

how to play cornhole

Objective

Be the first side to achieve a match tally of 21 points or more scored over multiple rounds.

Number of players

Cornhole is contested by two sides - each side having one, two or four players.

Setting up

Double Board Set – Place the two boards 10 metres apart directly facing each other. Each side takes four bags of one colour and moves to their throwing mark. When throwing to the far Cornhole board, opponents stand on different sides of the near Cornhole board. i.e. one side throws with the board to their left and the other throws with the board to their right. The front edge of the near cornhole board marks the throwing line and players may not step over this line before releasing their cornhole bags. *Single Board Set* – Use a piece of rope or alternate object to mark a throwing line ten metres back from the low end of the Cornhole board.



Playing

For the first round, decide which player or side tosses first by flipping a coin. Thereafter, the winner of each round has "honours" and throws first in the next round. If a round has no winner then the next round is started by whoever started the round just completed. The first player tosses a Cornhole bag, the aim being to have the bag come to rest on the surface of the Cornhole board (1 point) – or even better – drop through the hole (3 points). Thereafter throws alternate between opposing sides, one bag at a time until all 8 Cornhole bags have been tossed. Where a side has more than one player, the throws must alternate evenly within the team to a defined playing order. If a bag touches the ground and comes to rest on the board, it is removed from the board before play continues and does not earn any points for this round.

Scoring a round

At the end of a round, each side tallies their round score based on the final resting place of all bags of their colour as follows: (i) each bag that has dropped through the hole earns 3 points; each bag that has remained on the board earns 1 point. Scores per bag are not determined until the end of the round because bags may be knocked off the board or into the hole by other bags during play (in this way, one team can impact another team's round score). The winner of the round is the side with the highest score for that round. Only the winner of the round has points added to their match tally. The number of points added to their match tally is their own round score minus their opponent's round score e.g. if Side A scores 2 "in the hole" and 1 "on the board" for 7 points and Side B scores 1 "in the hole" and 0 "on the board" for 3 points, Side A's match tally has 4 points added to it. In the event of a round tie, neither side has any points added to their match tally.

The next round

If playing with two Cornhole boards, the next round is played with players throwing in the opposite direction to the round just played. i.e. the throwing end and target ends switch.

Winning

The game ends when a team has achieved a match tally of at least 21 points.

Storage and care

Cornhole boards and bags should not be left outside and should be kept dry when not in use.

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