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# Purpose

The purpose of this handbook is to acquaint players and spectators with Cornhole league rules and conditions of play set forth by the Moorpark Recreation Division. It is imperative that all participants become familiar with the information contained in this handbook. Ignorance of rules and regulations is not cause for reduction of penalties.

# Preface

As a community-based league dependent upon the participation of our residents and neighbors, we are in a perpetual partnership with our players to provide the best leagues possible. Your feedback (e.g., comments, concerns, compliments and/or complaints) is vital to the success of our program. While adult sports are played across the country and most rules are universal, one of our primary goals is to provide activities that reflect the wants and needs of our unique community. At a basic level, this could be something as simple as knowing the preferred program days and times of interested participants. At a higher level, this could determine the type of play offered (e.g., league/tournament, recreational/competitive, sanctioned/non-sanctioned). In a nutshell, your participation and opinions truly matter. Thank you for joining us and we hope to hear from you soon.

## ***Sportsmanship First***

Of course, regardless of the format, sportsmanship will always rate first in our leagues. Respectful treatment of our players, staff, and spectators is a non-negotiable requirement – no matter what the situation. However, we should note that we DO NOT view conflicts of opinion and/or outward emotion (when controlled) as poor sportsmanship. In fact, when someone is frustrated with an outcome, rule or decision and can still sincerely congratulate an opponent or respectfully share their concerns with a staff member, we find that to be an excellent example of sportsmanship. In other words, just remember to be cool. Below are few helpful hints.

- Informing staff so they can assess and handle a situation = Thumbs up
- Trash-talking another player or spectator = Thumbs down
- Yelling and/or using profanity = Really? You're in a recreational cornhole league...
- Threats, physical attacks = Well, you "used to be" in a recreational cornhole league

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## **Section I: Registration**

- A. Registrations must be received during the registration period, and are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. Full payment is due at time of registration. Registration is per player; therefore, members of a team must register individually.
- B. All team names must be approved by league director. No profanity, sexual connotations, or alcohol/drugs will be allowed in team names.
- C. Requests for refunds must be received five business days before the first scheduled game. No refunds or credits can be issued after this time.
- D. For teams (two paid registrants), an alternate may be added to the team roster at no cost by submitting a roster form prior to the season start date.
- E. After the season start date, non-roster alternates may participate for a \$5 per day fee. Non-rostered alternates may not participate during playoffs.

## **Section II: Eligibility**

- A. Players must be 18 years of age or older by the first scheduled game to participate in adult sports leagues.
- B. Each player must **legibly** complete and sign the official roster for their team prior to the first game they play in. Players must provide their own signatures on the roster. **If information is illegible and/or missing a player will not be placed on the official roster and thus deemed ineligible.**
- C. Officials and city staff have the authority to request photo ID from any player at any time. It is mandatory for all players to have a current photo ID and be able to present it immediately upon request. Individuals unable to provide identification will not be permitted to play.
- D. Players, whose names do not appear on the official team roster, are considered ineligible. Rosters are checked throughout the season, and games played with ineligible players will be forfeited.
- E. All players on a team roster must participate at least two weeks (minimum one game per week) in order to be eligible for playoffs.
- F. A player who has been formally suspended by another city, county, district, or agency for discipline problems in leagues outside the City shall not participate in a City of Moorpark league or tournament as long as said suspension is in effect.

## **Section III. Forfeits and “No Shows”**

Forfeit – When a team is unable to play a game for any reason, such as: (1) at least two team members have not arrived by five minutes after game start time, (2) a team member is ejected, leaving only one remaining player.

“No Show” – When an individual participant is paired with another registrant to form a team and said participant is unable to play for any reason. As a result, the participant’s assigned partner is left without the required second teammate and is unable to play.

- The City will attempt to find a partner if given advanced notice; however, the absence will still be considered a “no show.”
  - When an eligible alternate can fill the spot, it is not considered a “no show.”
- A. As a common courtesy, at least 48-hours-notice should be given to the league director prior to a foreseeable forfeit or “no show.”
  - B. Automatic/Retroactive Forfeits: Any team found to be playing a suspended or ineligible player shall forfeit all games in which said player participated.

