



DENTON PARKS AND RECREATION  
Adult Cornhole League Rules

Updated 3/2023



All league matches will be played in accordance with the current American Cornhole Association (ACA), & the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation (TAAF) rules, with the following modifications. The City of Denton Parks & Recreation department reserves the right to add, delete, or amend the rules and regulations or policies for the betterment of the program.

**Coaches: Please go over these rules with your team members.**

**I. Roster:**

- A maximum of 4 players may be carried on a roster. Adding of players to a roster must be done before the third scheduled game. Rosters, will be frozen after the third (3) week.
- A player cannot be on two or more team rosters. Any player found playing under an assumed name will be suspended along with the coach for the remainder of the season. A game can be forfeited if there are any players on the team whose names are not on the roster.
- The minimum players to play and avoid forfeit, is two for each team.
- Teams may pitch in any order they choose. Teams may substitute at-will between half-innings. Except in the case of injury, the player who starts a half-inning must finish that half-inning.
- Teams lose the ability to challenge a player's eligibility after the second game, except in the case of a late-arriving player.
- **No player may play in the playoffs unless he or she has played in three (3) regular league games.**
- **Rosters must be turned in online before your First Game!**

**II. Uniforms:**

- **There are no set uniforms in this league, however we ask participants to wear clothing that is appropriate and not offensive.**

**III. Line-ups/Start-Time:**

- Players must check-in with the City of Denton Parks and Recreation staff member before games start. Score cards will be provided by staff for players to fill out and turn in at the end of their game. Players should **legibly print their first and last names. Players listed in the scorecard must be on the official team roster. Player participation will be tracked to make sure all players meet their minimum playing time and are eligible for playoffs.**

**IV. Game Play:**

- Each match consists best 2 out of 3 games or as many as can be played in the time allotted, whichever is fewer. There will be a time limit of 35 minutes per match. The team that wins the most games wins the match. Regular season matches can end in a tie.
  - The team first reaching a score of 21 wins the game, win by 2. If the time limit is reached in the middle of an inning, the team with the leading score wins that inning.
  - Determine which team goes first. Team may determine who goes first by coin-toss or rock paper scissors.

- The player who scored in the preceding frame will pitch first in the next frame. If neither player/team scores, the player/team who pitched first in the preceding frame shall retain first pitch in the next frame.
- All games are doubles play (2 players). One member of each team will pitch from one side of the court during the game. Players cannot switch sides until game is completed.
  - Each team will stay in their designated pitch box for the whole game.
  - Players at the headboard will alternate pitching bags until each player has pitched all four of his/her bags.
  - Players at the footboard will take score and resume pitching back to the other board.
  - The top of an inning is completed when both players pitching from the headboard pitch all four bags; the bottom of the inning is completed when the remaining players pitching from the footboard pitch all four bags.
- Players must stand behind the foul line(front of board) to throw the bag, and players must alternate throws between teams residing on the same side. All bags will be thrown underhand.
- The boards will be placed 27 feet apart measuring from one front of the board to the other.

#### V. Scoring:

- Cancellation scoring shall be used without “skunks” or “busts”. Only one team scores points in each half-inning. At the end of a half-inning, the lowest team point total is subtracted from the highest team point total. The resulting point total is then awarded to the team that originally had the higher point total.
- Point Values:
  - Bag-in-the-Hole – 3 points
  - Bag-on-the-Board – 1 point
  - Bag-off-the-Board – 0 points
    - Bag hitting anything first other than the board (ie floor) – 0 points
    - Bag partially touching board and ground – 0 points

