve Myers may be ranked 75<sup>th</sup>
- A player can only choose 1 teammate to compete with in Doubles per month.

**Prizes:**

The percentage of cash payout for singles and doubles tournaments is at the discretion of the CO. The ACO recommends a 70-80% payout of entry fees.

*\*This chart shows recommended percentage payouts of the prize purse (not total money collected) based upon participation.*

	16 or less players	17-24 players	25 or more players
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Place</b>	40%	38%	35%
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Place</b>	30%	28%	25%
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Place</b>	20%	18%	17%
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Place</b>	10%	8%	8%
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Place</b>		4%	4%
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Place</b>		4%	4%
<b>7<sup>th</sup> Place</b>			3.5%
<b>8<sup>th</sup> Place</b>			3.5%



### **3.16 Regional Scheduling**

- The CO may choose the date of the month for their Masters Series Regional, with the exception of the weekend that pre-scheduled dates of ACO Masters Series Majors are scheduled.
- The CO must schedule their Masters Series on or before the 15<sup>th</sup> of the prior month.
- Certified Officials may schedule more than one Regional per month either in the same location or different locations if they have the players to support it
- Certified Officials can fill out an online form in the Member's Login Site to populate the calendars with their Regionals. Directions for this process will be available in the Tutorial Video Library.

The options for scheduling a Masters Series Regional Tournament are as follows:

1. Host Singles and Doubles Points Tournaments on the same date (weekends only).
2. Host Singles and Doubles Points Tournaments on different dates within the same month (weekend or weeknight).
3. Host only Singles Points Tournament (weekend or weeknight).
4. Host only Doubles Points Tournament (weekend or weeknight).

### **3.17 What do I need to submit to the ACO at the conclusion of my Event?**

#### **Answer:**

All submission will be made electronically in the Certified Official Login Website. At the time of Certification, new COs will be given access to video training and instruction on how to access the CO Login Site and enter data. Certified Officials will be responsible for entering:

1. New Memberships
2. Frame Games Results
3. Tournament Results

#### **IMPORTANT NOTES:**

The CO Login site helps you manage your Organization by keeping track of the amount of Memberships and Tournaments that you have purchased. When you need more, you'll be able to replenish your inventory in the Login Site Market. Video training and instruction will be provided on this process

#### ***Suggested Submissions by a Certified Official***

Certified Officials are encouraged to submit photos and/or a recap of your Event to the ACO FaceBook page! Give your players and Organization the recognition that they deserve!



### **3.18 Tournament Tips and Suggestions**

#### **Where are good locations to run my Master Series events?**

It is always good to leverage that you are bringing food and beverage business into a venue. You should rarely have to pay for a venue – negotiate wisely!

- American Legions & VFW Halls
- YMCAs
- Local Bars and Restaurants
- Churches
- School gymnasiums
- Outdoor Parks or Shelters
- Casinos & Horseracing Tracks
- Hotel Banquet Rooms
- Sports Complexes

#### **What is the best way to market my event locally?**

Most of us are on a budget, and there are many free and inexpensive ways to market your event.

- Flyers on Community Boards
- Emails & Online Media
- Start your own Cornhole Facebook Page
- Word of Mouth!
- Community Journals & Newspapers
- Local TV & Radio

#### **Creating a Masters Series seems like a Production!**

But it's not! If you are already running cornhole activities, this is a simple add-on.

- Cornhole league nights – You and your buddies already play one night a week? Make one night a month “points-earning” night.
- Add cornhole activities to already planned events – bbqs, local festivals, leagues, tournaments, and friendly gatherings, neighborhood block parties – make it a monthly event





## CHAPTER 4 – ACO World Rankings

### 4.1 ACO World Singles Rankings

The ACO World Singles Rankings is the list of ACO Members who have earned points competing in Singles (one-on-one play) Tournaments at Masters Series Events and have an ACO Skills Challenge Rating (SCR). The list is arranged with players who have earned the most points at the top of the Rankings.

