

Knights of Columbus

Cornhole Tournament



Playbook

Faith in Action

Community

Conducting a Council Tournament

BRANDING

Always use the program's official name: **Knights of Columbus Cornhole Tournament**.

INSURANCE

If an insurance certificate is requested, a one-day policy for \$1 million of coverage can be purchased from Lockton Affinity at 800-496-0288 or councilinsurance@locktonaffinity.com

SET A TIME AND PLACE

Contact schools, community centers or youth centers and secure a location. Ask local sports teams, colleges or universities to work with your council on the Cornhole Tournament as part of their community outreach program. All council competitions should be held no later than 1 month prior to the State Cornhole Tournament in order that the winning team has time to prepare travel arrangements and make accommodations for the state event.

SOLICIT LOCAL SUPPORT

Contact the schools in your area to explain the program. Seek permission of the principals, athletic directors, and superintendents to conduct the program as part of their physical education or intramural program or ask for an endorsement encouraging students to participate in this program. Also ask them if it is possible to hold your Knights of Columbus Cornhole Tournament prior to a game and to present awards during halftime. High school athletes should be reminded to check with their state high school athletic association/athletic director about possible eligibility conflicts. Contact officials from the town recreation department to promote the competition among their players. Make sure that entry forms/score sheets are distributed in advance to the officials of the leagues or coaches of the teams. If there is a professional or semiprofessional franchise in your area, contact its public relations office to see if arrangements can be made to honor winners of your competition during halftime. Also, approach teams about the possibility of getting players to present awards to your champions. Local sports teams may also be willing to donate uniforms, autographed memorabilia and other similar items as awards or prizes for your champions.

PROMOTE THE EVENT

Create and display program posters prominently to generate attention and participation. Ask to display posters in schools, youth centers, church halls, libraries, and other prominent locations in the community. On the poster indicate the name of the contact person, the date, time and location of the competition, and a telephone number to call for additional information. Supplement these posters with newspaper ads, radio and TV spots and other publicity.

PREREGISTRATION

Preregistration of athletes will boost the number of participants and save time at the actual event. Distribute entry forms/score sheets to approved locations. Make sure the teachers know your council number and contact information. Personally deliver entry forms/score sheets to physical education teachers and coaches when possible. Try to collect completed forms before the competition to get a general estimate of the number of participants. Plan the competition based on these numbers. Have an announcement made in school or send out a reminder of the competition immediately before the event. Be ready to accept entry forms/score sheets from walk-in participants on the day of the competition.

COMPETITION DAY

Conduct the competition by the rules covered in this booklet. Plan to open the area an hour before the actual event to allow for the registration of walk-in participants. If space allows, participants are welcome to warm up prior to the start of the event.

Make a final check of equipment and see that the regulation size bags are available and that the pitcher's box and foul lines are clearly marked. Make sure the court length/width is clear. Verify the cornhole boards are the proper size and that the rear of the board is elevated 12 inches above the ground. Instruct judges and scorers of their duties and responsibilities.

Use a tournament bracket to record each participant's win and loss or use SCOREHOLIO website or app. This entry form must accompany each team as they progress to the State Cornhole Tournament. All council-level teams will compete during the scheduled hours of the competition and under the same conditions as all other competitors. No teams should be allowed to compete at any other time.

RECOGNITION

Present Participation Certificates to all participants, and Council Champion Certificates to the winners at the end of the competition.

RECRUITMENT

Don't forget that the Cornhole Tournament presents an excellent membership recruitment opportunity. Set up a table at the competition so that attending parents can learn about what the council has to offer prospective members. Stock it with membership pamphlets, form 100's and refreshments. Make sure you get the phone number of potential recruits to perform adequate follow-up procedures.

ADVANCED COMPETITION

Provide the entry forms for the council winning team to the council, district, or diocesan representative who will be attending the State Tournament with the council's winning team. Alternatively, the form can be scanned and electronically sent or physically mailed to the State Cornhole Tournament Chairman. It is the responsibility of the Council Cornhole Tournament Chairman to ensure that the entry form of the council's winning Cornhole Tournament team is received by the State Cornhole Tournament Chairman. It is recommended that the Council Cornhole Tournament Chairman retain a digital copy of the winning team's entry form. Make sure your council number is on the form. Inform the council tournament winning team of the date, time and location of the State Cornhole Tournament. Be sure that a council official accompanies the council winning team to the State Cornhole Tournament.

In the event that a member of the council winning team cannot participate in the State Cornhole Tournament the designated alternate on the winning team's entry form will participate. If both members of the winning team cannot participate in the state tournament, then the second-place team from the council's Cornhole Tournament will advance to the state tournament. Likewise, if a member of the second-place team cannot participate in the state tournament then the designated alternate on their entry form will participate.