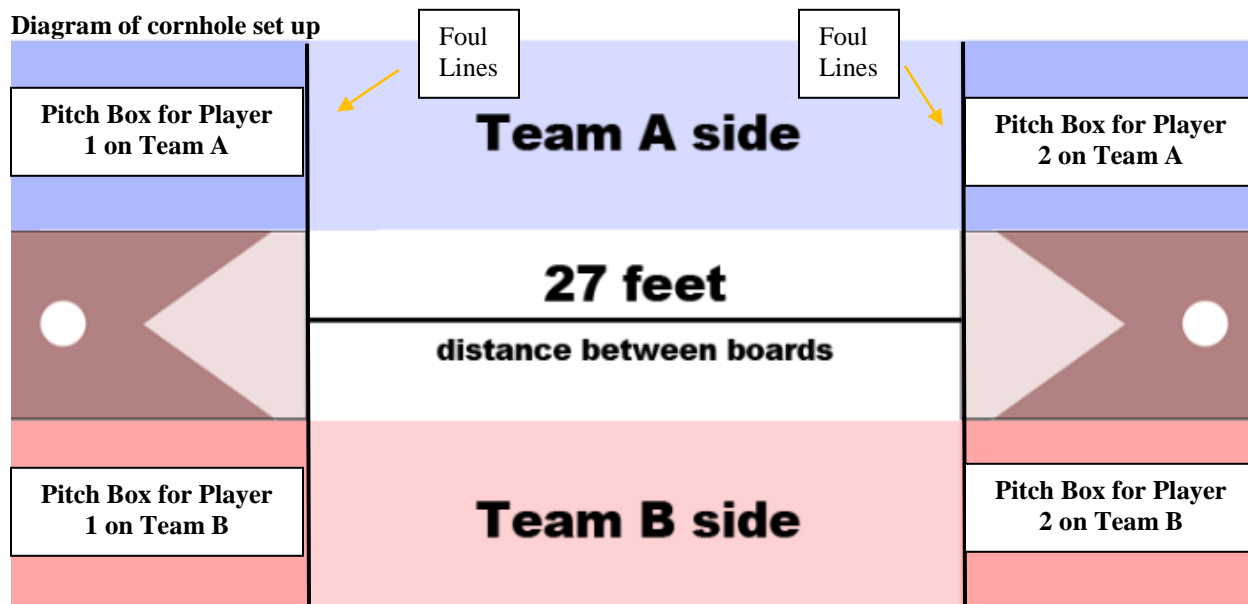
#### VI. Foul/Rule Violations

**The following rules are violations that must be spotted and called by a player. The assigned Judge/Staff member will have the final call for any disputes. The penalty is to declare the bag a foul bag, which requires the bags to be removed from the court prior to resuming play.**

- Pitched a bag overhand
- Any bag pitched when the player has made contact with or crossed over the foul line. (Front edge of cornhole board)
- Any bag pitched when the player has started or stepped completely outside the pitcher’s box before the bag is released
- Any bag not delivered within the 20-second time limit
- A bag pitched from a different pitcher’s box than the first bag
- Any bag that contacted the court or the ground before coming to rest on the board
- Any bag that struck a previously defined object such as a tree limb, wire, indoor court ceiling, etc.
- Any bag removed from the board before scoring has been agreed upon for that bag
  - The offending team (who touches the bags) forfeits all remaining bags and tallies the score of just the bags thrown before the foul was reported
  - The non-offending team tallies twelve (12) points as if they had thrown four Bag In-The-Holes (Cornholes) during the inning

- A bag that leaves a player's hand once the final forward swing of the delivery process has started shall count as a pitched bag
- A bag that is accidentally dropped by a player before the final forward swing has started shall not be considered foul and may be picked up and pitched.
- Any bags -on-the-board that are knocked off by a foul pitched bag shall be returned as closely as possible to their initial position on the board.

*Any rules not specifically mentioned here follow those of the ACA*



#### VII. Protests

- If a player desires to make a protest, the protest shall be made to the judge or staff at the time the problem occurs. The judge shall make the final ruling on all protests.

#### VIII. Ejected and suspended players:

- Ejected players must leave the facility and grounds immediately. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of the game. Suspended are not allowed to return to the premises, even as a spectator, until their suspension has been served in full.

#### IX. Forfeits:

- Teams must have 2 players (2 from each team) on the court for the game to begin. Teams may use their 5 timeouts before a game will be declared a forfeit. Teams may choose to play with 4 players, but any less and the game will be declared a forfeit.

#### X. Eligibility:

- Players must be at least age 16 and all players are responsible for bringing their DL in case of a roster protest. If they do not have their DL and there is a protest, they will be unable to play in that game.

Schedule Website: [www.teamsideline.com/denton](http://www.teamsideline.com/denton)

## PLAYERS CODE OF CONDUCT

**WHEN THE GAME IS OVER THE OFFICIAL STILL HAS JURISDICTION OVER THAT GAME. THIS JURISDICTION EXTENDS TO BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER GAMES AND COVERS ALL PLAYERS/FANS**

- I. The following applies to all sections: "Player" means **any** participant, i.e., player, team member, coach, manager, scorekeeper, or fan.
- No Player May:** Refuse to abide by an official's decision, threaten an official, or at any time lay a hand upon, push, shove, or strike an official.  
**Penalty:** Staff will eject the player or players from the game and report the incident to the League Office. The player or players will be suspended for at least the remainder of the current season, and possibly next season depending upon when in the season the incident took place. Second offenses will result in permanent suspension from all Denton Parks and Recreation leagues.
  - No Player May:** Demonstrate objection to an official's decision by throwing any object, and no object shall be thrown in any manner, for any reason, that an official judges to be dangerous.  
**Penalty:** Staff will eject the player or players from the game and report the incident to the League Office. The player or players will be suspended a minimum of 2 additional games.
  - No Player May:** Be guilty of using unnecessarily rough tactics in the play of the game against the body and person of any opposing player. This includes fighting before, during and after a game.  
**Penalty:** Staff will eject the player or players from the game and report the incident to the League Office. The player or players will be suspended a minimum of 2 additional games.
  - No Player May:** Be guilty of an abusive verbal attack upon any player, official, or spectator. Any use of profanity, obscene or vulgar language in any manner, at any time, will not be tolerated.  
**Penalty:** Staff will give a technical or eject the player or players from the game and report the incident to the League Office. Ejected players will receive an additional one game suspension.
- II. **Ejected and Suspended players:**
- Ejected players must leave the facility and grounds immediately. Failure to do so will result in a forfeiture of the game. Suspended players are not allowed to return to the premises, even as a spectator, until their suspension has been served in full.

**The Game Official in Charge** may either suspend or declare forfeit any game where in his or her judgment there has been a violation of the code, making it unsafe to continue the contest. The decisions of officials are final and will not be overturned by the athletics office.

**The League Office** has the power and full discretion of imposing penalties on all violations of Player's Code of Conduct. For any violation not explicitly stated in the code, the penalty will be at the discretion of the League Office.

**Incidents involving serious threats and/or vandalism to the Denton Civic Center will result in Police involvement, and may result in permanent suspension from the league.**