The World Singles Ranking 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





#### **4.2 CornyForty**

The CornyForty refers to top 40 players in ACO World Singles Rankings. Players earning a position in CornyForty at the conclusion of the ACO Cornhole De Mayo (May Regional) win free entry to the King of Cornhole at the ACO World Championships. The CornyForty will be seeded 1-40 in the King of Cornhole Bracket, bypassing the RPI and Open tournaments. The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO World Singles Rankings will be named “ACO-PRO Player of the Season”

#### **4.3 ACO World Doubles Rankings**

The ACO World Doubles Rankings is the list of the Teams (2 player per Team) who have earned points competing in Doubles Tournaments at Masters Series Events and have an ACO Skills Challenge Rating (SCR).. The list is arranged with Teams who have earned the most points at the top of the Rankings.

The World Doubles Ranking 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

#### **4.4 TopGun Twenty**

- The TopGun Twenty refers to top 20 teams in ACO World Doubles Rankings. Teams earning a position in TopGun Twenty at the conclusion of the ACO Cornhole De Mayo (May Regional) win free entry to the World Doubles Championships at the ACO World Championships. The TopGun Twenty will be seeded 1-20 in the World Doubles Bracket, bypassing the RPI and Open tournaments.
- The team finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO World Doubles Rankings will be named “ACO Team of the Season”



## **CHAPTER 5 – Frame Games and Skills Challenge Ratings (SCR)**

### **5.1 What is a Frame Game and a Skills Challenge Rating (SCR)?**

**Answer:**

- A Frame Game is a pitching “Test” that each player and/or team takes at the beginning of each Regional tourney.
- A Skills Challenge Rating (SCR) is the average of a player or team’s (4) best Frame Games pitched throughout the season and is a component of a player or team’s ACO World Ranking.

### **5.2 Singles Frame Games Format**

- A Singles Frame Game consists of 13 Frames (4 bags thrown = 1 Frame).
- Singles Frame Games are administered one player at a time.
- Each Frame consists of the player pitching his/her four bags from one board to another. The player must pitch all four bags from the same side of the board in a Frame.
- Pitching position alternates with each Frame. For example, if the player pitches from the right side of the board in Frame 1, they walk down the lane, pick up the bags, and pitch them back from the left side of the board in Frame 2.
- Traditional scoring is used. A bag on the board (“woody”) is 1 point. A bag in the hole (“cornhole”) is 3 points.
- Once 13 Frames are completed, the score of all Frames are totaled to determine the player’s Frame Game Score.

### **5.3 Doubles Frame Games Format**

- A Doubles Frame Game consists of 13 Frames (4 bags thrown = 1 Frame).
- Each Frame consists of a teammate pitching his/her four bags from one board to another. The player must pitch all four bags from the same side of the board in a Frame
- Doubles Frame Games are administered two players at a time with one teammate standing at one end of the boards and the other teammate standing at the other end in the same lane - One teammate standing with the board on their right, the other with the board on their left. Teammates must remain in their starting positions for the entirety of the Frame Game.
- During a Doubles Frame Game, teammates will alternate Frames, pitching back and forth to each other. The teammate who starts the Frame Game by pitching in Frame 1 will end up pitching 7 Frames and the other teammate will pitch 6, for a total of 13 Frames.
- Traditional scoring is used. A bag on the board (“woody”) is 1 point. A bag in the hole (“cornhole”) is 3 points.
- Once 13 Frames are completed, the score of all Frames are totaled to determine the team’s Frame Game Score.



