



CITY OF NOVATO
PARKS & RECREATION

ADULT SPORTS MANUAL

Cornhole 2023

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE AT NOVATO.ORG/SPORTS
OR CONTACT SARAH BAILEY AT SBAILEY@NOVATO.ORG

I. CORNHOLE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

- A. There will be no priority given to a returning team.
- B. Teams will be accepted on a first come first serve basis. Registration is done all online on Novato.org/RegForFun.
- C. Space is limited to the first 16 teams. A waiting list will be established if a league is full.
- D. The league fee is \$128 per team, plus \$5 for each non-resident
- E. Registration Dates TBD for Spring Season

II. CORNHOLE COURT LAYOUT

Cornhole Court: A regulation size cornhole court is 8 feet wide and 40 feet long with a recommended vertical clearance of twelve feet.

This court consists of two player's lanes:

Cornhole Boards: Boards are positioned 27' from the front edge to front edge of the board.

Cornhole Pitchers Boxes: A designated pitchers box is a 4' x 3' area at each end of the court and on both sides of each board; (4) boxes in all.

Cornhole Foul Lines: The front edge of the cornhole board is the foul line.

III. LEAGUE FORMAT

- A. Teams will compete in an approximate 8 week season.

League	Number of Teams	Game Time	Facility
Thursdays	16	6:30 PM	Pocket Park

LENGTH OF GAMES

- A. First team to score 21 points by Cancellation Scoring wins the game.
- B. Games will have a 20-minute time limit, if game is not finished at the 20-minute mark the score at the 20-minute mark shall be recorded as the final score.

IV. LEAGUE FACILITIES

- A. Pocket Park at the Downtown Recreation Center, 950 7th Street

TEAM ROSTERS

- A. A completed roster is due at registration. Rosters must be completed online. Incomplete rosters will no be accepted.
- B. Rosters must have a minimum of two and maximum of six players. More than 6 players must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Department. Players must be at least 16 years old.
- C. Roster information is for City use only and will not be given to other parties.

D. Roster add/drop policy:

1. Players may be added to a team roster provided the roster limit is not exceeded.
2. To officially drop a player from the roster, the team captain must delete the player from the online roster.
3. Players may be added until the fourth match of the season. The Parks and Recreation Department must approve any additions after the fourth match.
4. To officially add a player to the roster, a completed player contract add/drop form must be submitted to the staff at the courts prior to the match. The add/drop form must be filled out completely and include the signature of the player and team captain.

V. CORNHOLE SCORING - BAG TERMS

- A. **Woody** - Refers to any cornhole bag that has been pitched and remains on the cornhole board playing surface at the conclusion of the frame.
- B. **Cornhole** - Refers to any cornhole bag that has been pitched and passes through the cornhole board hole at any time within the frame.
- C. **Foul Bags** - Refers to any cornhole bag that has not been determined as a “woody” or “cornhole”, or was designated a foul bag as the result of rules violation.

VI. DESIGNATED FOUL BAGS

- A. Any bag pitched without at least one foot or appendage completely inside the pitcher’s box at the time of release.
- B. A bag pitched from a different pitcher’s box than their designated pitcher’s box.
- C. Any bag that contacted the court or the ground before coming to rest on the playing surface.
- D. Any bag that comes to rest touching the ground and the board.
- E.. Any bag which struck a previously defined object such as a tree limb, wire, indoor court ceiling, etc

VII. METHODS OF SCORING

A. Cancellation Scoring:

The approved method of scoring for the sport of cornhole is “cancellation” scoring. In cancellation scoring, the points of one player cancel out the points of their opponent. Using this method, only one player/team can score in each frame.

1. **Woody:** Each woody is worth one point
2. **Cornhole:** Each cornhole is worth three points

Example:

Red achieves one woody and two cornholes during the frame (7 total pts) Blue achieves two woodies and zero cornholes during the frame (2 total pts) 7 points - 2 points = Red scores 5 points for that frame

VIII. RECORDING THE SCORE

A. No cornhole bags shall be moved before the scoring is determined. Recording the Score: Players are encouraged to pay close attention to the score at all times. Home team will keep the score on a league provided score sheet. Score must be confirmed with the opponent at the conclusion of each frame. Please deposit the score sheet into the “score sheet box” at the conclusion of your match.

B. Doubles Play: Team A competes against Team B – each team is comprised of two to four people. Each team can substitute each end once per match. Players at the headboard will alternate pitching bags until each player has pitched all four of his/her bags.

