



ACL Players Guide

2017 – 2018 Season

The **American Cornhole League (ACL)** encourages social and competitive play for all ages and all skill levels. The ACL software makes managing tournaments, leagues and custom events easy and provides the critical infrastructure for a statistical database for the sport. Becoming a Player allows you to compete against people of your same skill level and always gives you an opportunity to see how you stack up against the best of the best. Please contact us with any feedback or questions.

ANYONE CAN PLAY – ANYONE CAN WIN

Membership Levels

- **Guest** – Someone that plays in an event but has not become a Member. This player will show up in the standings, but will not earn the 1,000 point bonus for being an ACL member.
- **Player: \$25** – Players will show up in the standings, have access to statistics, *earn a 1,000 point membership bonus and save money when entering most ACL Monthly Regional, Conference and National events.
- **Local Director: \$50** – Can set-up and run local points earning tournaments. Local Directors are also Players.
- **Regional Director** – Appointed by ACL from the Local Director Pool. These Directors are given the exclusive right to run Monthly Regional Events within a set geographic radius. For more Director Information - [Contact Us](#)

*Note that players MUST purchase their ACL membership before 1/1/2018 in order to receive the 1,000 bonus points. Anyone purchasing a membership after 12/31/2017 will not get the 1,000 bonus points, but will have their membership extended through 7/31/2019.

Also, anyone who purchased their membership after 12/31/2016 will automatically have their membership extended through 7/31/2018 and earn the 1,000 bonus points for the 2017/2018 season.

Player Types

Players are responsible for updating their type in their Player Profile.

- **Juniors** – 20 and under as of June 30, 2018
 - **College** – Undergraduate College Students (Full Time or Part Time)
 - **Adult** – 21 and over as of June 30, 2018
 - **Senior** – 55 and over as of June 30, 2018
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Player Levels

It is important that players read, review and establish their Player Level. This enables Guests and Players to know where they stand and compete against players of their similar skill level. Regional Directors may override a Player Level, if they feel a player is sandbagging. The current ACL Player Rating Levels are:

- **1 Bagger** – This player has limited to no experience with the game. There is very little control over where the bag is going and the bag often misses the board. This player should only compete in social / backyard events and there is nothing wrong with playing casual games with friends and family to start the improvement process. (Dekaround Range: 0 – 30 points)
- **2 Bagger** – This player has a feel for the distance needed to toss the bag, but is erratic in getting the bag to consistently hit and stay on the board. Typically, this level of player is in the beginning stages of developing a consistent throwing motion that can be repeated. Player should play in the social division and start challenging themselves by playing against Competitive level players. (Dekaround Range: 31 – 55 points)
- **3 Bagger** – This player has started to develop some consistency when tossing the bag. They have a basic understanding of game strategy but have yet to master all the different types of throws including the airmail shot needed to excel and compete at the higher levels. Player should play Competitive level events knowing that they may struggle at first, but work towards getting better. (Dekaround Range: 56 – 70)
- **4 Bagger** – This player fully understands game strategy, but may struggle with consistency. At times this player looks like they can beat anyone, but then in a subsequent game or frame can struggle. Player is at a high Competitive level and should work towards getting better by challenging Premier level players. (Dekaround Range: 71 – 90)
- **Premier** – This player can and wants to compete against anyone. This player can execute sliding the bag and airmailing the bag as needed. Player fully understands game strategy and likely plays and practices on a regular basis. (Dekaround Range: 91 – 120)
- **Elite** – This player level can only be achieved through competition. It is solely determined based on ACL accomplishments. More details about how to achieve this level is in the COBS 2018 Section.

[See More Details - Player Ratings](#)

ACL Events

ACL Events are created based on the following:

- **Area** – Local, Regional, Conference, National
- **Type** – Tournaments, Team Tournaments, Match Play
- **Division** – Advanced, Competitive, Social, Backyard

Directors may set up events specific to other criteria like Gender, Player Level, and Player Type. Not all of these event types are currently supported by the ACL software but anything that impacts the Overall Competitive ACL Standings is supported.

ACL Divisions

ACL Divisions are intended to group players of similar skill levels for competitive and social play. The suggested skill levels for each Division are:

- **Advanced (formerly Open)** – Anyone can play in the Advanced Division knowing that this is where the best of the best compete. This is the only Division for Elite Players. Most 3 Bagger and 4 Bagger players will play at this level as well if they are trying to improve and get maximum points opportunities.
- **Competitive** – The Competitive Division is intended for 3 Bagger and 4 Bagger players. For areas that have a lot of depth at the top end of players, it makes sense for a Director to offer an Advanced and Competitive Division for Local and Regional tournaments.
- **Social** – The Social Division is for players that enjoy playing casually. 2 Bagger and 1 Bagger players can enjoy the sport and events without having to run into the cream of the crop to have a chance at winning some money and prizes.
- **Backyard** – The Backyard Division is intended for beginners and large events that have a lot of social players. Mostly 1 Bagger players will play in this Division if it is offered.