#### **5.4 Frame Game General Rules**

- (1) Frame Game is performed by each player and/or team at each Regional tournament as a part of the standard format and is available at no other times. Therefore, players will only have (1) opportunity per month for a Singles Frame Game and Teams will only have (1) opportunity for a Doubles Frame Game per month
- A player or team's Skills Challenge Rating (SCR) will be added to the Rankings after they have completed (1) Frame Game. The missing Frame Games will be averaged as zeros until (4) Frame Games are completed.
- Once a player or team has completed (5) Frame Games during the season, the lowest score will be dropped from the average, and so on.
- A player and/or team's SCR is combined with points they have earned in Masters Series Majors and Regionals to determine overall ACO Singles and/or Doubles World Ranking.
- During Regionals, second parties may be used to help the CO administer Frame Games, but all efforts should be taken on part of the CO to ensure randomness and fairness. EX- Partners should not score each other, etc. The CO must sign each Frame Game Form and claim responsibility for each score submitted.
- COs should not start any Frame Games before the scheduled registration time on the day of the Regional
- Players caught cheating on Frame Game tests or knowingly submitting incorrect results will be suspended for the remainder of the current season and the following season.
- Certified Officials caught cheating on Frame Game tests or knowingly submitting incorrect results will have Certified Official status revoked indefinitely without refund and will result in suspension for the remainder of the current season and the following season.

#### **FUN FACT:**

The highest official Frame Game score on record: 146

Two Players have accomplished the feat: Matt Guy has done it twice and Steve Vanderver has done it once.

In all three instances, out of the 52 bags pitched during the Frame Game, 47 were Cornholes and 5 were Woodies. That's good shootin'!



## CHAPTER 6 – Equipment and Rules

### 6.1 Rules for ACO Events

ACO Rules MUST be followed during all ACO Events. Please refer to our complete ACO Rules Guide, refer to [americancornhole.com](http://americancornhole.com)

### 6.2 ACO recognized equipment

The ACO recognizes two types of equipment:

- **ACO Certified Equipment** – ACO Tournament Series Boards, ACO PRO 450 Bags, ACO Classic Player's Choice Bags, ACO Tailgator Bags
- **ACO Approved Equipment** – Not limited to ACO branded equipment – it need only comply with the following criteria in order to be ACO Approved Equipment Specs

### 6.3 ACO Approved Equipment Specs

1. Hardwood plywood playing surface of 47.5" to 48" x 23.5" to 24" rectangle.
2. The playing surface has a minimum thickness of 5/8" with cross-section backing, or 3/4" with or without cross-section backing.
3. Each Board in a set should weigh no less than 25 lbs.
4. Each hole is 6" diameter, centered 9" from the top of the board and 12" from each side edge.
5. The front of the board is 3" to 4" from the ground to the top of the playing surface.
6. The back of the board is 12" from the ground to the top of the playing surface.
7. The playing surface should be finished - sanded to a very smooth texture. There should be little to no blemishes in the wood surface that may disrupt or distort play.
8. 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.
9. Each bag is made from two fabric squares with minimally a double-stitched seaming. The bags should be made from a durable fabric like canvas, twill, or synthetic suede. Each bag measures roughly 6" by 6" and weighs 15 to 16 ounces.

**NOTE:** The ACO may choose to Approve non-wood boards. To be considered for Approval, boards must be submitted to the ACO for testing. Boards may be mailed or dropped off at the ACO offices.

**TIP:** No bouncy boards will be Approved!

### 6.4 What types of equipment do I need for my Event?

Answer:

- ACO Certified Equipment must be used for all ACO Frame Games
- ACO Certified or Approved Equipment may be used for ACO Regionals and ACO Qualifiers.
- When scheduling Regionals, COs will be given options of which types of equipment they will allow players to bring, if any. The options will be posted on the tournament listing.



## CHAPTER 7 - Fees and Making Money

### 7.1 Fees for a CO to coordinate an ACO Event

1 - Worlds Golden Ticket (limited to two)	\$75
1 - Majors Silver Ticket (unlimited)	\$60
1 - Masters Series Regional Singles	\$25
1 - Masters Series Regional Doubles	\$25
6 - Regionals up-front (Each individual Singles and each individual Doubles tourney count as 1)	\$300 & Get 2 free

### 7.2 Fees for Regionals includes:

- Ability to award World Singles Ranking Points and/or World Doubles Ranking Points
- Frame Game for each paid participant in Singles and/or each team in Doubles
- Rights to use ACO logo upon Approval
- Exposure through ACO websites and event calendars  
[www.facebook.com/AmericanCornhole](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanCornhole)  
[www.AmericanCornhole.com](http://www.AmericanCornhole.com)
- Email Blasts

