

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. While January is the recommended month for conducting a council competition, councils should be flexible. All local competitions should be held so that the winners can participate in the diocesan competition, and diocesan events should be held prior to state events.

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. 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. Teams and schools can hold preliminary competitions to determine winners to advance to the council competition. 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. Fill out the council number and distribute entry forms/score sheets to approved locations. For school distribution, make sure teachers know your 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. Organize entry forms/score sheets by age. Make a final check of equipment and see that the regulation-size bags are available and that the throwers box lines are clearly marked. Verify that judges and scorers have been properly advised of their duties and responsibilities. Use the score sheet and tournament bracket to record each participant's win and loss. This form must accompany each competitor as he or she progresses through the higher levels of competition. All council-level participants will compete during the scheduled hours of the competition and under the same conditions as all other competitors in their designated age group. No participants 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/score sheets for the council winners to the district deputy or diocesan deputy for the diocesan competition. Make sure your council number is on the form. Inform council competition winners of the date, time and location of the diocesan competition and any other levels of competition to which they are advancing. Be sure that a council official accompanies council winners to all upcoming competitions as they advance. In the event that a winner in any level cannot participate in the next level of competition, the second-place winner should represent the area.

DIOCESAN AND STATE LEVELS

Play-By-Play for the Diocesan Deputy

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 and Grand Knights.

COMPETITION DAY

Conduct the championship according to the rules covered in this booklet. Use the entry form/score sheet 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.

Use the previous competitions Total score to assign rank/seed for the tournament bracket. The highest Total score shall be 1st Seed, the 2nd highest score will be the 2nd seed, so forth and so on. If there is a tie for the total score then the higher seed will be assigned to the person who has played more games. If there is still a tie, then the Total scores should be summed, and the higher seed will be assigned to the person with the larger Total score.

All diocesan-level participants 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. Use the entry form/score sheet for each participant to record diocesan competition scores.

RECOGNITION

Diocesan Deputies should order 2 Olympic style medallions for presentation to the diocesan winner and runner-up.

ANNOUNCE WINNERS

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

ADVANCED COMPETITION

Report the results of your diocesan competition to the state cornhole committee chairman and give him the entry forms/score sheets of your champions. Inform your champions of the date and location of the state championship.

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 16+** to compete in a 1 vs 1 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 single players compete against one another until a single winner is determined. Both 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. Players then walk to the end of their lane, to the other court, take score, and resume pitching back to the other board. The game is finished when one person reaches or exceeds 15 points at Council Level competition or 21 points at higher level competition.

PLAYER PITCHING ROTATION

The player 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 underhand 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 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. Bags are considered foul bags if they hit the ground prior to coming to rest on the board or make a cornhole.

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, by the Diocesan Deputy at the diocesan 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/score sheet.

TIMELINE

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

Council Championship — January

Diocesan Championship — February

State Championship — Saturday, February 22nd, 2025
at Council 2433 K of C Hall in Hallettsville

State officials should notify each council and District Deputy well in advance concerning the dates, times and locations of the Diocesan and State Championships. The district deputy is responsible for notifying councils of the date, time and location of the diocesan competition. 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 in your community, ages 16+. Age eligibility is determined by the age of the contestant as of January 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/Score*. All kit materials are in this section. Pre-registration is recommended but not required. The entry form/score sheet must accompany participants through all levels of competition. The council number should also be clearly written on the form. Winners will progress to the diocesan, and state competition.

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 for 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' to 10' wide by 40' to 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 deck 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 hole 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 lying 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 to 16.25 ounces.

AGE LIMITS

Age 16+ (Adults):

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

COMPETITION LEVELS

Council Level

The maximum number of contestants for the Council Level tournament is **limited to 128**. The game shall be played to the predetermined number of fifteen (15) points. The first player to reach or exceed that amount at the conclusion of an inning is the winner. The winner moves on to the next round in the tournament until the champion is crowned. The 1st place contestant will advance to the Diocesan competition.

Diocesan and State Level

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

Note: In the event that a winner in any level cannot participate in the next level of competition, the second-place winner should represent the area at the next level of competition.

AUTHORITY:

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

Appendix A:

Below is a representation of how to properly set up the cornhole boards for competition. **There is no 'Junior Foul Line' set up for ages 16+.**