STATE & INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

Play-By-Play for the State/Supreme Cornhole Chairman

SET A TIME AND PLACE

Secure a location, select a date for the Championship and pass on the information to each of the council Cornhole Tournament chairmen in your district.

COMPETITION DAY

Conduct the state championship according to the rules covered in this booklet. Use the entry form to record each participant's score. This form must accompany each champion as he or she progresses through the higher levels of competition. The council number must also be clearly written on the form.

Make a final check of equipment and see that the regulation size bags are available and that pitcher's box and foul lines are clearly marked. Make sure the court length/width is clear. Verify the cornhole boards are the proper size and that the rear of the board is elevated 12 inches above the ground. Instruct judges and scorers of their duties and responsibilities.

The State Cornhole Tournament should be run on SCOREHOLIO. This allows for easier registration as well as an increase in audience participation and awareness of the tournament play.

All teams must participate during the scheduled hours of the competition and under the same conditions as all other competitors. Under no circumstances can participants compete at a special time other than the scheduled and publicized hours of the competition.

RECOGNITION

The State Cornhole Chairman should have enticing prizes for at a minimum the first place team but ideal for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams.

ANNOUNCE WINNERS

Send a press release to local media sources announcing the state winners.

Rules and Regulations

COMPETITION

The Knights of Columbus Cornhole Tournament is a great way to put your faith into action and provide an athletic outlet for youth and adults in your community! Competition is designed for players ages 13+ to compete in a 2 vs 2 (team) single elimination cornhole tournament. Every match is broken down into innings of play. During an inning of play, each player must pitch all four of their bags. An inning is never completed until all players pitch all four of his/her bags.

Two teams of two players compete against one another until the winning team is determined. Players stay in their designated lane for the whole game. Players start the game at the headboard and will **alternate** pitching bags until each player has pitched all four of his/her bags. The players at the other board will take score, and resume pitching back to the other board. The top of an inning is completed when the first player pitches all four bags; the bottom of the inning is completed when the remaining player pitches all four bags.

PLAYER PITCHING ROTATION

The team who scored more in the preceding inning has the honor of pitching first in the next inning. If neither player scores, the player who pitched first in the preceding frame shall retain first pitch in the next frame. The pitcher must be within the pitcher's box or behind the foul line at the time of release. A player must pitch all four bags from their designated pitcher's box. Players must pitch the bag with an under-hand release.

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 inning. **Bag In-The-Count** (Woody): Any bag which comes to rest anywhere on top of the board. Each is worth one (1) point. **Bag In-The-Hole** (Cornhole): Any bag which is thrown through the hole or knocked through the hole by another bag. Each is worth three (3) points. **Foul Bags** – Refers to any bag that has not been determined as Bag In-The-Count or Bag In-The Hole or was designated a foul bag as the result of rules violation.

Judges and scorers are given final authority in verifying all scores and violations.

JUDGES/SCORERS

Judges and scorers will be selected by the Cornhole Tournament chairman at the council level and by the State Deputy at the state level. The recommended minimum is one judge/scorers at each cornhole board. The judge will ensure that each participant remains in their pitching box and validates the results of the inning/game (see scoring section). All questions will be resolved by the judges and Cornhole Tournament chairman. Scorers should refer to the scoring instructions included on the entry form.

TIMELINE

The recommended time frame for the Knights of Columbus Cornhole Tournament is:

Council Championship — July 1st - March

State Championship — April

Supreme Championship - Held at Supreme Convention
COMING FRATERNAL YEAR 26/27

State officials should notify each council and District Deputy well in advance concerning the dates, times and locations of the State Championship. The Grand Knight or Cornhole Tournament chairman should notify the council winners of the date, time and location of the next level of competition.

ELIGIBILITY

The Knights of Columbus Cornhole Tournament is open to everyone, men and women, in your community. Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of July 1st. Athletes in high school should be advised to check with their school athletic directors or their state high school athletic associations regarding possible eligibility conflicts.

ENTRIES

All competitors must register using the official Knights of Columbus *Cornhole Tournament Entry Form*. Preregistration is recommended but not required. The entry form must accompany participants through all levels of competition. The council number should also be clearly written on the form. Winners will progress to the state competitions. International champions are chosen on the basis of state-level results.

FIELD

Each level of competition should be held at a suitable facility approved by and under the supervision of a participating Knights of Columbus council. Check with your parks and recreation department regarding availability and usage regulations. Do this as early as possible because school/recreation teams are also reserving field space. The cornhole court shall be 8' x 10' wide by 40' x 45' long. The court should have designated pitcher's boxes and foul lines, as marked on the diagram from page 7.