### 7.3 Fees for Qualifiers includes:

- Purchased Ticket at face value(COs may be eligible for ticket discounts on certain Events)
- Rights to use ACO logo upon approval
- Exposure through ACO websites and event calendars  
[www.facebook.com/AmericanCornhole](http://www.facebook.com/AmericanCornhole)  
[www.AmericanCornhole.com](http://www.AmericanCornhole.com)
- Email Blasts

### 7.4 Submitting payments to the ACO

Certified Officials are encouraged to submit all payments through the Login Site Market. Video training and instruction will be provided on this process



### 7.5 Making money as a CO

#### 1. Selling ACO Memberships – Valued at \$20 each

A Certified Official will earn a minimum of 10% commission for each individual Membership sold. Buy 1 ACO Membership for \$18, sell it for \$20, and put \$2 in your pocket. Earn greater commissions by purchasing in bulk. See chart below for details.

# Memberships Purchased	Your Purchase Price (each)	Total Cost	You Sell Each Membership For	Total Revenues	Earned Commission
1	\$18	\$18	\$20	\$2	\$2
10	\$15	\$150	\$20	\$200	\$50
25	\$12	\$300	\$20	\$500	\$200
50	\$10	\$500	\$20	\$1,000	\$500
100	\$7.50	\$750	\$20	\$2,000	\$1,250

#### 2. Running your events

You determine the percentage of entry fees to keep for your services

#### 3. Being contracted by the ACO to run various ACO Corporate activities

ACO Corporate may contract Certified Officials in good standing to run tournaments and/or events when needed (Not obligated). In order to be contracted, COs must have an ACO Certified Official Jersey, available on the CO Login Site for purchase.

#### 4. ACO Product Sales

Purchase ACO Products for resale

### 7.6 Product discounts for ACO Certified Officials

ACO Certified Officials receive discounts on all ACO merchandise for personal use or resale. At the time of approved certification, the complete Wholesale Pricing Guide will become available. Certified Officials receive wholesale pricing on items ordered in minimum quantity orders. (Excludes Freight costs.)

For all orders less than minimum quantities, a standard 10% discount will be applied.



### 7.7 The Fast Track Pricing Guide

Below features our most frequently purchased gear to get you started. \*All prices subject to change.

- **ACO Tournament Series Cornhole Boards – \$205.00** 4 unit minimum to receive wholesale pricing
- **ACO “Star Logo” Tournament Series Cornhole Boards - \$213.00** 4 unit minimum to receive wholesale pricing
- **ACO PRO Cornhole Bags - \$110.00 per case (8 blue bags & 8 red bags per case)**  
Wholesale pricing on ACO PRO bag cases is only available by ordering in advance. ACO Corporate will announce when wholesale bulk orders are being accepted. All other PRO bag orders will be Processed with a 10% discount on online retail case pricing.
- **ACO Classic “PlayersChoice” Cornhole Bags (Brushed twill & Suede) \$15.00 per set of 4 bags** 12 set minimum
- **AC Tailgator “PlayersChoice” Cornhole Bags (Canvas & Suede) – \$15.00 per sets of 4 bags** 12 set minimum
- **AC Traditional Cornhole Bags - \$14.00 per set of 4 bags** 12 set minimum

### 7.8 How to order Product

- Memberships, Tournaments, Golden Tickets(World Championships), and Silver Tickets(Majors) are available for purchase through the “Market” tab in the CO Login Site
- Bag orders can be placed by emailing [ngeers@americancornhole.com](mailto:ngeers@americancornhole.com) or by calling Nicole at 888-563 2002 before the order date deadline to be added to that month’s order rotation.
- Order to be paid at the time of placement. We accept all major credits cards, checks, or money orders.
- ACO will be fulfilling wholesale orders to COs twelve times annually.
- COs must order their product by the 1st of the month in order to be in rotation for next delivery
- Orders will be delivered on average 5 to 6 weeks after order deadline.
- CO is responsible for all UPS freight charges
- All orders subject to availability







***Game On!***