ACL Directors create a lot of great events on their own with our system and support. The ACL provides players of all types an opportunity to play and participate in local and national standings. The 2017 – 2018 ACL Standings is based on a points system for local, monthly regional, conference and national tournaments. The ACL uses standings for entry and seeding into most events as well as the Main Event, Championships of Bags (COBS 2018).

ACL Bags Policy

The ACL believes that players should be able to have a choice when it comes to bags. The ACL has set guidelines and created a list of Approved Bag Manufacturers. Players are required to use properly stamped bags from that list for Monthly Regional, Conference and National Tournaments. A Director may use a different Bag Policy or provide bags for Local Events. If a player does not have bags on the list we ask for the Director to provide that player with an approved set. <http://www.iplaycornhole.com/bagsmanufacturers>

ACL Tournaments

LOCAL Tournaments (Unlimited):

- Local points tournaments can apply to ANY singles, BYOP doubles or blind draw doubles tournament. If you are playing in a tournament that does not include ACL Points, ask your Director why?!? Local tournaments have a minimal fee for ACL directors. Points are awarded based on where a player/team finishes in the tournament.
- ACL Overall Points Standings will take a player's **Top 10 Local Tournament Finishes** and use them towards their Overall Points Rankings.
- Here is the points table for Local Tournaments:

ACL Local Points Table			
Advanced		Social	
1 st	30	1 st	10
2 nd	28	2 nd	9
3 rd	26	3 rd	8
4 th	24	4 th	7
5 th – 6 th	22	5 th – 6 th	6
7 th – 8 th	20	7 th – 8 th	6
9 th – 12 th	19	9 th – 12 th	5
13 th – 16 th	18	13 th – 16 th	5
17 th – 24 th	17	17 th – 24 th	4
25 th – 32 nd	16	25 th – 32 nd	3
33 rd – 48 th	15	33 rd – 48 th	2
49 th – 64 th	14	49 th – 64 th	1

MONTHLY REGIONAL Tournaments (11 max per region):

- A Regional Director may run one Monthly Regional Points Tournament for each Division (Advanced, Competitive, Social, Backyard) by Tournament Type (Singles, BYOP, Blind Draw) and Player Type (Everyone, Junior, Senior, Women).
- Each Regional Director must offer a minimum of two Divisions (Advanced and Social) and include two tournaments for each (one singles and one blind draw or bring your own partner doubles).
- Maximum number of events a Regional Director can run is 11 (August 2017 – June 2018). The last day to run a June 2018 Monthly Regional will be Sunday June 17th!
- Tournaments may be run on different days.
- In order for an Advanced Monthly Regional tournament to be worth Advanced points you must have 6 players (for singles) and 6 teams (for doubles). If you do not have 6 singles or 6 doubles then that tournament will be worth Competitive points.
- Payouts are guaranteed to be a **minimum** of 50% of the entry fees. Payouts may vary based on Regional Director. Entry fees will typically range from \$10 to \$20 per tournament (members should get a discount - \$5 off is recommended).
- Players may play in more than one Monthly Regional Event in a Month, but only the top score will count as their Monthly Regional Score for that month. Scores are based on individual tournaments and not the combined event.
- ACL Standings will take the **Top 5 Monthly Regional Singles** scores to apply to Singles Rankings and **Top 5 Monthly Regional Singles + Top 5 Monthly Regional Doubles (Blind Draw or BYOP)** scores for Overall Points Rankings.
- Here is the points table for Monthly Regional Tournaments:

ACL Monthly Regional Points Table							
Advanced		Competitive		Social		Backyard	
1 st	100	1 st	85	1 st	70	1 st	55
2 nd	99	2 nd	84	2 nd	69	2 nd	54
3 rd	98	3 rd	83	3 rd	68	3 rd	53
4 th	97	4 th	82	4 th	67	4 th	52
5 th – 6 th	96	5 th – 6 th	81	5 th – 6 th	66	5 th – 6 th	51
7 th – 8 th	95	7 th – 8 th	80	7 th – 8 th	65	7 th – 8 th	50
9 th – 12 th	94	9 th – 12 th	79	9 th – 12 th	64	9 th – 12 th	49
13 th – 16 th	93	13 th – 16 th	78	13 th – 16 th	63	13 th – 16 th	48
17 th – 24 th	92	17 th – 24 th	76	17 th – 24 th	62	17 th – 24 th	46
25 th – 32 nd	90	25 th – 32 nd	74	25 th – 32 nd	60	25 th – 32 nd	44
33 rd – 48 th	88	33 rd – 48 th	72	33 rd – 48 th	58	33 rd – 48 th	42
49 th – 64 th	86	49 th – 64 th	70	49 th – 64 th	56	49 th – 64 th	40

CONFERENCE Tournaments (3 max per conference):

Conferences are intended to provide players an opportunity to compete against players from different regions that are within a limited driving distance. **The Top 16 players in each conference will represent their Conference and compete for the ACL Conference Cup at COBS 2018!** (must be 21 years of age or older)

ACL Conferences are being formed at the discretion of the ACL. Ideally, there will be a minimum of 3 capable Regional Directors within a 6 hour driving distance from each other and are willing to work together to run and schedule 3 Conference Events. The Conference Championship Event for each Conference will be held in June 2018. Other months available to schedule the two other Conference tournaments include September, November, December, February, and April.

- Each conference will hold 3 conference events throughout the 2017/2018 season. The 3rd and final conference event will be the Conference Championships held in June 2018.
- The 2-Day Conference events will follow the ACL National format which includes, Crew Cup, Advanced Singles, BYOP, Blind Draw and Social Singles. Plus Seniors, Juniors and Women's if time allows.
- Payouts are guaranteed to be a **minimum** of 50% of the entry fees. Payouts may vary based on Director. Entry fees will be \$50 for the Advanced Division and \$30 for the Social Division (Members get a \$10 Discount). Entry includes Singles and Blind Draw (or Doubles).
- Players may only play in their assigned Conference events. Players are assigned to Directors and Directors are assigned to Conferences.
- ACL Standings will take the **Top 2 Conference Singles** scores to apply to Singles Rankings and **Top 2 Conference Singles + Top 2 Conference Doubles (BYOP or Blind Draw)** scores for Overall Points Rankings. The Top 16 Players in a Conference will be determined by **Singles** Rankings (Top 5 Regional Singles + Top 2 Conference Singles + Top 1 National Singles)
- Here is the points table for Conference Tournaments:

ACL Conference Points Table							
Advanced		Competitive		Social		Backyard	
1 st	200	1 st	150	1 st	70	1 st	55
2 nd	196	2 nd	146	2 nd	69	2 nd	54
3 rd	192	3 rd	142	3 rd	68	3 rd	53
4 th	188	4 th	138	4 th	67	4 th	52
5 th – 6 th	184	5 th – 6 th	134	5 th – 6 th	66	5 th – 6 th	51
7 th – 8 th	180	7 th – 8 th	130	7 th – 8 th	65	7 th – 8 th	50
9 th – 12 th	176	9 th – 12 th	126	9 th – 12 th	64	9 th – 12 th	49
13 th – 16 th	172	13 th – 16 th	122	13 th – 16 th	63	13 th – 16 th	48
17 th – 24 th	168	17 th – 24 th	118	17 th – 24 th	62	17 th – 24 th	46
25 th – 32 nd	164	25 th – 32 nd	114	25 th – 32 nd	60	25 th – 32 nd	44
33 rd – 48 th	160	33 rd – 48 th	110	33 rd – 48 th	58	33 rd – 48 th	42
49 th – 64 th	156	49 th – 64 th	106	49 th – 64 th	56	49 th – 64 th	40

NATIONAL Tournaments (3 Total):

- There will be 3 National Tournaments during the season. These events will be spread out in different parts of the country. The current *anticipated* distribution is 1 West, 1 Midwest, 1 East.
- National event payouts will be **GUARANTEED** payouts with **live broadcasts**
- Entry fees will be \$60 for the Advanced Division and \$40 for the Social Division (Members get a \$10 Discount). Entry includes Singles and Blind Draw.
- All Players that pre-register are guaranteed to play Singles and a Blind Draw Event for points and cash. If more than 64 Players Register for the Advanced Division, Qualifiers will take place to split players into Advanced and Competitive Brackets for points and cash. Advanced BYOP Doubles will be an independent registration.
- The 3-Day National events will include:
 1. Advanced Level: Singles, Blind Draw, BYOP
 2. Social Level: Singles and Blind Draw Doubles
 3. Seniors, Women and Junior Singles
 4. Crew Cup, 8 Bag Challenge, Sit N Go Blind Draws
- ACL Standings will take the **Top 1 National Singles** score to apply to Singles Rankings and **Top 1 National Singles + Top 1 National Doubles (BYOP or Blind Draw)** score for Overall Points Rankings.