EQUIPMENT

Cornhole Boards:

Each cornhole board shall be 47½ to 48 inches in length and 23½ to 24 inches wide, made of smooth plywood that measures at least ½-inch in thickness.

The hole in each cornhole board shall be 6 inches (+-¼-in) in diameter. Its center shall be 9 inches (+-¼-in) from the top and 12 inches (+-¼-in) from each side of the board edges.

The front of the cornhole board shall be 3-4 inches from bottom to top. The back of the cornhole board shall be approximately 12 inches (+- ¼-in) from ground to the highest point of the deck.

The board finish shall be sanded to a very smooth texture, and there shall not be any blemishes in the wood surface that might disrupt or distort play.

Cornhole Bags:

The cornhole bags shall be made from two fabric squares 6¼ x 6¼ inches with a ¼-inch stitched seam on all four sides. Bags should be made from durable fabric.

The thickness of the bag when laying flat on a hard surface should be approximately 1 inch (+-⅛-in) thick.

Each bag shall be filled with plastic pellets or corn feed and finished bags should be roughly 6 square inches and weigh 14-16.25 ounces.

AGE CATEGORIES

Ages 13+ (Adults):

The foul line is 27 feet between the front of each board.

COMPETITION LEVELS

Council Level

The game shall be played to the predetermined number of twenty-one (21) points. If there are many teams participating in the Council Tournament the Council Cornhole Tournament Chairman has the discretion to decrease the play to number to complete the tournament in a timely manner. The first team to reach (or exceed) that amount at the conclusion of an inning is the winner. The winning team moves on to the next round in the tournament until the champion is crowned. The **1st place** team will advance to the State Cornhole Tournament.

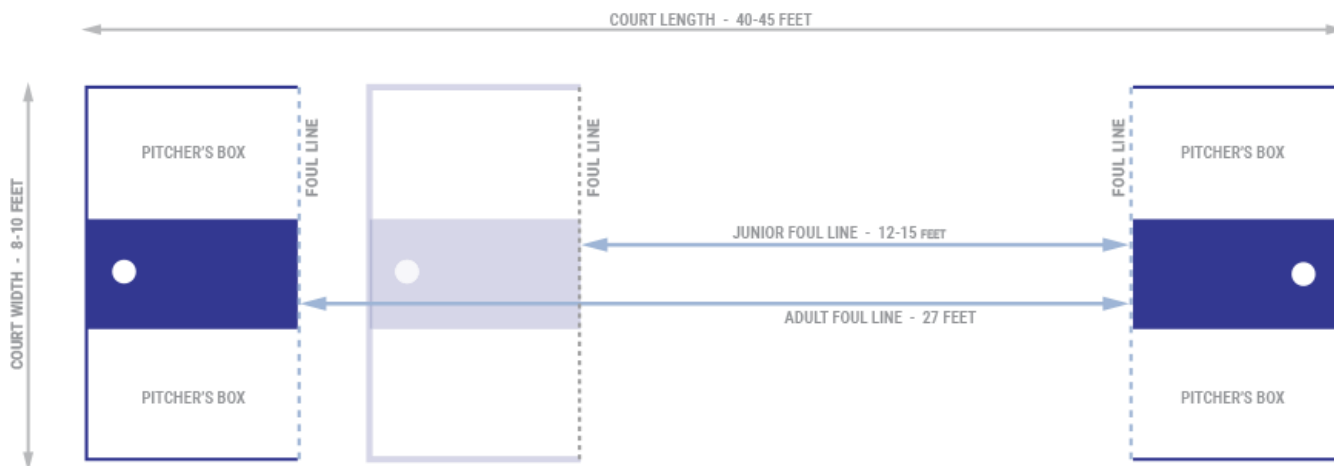
State Level

The game shall be played to the predetermined number of twenty-one (21) points. The first team to reach (or exceed) that amount at the conclusion of an inning is the winner. The winning team moves on to the next round in the tournament until the champion is crowned. The **1st place** team will advance to the next level of competition.

*It is encouraged that the winning team of the State Tournament have all their expenses paid for to attend the Supreme Convention Tournament along with a state trophy/plaque. **COMING FRATERNAL YEAR 26/27***

AUTHORITY:

The Knights of Columbus Cornhole Tournament program will be under the authority of the State Deputy and State Program Director. Any questions about this program not answered in this guide should be directed to the appropriate state officials.



**Junior Foul Line is not applicable*