- C. Participants with two (2) “no shows” in a season will not be eligible to register without a pre-designated team member for at least one (1) full season and up to (1) full year.

#### **Section IV. Protests**

- A. Protests shall not be received or considered if they are based on a complaint involving the accuracy of the official's judgment.
- B. Protest regarding the eligibility of another player may be made any time prior to the end of the game. If that player is not eligible, the offending team automatically forfeits the game unless the game has not started yet, for regular season and playoffs.
- C. The final score, as approved by the official at the end of the game, is official. Protests about the accuracy of the final score shall not be considered.
- D. Procedure regarding alleged discrepancy in official score keeping during the game: The official suspends play until he or she rules on the official score.
- E. All issues and discrepancies will be handled by the League Director.

#### **Section V: Code of Conduct – General Rules & Penalties**

- A. Players and spectators shall abide by City staff's final decision. Team members may speak with the staff member if they are not an ejected party.
- B. Intimidating or aggressive action towards an official, spectator or other player will not be allowed.
  - a. PENALTY: Removal from play for remainder of the day and up to a one (1) year suspension.
- C. Physical attack on an official, spectator or other player will not be allowed.
  - a. PENALTY: Removal from the league (current season) and up to a five (5) year suspension.
- D. No profane, obscene, derogatory or racial remarks to an official, spectator or other player, or speak in such a manner as to cause a disturbance will be allowed.
  - a. PENALTY: Removal from play for remainder of the day and up to one (1) year suspension.
- E. City staff may eject any player who is visibly intoxicated or that is observed drinking or in possession of alcohol on park property, including parking lots.
  - a. PENALTY: Two (2) full scheduled league days suspension and up to one (1) year suspension.

- F. Smoking anywhere in the building or park, including parking lots.
  - a. PENALTY: One (1) game suspension and up to one (1) season suspension.
- G. There shall be no unnecessary throwing of equipment, or other objects.
  - a. PENALTY: Removal from play for the remainder of the day and up to a (1) season suspension.
- H. There will be no cause for defacement or destruction to any public facility or equipment.
  - a. PENALTY: Removal from play for the remainder of the day and up to one (1) year suspension and/or payment to replace damaged facility or equipment.

### **Section VI: Ejections**

- A. Any person ejected from a game is suspended from further participation in City of Moorpark programs until the League Director determines disciplinary action (if any) based on the events surrounding the ejection.
- B. Any person ejected must leave the premises within 60 seconds of notification or staff may declare a forfeit (this includes a team's spectators.) Staff may also declare a forfeit if a person fails to comply with league rules.
- C. Any player ejected from two games during the season shall be suspended for the remainder of the season and an increased suspension period may be assessed at the discretion of the league director.
- D. If a player has multiple rule violations and/or is repeatedly suspended, regardless of the season or sport, the player's history and/or pattern of behavior may be taken into consideration when determining the length of a suspension and the suspension period may be extended beyond the listed limit.
- E. Profanity is not allowed in City leagues. Staff may eject a player or spectator for use of profanity without warning.

### **Section VII: The Game of Cornhole**

- A. The game shall be played to the predetermined number of twenty-one (21) points or thirty minutes from scheduled start time, whichever occurs first. The first player/team to reach (or exceed) that amount at the conclusion of a frame is the winner. In the case of a tie breaker, the game will continue until a team takes the lead at the end of a frame.
- B. A randomized round robin format will be used for league play. Wins/losses from week one will not count towards league standings. The last one to two weeks of a season will be reserved for playoffs dependent upon season length and the total number of teams registered.