Here is the points table for National Tournaments:

ACL National Points Table							
Advanced		Competitive		Social		Backyard	
1 st	400	1 st	300	1 st	140	1 st	110
2 nd	392	2 nd	292	2 nd	138	2 nd	108
3 rd	384	3 rd	284	3 rd	136	3 rd	106
4 th	376	4 th	276	4 th	134	4 th	104
5 th – 6 th	368	5 th – 6 th	268	5 th – 6 th	132	5 th – 6 th	102
7 th – 8 th	360	7 th – 8 th	260	7 th – 8 th	130	7 th – 8 th	100
9 th – 12 th	352	9 th – 12 th	252	9 th – 12 th	128	9 th – 12 th	98
13 th – 16 th	344	13 th – 16 th	244	13 th – 16 th	126	13 th – 16 th	96
17 th – 24 th	336	17 th – 24 th	236	17 th – 24 th	124	17 th – 24 th	92
25 th – 32 nd	328	25 th – 32 nd	228	25 th – 32 nd	120	25 th – 32 nd	88
33 rd – 48 th	320	33 rd – 48 th	220	33 rd – 48 th	116	33 rd – 48 th	84
49 th – 64 th	312	49 th – 64 th	212	49 th – 64 th	112	49 th – 64 th	80

ACL Standings

- ACL has two separate standings including **Singles Standings** and **Overall Standings**.
 - ACL Standings can be sorted by Overall, Singles, Conference or State
- **Singles Points Standings** is a Combination of:
 - Top 5 Regional Singles Points + Top 2 Conference Singles Points + 1 National Singles Points. Singles Points are used for ACL Conference Standings and Conference Cup.
 - The player who finishes the season with the most singles points will be named the **ACL Player of the Year** and awarded **\$1,000 and a Custom ACL Jersey!**
- **Overall Points Standings** are Based on a Combination of:
 - Top 10 Regional Points (Best 5 Singles Events, Best 5 Doubles Events) + Top 4 Conference Points (Best 2 Singles Events, Best 2 Doubles Events) + Top 2 National Points (Best 1 Singles Event, Best 1 Doubles Event) + Top 10 Local Tournament Points (Any Local Tournament). Overall Points are used for COBS 2018 tournaments.
- Players can also check the Player Detail tab to see how their standings are generated from individual tournaments.
- Ties for seeding will be randomly broken. Ties for Top 16 Conference inclusion will be broken by Finish at Conference Singles Finals (June 2018), then Head to Head Record, then Overall Standings. As a last resort, Top 16 Conference Inclusion will be by random draw.

The Chase to 4,000 Points!

The Overall Points COBS Standings will be the primary focus for 2018. COBS Overall Standings 2018 will be based on: Top 10 Local Tournament Finishes, Top 5 Monthly Regional Singles, Top 5 Monthly Regional Doubles (BYOP or Blind Draw), Top 2 Conference Singles, Top 2 Conference Doubles (BYOP or Blind Draw), Top National Singles, Top National Doubles (BYOP or Blind Draw).

There will be 50 **Bonus Points** Available for those players that attend all three Conference Events and **50 Bonus Points** for those players that attend all three National Events. There are 1,000 Bonus Points for Active ACL Members. Notice that it is the 8 event scores like in 2017, plus the Local Tournaments which now have a fixed points table.

A perfect score for 2018 will be:

- Local Tournaments: $10 \times 30 = 300$
- Regional Tournaments: $10 \times 100 = 1,000$
- Conference Tournaments: $4 \times 200 = 800$
- National Tournaments: $2 \times 400 = 800$
- Membership / Conference Bonus / National Bonus: $= 1,100 (1,000 (M) + 50 (C) + 50 (N))$

MAXIMUM POINTS IN THE CHASE = 4,000



Championships of Bags (COBS 2018)



The **Championships of Bags (COBS 2018)** is a multi-day event that will be held in July 2018 (location TBD, minimum 5 day event). As with 2017, it is anticipated that the total prize pool for all events will **EXCEED \$50,000!** Live broadcasts will also be held for many of the events.

