

AMERICAN CORNHOLE ORGANIZATION



PLAYERS GUIDE



SEASON XII OFFICIAL GUIDE



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CHAPTER 1

ACO MEMBERSHIP

ACO Membership is \$25 and is valid through July 31st, 2017

All new or renewing Members signed up after June 1st, 2016 will be valid through July 2017

1.1 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 all eligible online ACO Rankings lists
- Are eligible to earn ACO World 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 be invited to compete in the ACO World Championships of Cornhole XII
- Are Cornyforty eligible
- Are TopGun Twenty eligible
- Eligible to purchase ACO Player Jerseys

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

At this time, ACO-PRO status cannot be achieved in the Juniors Division due to a conflict in amateur sports/schools athletics eligibility regulations

1.2 HOW TO BECOME AN ACO-PRO PLAYER

There are several ways to achieve and/or maintain ACO-PRO status. In order to reach ACO-PRO status, a player needs only to achieve one of the following goals:

- Finish ACO Season XII ranked in the top 80 of the ACO World Singles Rankings
- Finish in the Top 96 in World Singles at the ACO World Championships of Cornhole XII
- Finish in the Top 8 as a member of a Doubles team at the ACO World Championships of Cornhole XII
- Finish in the Top 4 in World Seniors at the ACO World Championships of Cornhole XII
- Finish in the Top 4 in World Womens at the ACO World Championships of Cornhole XII



1.3 DOES A PLAYER HAVE TO BE AN ACO MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE?

ACO World Championships of Cornhole XII:

Yes, All players/teams must be a member of the ACO or acquire ACO Membership prior to the start of the event to participate.

Exemptions may be granted for international players.

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 State Championships of Cornhole:

At this time, ACO Membership is not required.

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 2

ACO TOURNAMENTS

2.1 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
- ACO State Championships of Cornhole

Points earning Tournaments (ACO Masters Series Tournaments):

- ACO Masters Series Majors
- ACO Masters Series Regionals

2.2 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.

EXAMPLE: ACO Players’ Championship

2.3 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 another upcoming ACO Event.

Qualifiers are open for 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

2.4 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.

2.5 WHAT IS THE ACO MASTERS SERIES (POINTS EARNING TOURNAMENTS)?

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.

2.6 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 Regionals
- ACO Majors



2.7 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

Divisions at each Major will include World Singles, World Doubles, Seniors Singles, Womens Singles, and Juniors Singles.

Majors will be two day events:

- Friday night: Seniors Singles, Womens Singles, and Juniors Singles
- Saturday: World Singles and World Doubles

Seniors, Womens, and Juniors tourneys will all be played at the same time, so a player can only participate in one of these Divisions. However, players from these Divisions will have an opportunity to participate in the World Singles and World Doubles

There is a projected goal of 12-16 Majors during ACO Season XII. 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

A player can participate in as many Majors during the season as they wish

Of the Majors held throughout the season, a player/team's (3) best finishes will count toward their World Ranking Points total. Once a player competes in his/her 4th Masters Series Major, their lowest score will be dropped from the list, and so on.

2.8 ACO MASTERS SERIES REGIONALS

Events in which players compete at a local level for World Ranking Points and prizes.

Held monthly beginning in September (2016) and ending in May (2017)

Each month's Masters Series Regional is identified by its surname.

Coordinated by an ACO Certified Official in his/her local market at a location of his/her choice.

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:

- World Singles – Open to all players
- World Doubles – Open to all teams
- Womens Singles – Open to women only
- Seniors Singles – Open to all players 55 years and older

A player can start the season if they are 54 yrs old, as long as they turn 55 yrs old by July 1st, 2017

Juniors Singles – Open to all players 17 years and under

As long as a player is 17yrs or younger as of September 1st, 2016, they may play the entirety of ACO Season XII as a Junior and compete as a Junior at the ACO Worlds XII, regardless of turning 18yrs during the season.



2.9 REGIONAL GENERAL RULES

Singles players can participate in up to 4 Regional points tourney per month per Division, either at the same location or at different locations.

Doubles players can participate in up to 4 Regional points tourney per month, either at the same location or at different locations, and either with the same partner or with different partners in the same month.

Doubles Note: A player may switch partners an unlimited number of times during the Season. A new World Doubles Ranking spot will be created for each new team assembled.

EXAMPLE: The team of Toby Smith and Steve Wimmer may be ranked 23rd, and the team of Toby Smith and Haseeb Habiban 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

Players may participate each month in every Division in which they are eligible as long as scheduled tournaments do not overlap. If tournaments do overlap, then it will be the player's responsibility to choose one Division to participate, and if he or she desires, choose another location and date to play the other Division for the month.



2.10 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:

- 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 Place = 14 pts
- 17th and over = 12pts

NEW FOR SEASON XII: Since players/teams are now able to participate in up to 4 Regionals per month, each month's points total will be divided by the amount of Regionals in which they participated, creating an averaged single score for the month.

EXAMPLE:

Eric participates in 3 Cornhole De Mayo Singles tournaments during the month of May

Cincy, OH - 3rd place - 23pts

Sydney, OH - 5th place - 20pts

Lexington, KY - 2nd place - 24pts

Points earned - 23+20+24=67

Points total divided by number of Regionals played - 67/3 = 22.33

Regional points applied to rankings for Cornhole de Mayo = 22.33

Of the (9) months in which Masters Series Regionals are held throughout the season, a player or team's 6 best monthly scores will count toward their final point total. Once a player competes in his/her 7th Regional month, their lowest score will be dropped from the list, and so on.