- C. How to Play: Team A competes against Team B – each team is comprised of two (2) people. Each team will stay in their designated lane for the whole game. Players at the headboard will alternate tossing bags until each player has tossed all (4) of his/her bags. Players at the footboard will take score and resume tossing to the other cornhole board. A coin is flipped to decide who goes first to start of the game. Thereafter, the team who scored in the previous frame will go first. In the event of tie, the team who scored in the previous frame will go first. In the event of a tie after the first frame, the team who won the coin toss will go first. Winner of the coin toss gets to choose either (A) The side of the board each team member will stand on, or (B) Which opponent to stand next to.
- D. Bag Terms: A “Woody” (1 Point) refers to any cornhole bag that has been tossed and remains on the cornhole board at the conclusion of the frame. “Cornhole” (3 Points) refers to any cornhole bag that has been tossed and passes through the cornhole board hole at any time within the frame. “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.
- E. Foul bags: Any bag tossed without at least one foot completely inside the box at the time of release. Any bag that touches the ground before coming to rest on the playing surface. Any bag that comes to a rest touching the ground and the board. If this happens you may remove the bag from the board before the next bag is tossed. Any bag which struck a previously defined object such as a tree limb, wire, indoor court ceiling, etc.
- F. 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. (Example: Red scores 5 and Blue scores 3, therefore Red team gets 2 points for the round.) The player/team that scores that round gets to go first in the next round.
- G. Tossing out of turn: If a player tosses out of turn at any time during a frame, their toss 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. If the error is not discovered until after two (2) cornhole bags have been tossed, the frame shall continue and be scored accordingly. If no agreement can be reached, City staff will decide how play is to proceed.
- H. Touching the bags before 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 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, the 12 pts are only used within this specific frame before cancellation.)

## **Section VIII: Cancelled or Protested Game Procedures**

- A. League Days Cancelled Due to Weather: On the first occurrence, the season end date will simply be extended an extra week. On the second occurrence, the league director may extend the season end date an additional week (which is not always possible due to holidays and/or overlap with the next season) or attempt to reschedule games on an alternate day. For example, if the regular league day is Saturday, a second set of games may be scheduled on a Sunday or a weekday evening if most teams are available.
- B. Games Cancelled Due to Weather: In the event games are cancelled after play has begun, all incomplete and/or un-played games shall be replayed in their entirety. Depending on the number of games left to be played (several games are played each league day), games may be rescheduled before or after regularly scheduled games. For example, if regular league games are scheduled from 3 PM to 5 PM, cancelled games may rescheduled between 2PM and 3PM. When this is not possible, games will be rescheduled consistent with "League Day" cancellations as described in "A" above.
- C. When a protest is upheld for misinterpretation of a playing rule, the game is replayed from the point at which the incorrect decision was made with the decision corrected. A player eligible at the time of the protest who was not in the game may replace a player not able to attend the rescheduled game. No player removed prior to the protest may be returned to the lineup.

SPECIAL NOTE: On all cancelled or protested games, the league reserves the right to reschedule only those games which effect trophy and/or playoff positions in the league standings.

## **Section XIV: League Staff**

- A. It is the duty of designated league staff to administer decisions of the game in accordance with the league rules adopted.
- B. All league games are under the direction of the league director.

## **Section X: Equipment & Uniforms**

- A. All Cornhole boards are to be provided by the City.
- B. Personal bags that meet American Cornhole Organization (ACO) standards are allowed. See specs below.
- Each bag is made from two fabric squares with double-stitched seaming.
  - The bags should be made from durable fabric like canvas, twill, or synthetic suede.
  - Each bag measures roughly 6" x 6" and weighs 15 to 16 ounces.



- C. Uniforms: Clothing with inappropriate or obscene language or graphics is not permitted.

**Section XI: League Director**

- A. The designated full-time staff member assigned to adult sports programs shall serve as the League Director. In the absence of a designated full-time staff member, the Recreation Supervisor and/or Recreation Services Manager shall serve as the League Director.
- B. The League Director reserves the right to rule on any situation not specifically mentioned in the league rules.
- C. The League Director reserves the right to suspend an individual or team from league play whose conduct is detrimental to the safety and success of the program.
- D. The League Director reserves the right to interpret league rules in a manner she or he deems fair and equitable in accordance with the goals and objectives of the City of Moorpark.