COBS 2018 Guaranteed Prize Pool Events Include

- **\$20,000 Advanced Singles (ACL Singles Championship)**
- **\$20,000 Conference Cup**
- **\$10,000 Blind Draw**

Other Events May Include (more guaranteed prize pools are likely to be added before the event):

- Advanced BYOP Doubles (Bring Your Own Partner - ACL Doubles Championship)
- Crew Cup
- Elite Blind Draw
- Women's Singles
- Women's Blind Draw
- Mixed Doubles
- Senior Singles
- Senior Doubles
- Senior Blind Draw
- 70+ Senior Singles
- Junior Singles
- Junior Doubles
- Competitive Singles
- Competitive Doubles
- Social Singles
- Social Doubles
- Several Big Blind Draws

Seeding for all of these tournaments, if applicable, will be based on Overall Rankings. The Conference Cup Teams will not be seeded. Individual qualifiers for Conference Cup are based on Conference Rankings (Based on Singles Points)

Qualifying for the \$20,000 Advanced Singles and \$10,000 Blind Draw Events at COBS 2018

The easiest way to qualify for these two events at COBS 2018 is to **finish in the top 160 of the Overall points standings**. Players who finish in the top 160 will have first shot at purchasing an entry into Round 2 of the \$20,000 Advanced Singles and \$10,000 Blind Draw events (Round 2 has a maximum of 256 players in both the \$20K Singles and \$10K Blind Draw events).

Price varies depending on where you finish based on the following chart:

Finish	Cost
1 st – 10 th	Free
11 th – 25 th	\$25
26 th – 50 th	\$50
51 st – 75 th	\$75
76 th – 160 th	\$100

- 64 spots in Round 2 Singles/Blind Draw will be available to players playing in Round 1. Round 1 is Open to **ANY** ACL Member. There will only be one Round 1 double elimination qualifying event. If you advance to Round 2 you advance for **BOTH** the \$20K Singles and \$10K Blind Draw. If you do not advance into Round 2, you may play in Competitive and Social Events.
- Cost of Round 1 play is \$100 for an ACL Member who has participated in at least 12 ACL Points Events throughout the 2017-2018 Season. If an ACL Member has not played in 12 ACL points events then the cost is \$100 + \$20 for every points event under 12 that the player has played in (see examples below)
- 16 spots in Round 2 are held for Sponsor Exemptions
- 16 spots in Round 2 are held for Junior Exemptions

*ACL Points Events Include Any of the Following:

1. ACL Monthly Regional Singles
2. ACL Monthly Regional “Doubles” (BYOP or Blind Draw, 1 max per month counts)
3. ACL Conference Singles
4. ACL Conference “Doubles” (BYOP or Blind Draw, 1 max per conference event counts)
5. **ACL National Singles
6. **ACL National “Doubles” (BYOP or Blind Draw, 1 max per national event counts)

Note that ACL National Events Count **DOUBLE!

Example: Player A participates in 4 Monthly Regional events and plays singles, BYOP doubles and blind draw. This counts as 8 events (4 singles and 4 “doubles” events per Monthly Regional). Player B must pay \$100 + (\$20 x 4) or \$180 in order to play in Round 1 singles/blind draw at COBS 2018.

Example: Player B participates in 3 Monthly Regional events and plays singles and blind draw. Player C also plays in 1 Conference event (singles and blind draw) and 1 National event (singles and blind draw). In this case that would be 6 Regional events, 2 Conference Events and 4 National Events (Nationals count double) for a total of 12 ACL Events and Player C would be eligible for Round 1 singles/blind at the \$100 price.

Qualifying for the \$20,000 Conference Cup Event at COBS 2018

New to COBS 2018 will be the \$20,000 Conference Cup Event. This event is **ONLY** open to players (21+) who finish in the top 16 of their Conference Standings based on ACL **Singles** Points.

For those that qualify for this event it will be **FREE** and each player given a Conference Jersey to wear during this event at COBS 2018!

ACL Elite

Players earn ACL Elite Status by finishing in the top 64 of the Overall ACL Standings OR finishing in the top 64 of Advanced Singles at COBS 2018.

Special Elite Jerseys will be available for Elite Players. Players may elect to pay for them and put their sponsor logo on them. The ACL may have sponsor options for Jerseys as well to make them Free.

PLAYERS AND GUESTS THAT PARTICIPATE IN ACL EVENTS MUST COMPLY WITH THE ACL CODE OF CONDUCT AND CODE OF ETHICS. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE FORFEITURE OF PRIZE MONEY, REVOCATION OF MEMBERSHIP AND BAN FROM FUTURE PARTICIPATION.

Any questions please [contact us](#)

ACL reserves the right to make changes to the players guide at any time.