C. Pitching: Players alternate pitching bags (one player at a time) until each player has pitched all of his/her bags. A player must pitch all cornhole bags from their designated cornhole pitchers box. Players must deliver the bag with an under-hand release. One foot or appendage must be completely within the pitchers box at the time of releasing the bag. When pitching a bag, players must release the bag before any part of the player’s body touches the ground on or beyond the foul line

D. Pitching the Next Frame: The player/team who scored in the preceding frame shall 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.

E. Accidental Release: Any cornhole bag that leaves a players hand once the final step (if taken) and final forward swing of the delivery process has started, shall count as a pitched bag. A cornhole bag that is accidentally dropped by a player before the final step (if taken) and final forward swing has started, shall not be considered a foul bag and may be picked up and pitched.

F. Pitching Out of Turn: If a player pitches out of turn at any time during a frame, their pitch will be considered a Foul Bag and swept from the playing surface. If the out-of-turn bag affects any bags in play, their opponent has the option of returning all cornhole bags to their original position on the playing surface or leaving all bags as they are. If the error is not discovered until after two cornhole bags have been pitched, the frame shall continue and be scored accordingly.

G. Touching the bags before the Frame is complete: If any bags in scoring positions (woodies or cornholes) are touched by a player, whether intentionally or unintentionally, before all bags during the frame are pitched, the frame is over. The offending team (team who touches the bags) forfeits all remaining bags and tallies the score for the bags they have already thrown during the frame The non-offending team tallies 12 points as if they had thrown 4 cornholes during the frame.

IMPORTANT NOTE: 12 pts are NOT automatically added to the overall score (scoreboard) . The 12 pts are only used within this specific frame before cancellation.

Example: Red has thrown 3 bags equaling 5 points to this point in the frame
Blue has thrown 3 bags equaling 8 points to this point in the frame
Blue accidentally reaches down and grabs the bags, The frame is over
Blue's remaining bag is declared dead and their previous points are tallied
Red tallies 12 points for the frame, as if they had thrown 4 cornholes
12 Red points - 8 Blue points
Red scores 4 points for that frame

IX. OTHER GENERAL RULES

A. Game Time is Forfeit Time!

B. Forfeits will count as 1 ½ losses in the standings.

C. No games will be rescheduled, unless rained-out.

D. Start each game with a coin flip to decide which team pitches first.

E. Each team can substitute a player once per game.

F. Moving Cornhole Boards and Bags: A player can only straighten cornhole boards in between frames and with the approval of their opponent.

G. Raking Cornhole Bags: If bags become piled inside the cornhole board hole and may interfere or obstruct with the next pitch or if there is question as to whether a cornhole bag would have naturally fallen through the hole, a player may request to "rake" the cornhole bags that have fallen inside the hole. To request a rake, the player must audibly ask. One or both players may walk to the other board and rake the bags from under the board (one player raking and one player watching.)

Important note: During raking, all efforts should be made to leave bags on the playing surface undisrupted, in their natural state, and to leave bags that may hang on the rim of the hole from falling inside the hole unnaturally. If a bag is resting on a piled bag, and unavoidably falls into the hole as a result of raking, then it shall be counted as a "cornhole."

H. Sweeping Cornhole Bags: If a foul bag lands on the playing surface or comes to rest touching the ground and the board, it must be removed immediately. If a player pitches a foul bag which affects any bags in play, their opponent has the option of returning all cornhole bags to their original position on the playing surface or leaving all bags as they are.

X. PLAYER CONDUCT

- A. On the Courts: A cornhole player/team while in competition, shall make no disturbing noises or movements that would distract the opponent or players on surrounding courts. Other inappropriate behavior would include profanity, abusive language, obscene gestures, flipping bags, etc.
- B. Sportsmanship: Any cornhole player who indulges in heckling or unfair rooting, uses profanity or abusive language, makes obscene gestures, or exhibits any other form of unsportsmanlike conduct toward other players, or others who are in the area of the courts, shall be subject to expulsion from the match and grounds.
- C. Giving/Receiving Player Advice: It is legal for a teammate or spectator to provide advice on bag position and/or next pitch recommendation.
- D. All players must conform to the City of Novato Parks and Recreation Department Adult Sports Code of Conduct, page 9.
- E. Alcohol, Tobacco Products, and Illegal Controlled Substances: Illegal Controlled Substances are not permitted. Venue permitting, players may drink alcoholic/non-alcoholic beverages while playing, but drinks must be placed outside the live court area.

XI. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

- A. Insurance: Persons or players participating in activities sponsored by the Parks and Recreation Department are not covered in any way for personal liability or property damage. This means that players are competing in the leagues at their own risk and are advised to obtain their own insurance as their personal needs may require.
- B. League information, including schedules, rules, standings, blank rosters, blank add/drop forms, and this manual are available on the City of Novato web site, novato.org/sports