2.11 REGIONAL SCHEDULE AND NAMES:

ACO Cornhole Classic - September (2016)
ACO Hole-O-Ween Classic - October (2016)
ACO Turkeyhole Classic - November (2016)
ACO Hole-I-Day Bash - December (2016)
ACO MaizeKraze - January (2017)
ACO Icehole Classic - February (2017)
ACO Cornhole Madness - March (2017)
ACO Spring Fling - April (2017)
ACO Cornhole De Mayo - May (2017)

2.12 TOURNAMENT FORMAT FOR ALL REGIONAL DIVISIONS:

Seeding - All Regional Divisions will be seeded based on that Division's World Rankings. The first Regional(Sept. Cornhole Classic) of the season will be randomly seeded

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).

A player can come from the loser's bracket and earn first place.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The Rankings will be updated with the previous month's results by the 5th of each month.



CHAPTER 3

ACO WORLD RANKINGS

3.1 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. 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

3.2 CORNYFORTY

The CornyForty refers to top 40 players in ACO World Singles Rankings. Players earning a position in CornyForty at the conclusion of the points season win a free Golden Ticket to the ACO World Championships and direct entry into the World Singles bracket, bypassing the RPI tournament. The CornyForty will be seeded 1-40 in the World Singles Bracket.

The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO World Singles Rankings will be named "ACO-PRO Player of the Season"

3.3 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. 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

3.4 TOPGUN TWENTY

The TopGun Twenty refers to top 20 teams in ACO World Doubles Rankings. 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 and direct entry into the World Doubles bracket, bypassing the RPI tournament. 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 Rankings will be named "ACO Team of the Season"

3.5 ACO WORLD WOMENS RANKINGS

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

The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Womens Rankings will be named "ACO Womens player of the Season"

The World Womens Ranking Points are used to:

- Position players to win cash and prizes
- Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
- Seed players at various ACO Events

3.6 ACO WORLD SENIORS RANKINGS

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



The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Seniors Rankings will be named "ACO Seniors player of the Season"

The Word Seniors Ranking Points are used to:

- Position players to win cash and prizes
- Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
- Seed players at various ACO Events

3.7 ACO WORLD JUNIORS RANKINGS

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

The player finishing the season ranked #1 in the ACO Juniors Rankings will be named "ACO Juniors player of the Season"

The Word Juniors Ranking Points are used to:

- Position players to win cash and prizes
- Earn invites to ACO Invitational Tournaments
- Seed players at various ACO Events

3.8 TIEBREAKERS

There will be a separate Ranking list on AmericanCornhole.com for each Division

Tiebreakers for all Rankings 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 draw

1st Place tie at the end of the Season

If there is a 1st place tie in any Division at the end of the points season in which tiebreakers 1-8 above do not solve, the tiebreakers for Player/Team of the Season and the #1 overall seed at the Worlds will be:

The player/team who surrendered the least amount of points in the finals matches of their Majors victories (maximum of best 3 Major victories)

EXAMPLE

Ryan wins NC Major:

Finals games scores 21-7, 21-18

Ryan wins GA Major:

Finals games scores 21-10, 15-21, 21-20

Ryan wins IL Major:

Finals games scores 21-1, 21-8

Brian wins CA Major:

Finals games scores 21-12, 13-21, 21-16

Brian wins PA Major:

Finals games scores 21-4, 10-21, 21-10

Brian wins VA Major:

Finals games scores 21-7, 21-14

Total points surrendered by Ryan = 85

Total points surrendered by Brian = 105

Ryan is Player of the Season and #1 overall seed at the Worlds



CHAPTER 4

EQUIPMENT & RULES

4.1 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

4.2 ACO RECOGNIZED EQUIPMENT

The ACO recognizes two types of equipment:

- ACO Certified Equipment – ACO Tournament Series Boards and ACO PRO 450 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

4.3 ACO APPROVED EQUIPMENT SPECS

- Hardwood plywood playing surface of 47.5" to 48" x 23.5" to 24" rectangle.
- The playing surface has a minimum thickness of 1/2" with cross-section backing, or 3/4" with or without cross-section backing.
- Each Board in a set should weigh no less than 25 lbs.
- 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 very 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.
- 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" filled and weighs 15 to 16 ounces, approximately 450 grams

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!



CHAPTER 5 ENTRY FEES

5.1 ACO REGIONALS

Player entry fees are standard for Regionals in all areas and are as follows:

World Singles - \$10 per player

World Doubles - \$10 per player (\$20 per team)

Womens Singles - \$10 per player

Seniors Singles - \$10 per player

Juniors Singles - \$10 per player

Side-pot cash buy-ins and payout or the Certified Official adding any money or prizes are at the discretion of the Certified Official and may be listed in tournament listing

5.2 ACO MAJORS

Player entry fees are standard for Majors in all areas and will be listed in tourney details on AmericanCornhole.com

5.3 ACO INVATIONALS, QUALIFIERS, AND THE ACO WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

All entry fees are TBD and will be listed in tourney details on AmericanCornhole.com



GAME ON!

