




ACL Players Guide

2019 – 2020 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 an ACL 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 ACL Monthly Regional, Conference and National events.
- **Pro:** Players who have achieved the highest skill level in the sport and have accepted the terms laid out by the ACL to become an ACL Pro. 
- **Local Director:** Can set-up and run local points earning tournaments.
- **Regional Director** – Appointed by the ACL from the Local Director Pool. These Directors are given the exclusive right to run Monthly Regional Events within a set geographic radius.
- **Conference Director** – Appointed by the ACL from the Regional Director Pool. These Directors are in charge of scheduling conference events by working with other Regional Directors within their conference.

For more Director Information - [Contact Us](#)

*Note that players MUST purchase their ACL membership on or before 12/31/2019 in order to receive the 1,000 bonus points. Anyone purchasing a membership after 12/31/2019 will not get the 1,000 bonus points, but will have their membership extended through 8/31/2021.

ACL Divisions / Skill Levels

ACL Divisions are intended to group players of similar skill levels together for competitive and social play. It is important that players read, review and establish their Skill Level. This enables Guests and Players to know where they stand and compete against players of their similar skill level. Conference Directors may override a Skill Level if they feel a player is sandbagging. The current ACL Skill Rating Levels are:

- **ACL Pro** 
 - ACL Pro means that you have achieved the highest skill level in the sport and have accepted the terms laid out by the ACL to become an ACL Pro.
 - ACL Pro players must play in the Pro division at Nationals and the Advanced division at Regional and Conference events. (Dekaround Range: 91 – 120)
- **Advanced**
 - Anyone can play in the Advanced Division knowing that this is where the best of the best will compete at the Regional and Conference level (*note at the National Level Pro's will no longer participate in the Advanced Division). This division offers maximum points towards player rankings. There can certainly be top level players in the Advanced Skill Level who have not yet earned/accepted the ACL Pro Player Title.
 - 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)
- **Competitive**
 - The Competitive Division is intended for players who are good, but not quite ready for the Advanced level. For areas that have a lot of depth at the top end of players, it makes sense for a Director to offer Advanced and Competitive Divisions for Local, Regional and Conference tournaments.
 - 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 round can struggle. Player is at a high Competitive level and should work towards getting better by challenging Advanced level players. (Dekaround Range: 71 – 90)
- **Intermediate** (formerly Social)
 - The Intermediate Division is for players that enjoy playing casually but are competitive enough to beat the Novice level players. Players can enjoy the sport and events without having to play the top players.
 - This player has a feel for the distance needed to toss the bag, but can be erratic in getting the bag to consistently be in the middle of the board. This level of player is working on developing a consistent pitch. (Dekaround Range: 51 – 70)
- **Novice** (formerly Tailgate)
 - The Tailgating Division is intended for beginners and large events that have a lot of Intermediate players.
 - This player has limited experience with the game and usually has very little control over where the bag is going. (Dekaround Range: 0 – 50 points)

ACL Pro

To become an ACL Pro means that you have achieved the highest skill level in the sport and are able to compete in guaranteed prize pool broadcast events. ACL Pros earn money by competing in ACL events and obtaining sponsors.

How to Qualify to be an ACL Pro for 2020-2021




There are four ways to qualify to become an ACL Pro:

1. ACL Pro's for the 2019-2020 season who finish in the top 192 of the ACL Pro Singles standings will *automatically be eligible to be an ACL Pro in 2020-2021.
*These players must also participate in at least 10 Regional or Conference events AND 6 ACL Pro National Events during the 2019-2020 season. Playing in singles and doubles at an event counts as 2.
2. ACL Pro's for the 2019-2020 season who do NOT finish in the top 192 of the ACL Pro Singles standings will have a chance to play to be an ACL Pro at the 2020 ACL Championship event assuming they have participated in the 10 Regional/Conference events and 6 ACL Pro National Events.
3. The top 32 players at the end of the season in the Advanced Standings will automatically be eligible to be an ACL Pro in 2020-2021.
4. The top players at the end of the season in the Advanced Standings who did not finish in the top 32 will also have an opportunity to play for ACL Pro status at the 2020 ACL Championship event. The exact number will be determined at a later date once we know how many Pro's we have for the 2019-2020 season.

There MAY be some spots remaining where players can apply for ACL Pro status directly to the ACL. To get more information on the ACL Pro opportunity, contact info@iplaycornhole.com

Player Types

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

- **Juniors** – 17 and under as of August 31st, 2020 
- **College** – Undergraduate College Students (Full Time or Part Time)
- **Adult** – 18 and over as of August 31st, 2020 (who are not College Eligible)
- **Senior** – 55 and over as of August 31st, 2020

ACL Events

ACL Events are created based on the following:

- **Area** – Local, Regional, Conference, National
- **Division** – Pro, Advanced, Competitive, Intermediate, Novice
- **Special** – Pro Invitational and other special events
- **Charity** - Charity events integrated with the ACL

Directors may set up events specific to other criteria like Gender, Skill 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.

Bring Your Own Bags (BYOB)[™] - 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 this 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. <https://mysqlvm.blob.core.windows.net/acl-docs/ACL-Bag-Policy-2019-2020.pdf>

ACL Tournaments

***Important!** A player must PAY AND PLAY IN AT LEAST ONE GAME in the tournament in order to earn ACL points. This is true for all levels (Local, Regional, Conference, National).

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?!? Points are awarded based on where a player/team finishes in the tournament.
- ACL Points Standings will take a player's **Top 10 Local Tournament Finishes** and use them towards their Overall Points Rankings.

ACL Local Points Table			
Advanced		Intermediate	
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 (10 max per region):

- A Regional Director may run one Monthly Regional Points Tournament for each Division (Advanced, Competitive, Intermediate, Novice) and by Tournament Type (Singles, BYOP, Blind Draw) per month.
- Each Regional Director must offer a minimum of two Divisions (Advanced and Intermediate) and include two tournaments for each (one singles and one blind draw or bring your own partner doubles).
- The maximum number of Monthly Regional events a Regional Director can run is 10 (September 2019 – June 2020). The last day to run a June 2020 Monthly Regional will be Tuesday June 30th!
- 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 only count for local points.
- **All directors MUST offer a \$5 discount for ACL Members at Regional and Conference events.** Entry fees will typically range from \$10 to \$20 per tournament.
- Payouts are guaranteed to be a **minimum** of 50% of the entry fees. Payouts may vary based on Regional Director.
- 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 include your **Top 5 Monthly Regional Singles + Top 5 Monthly Regional Doubles (Blind Draw or BYOP)** scores for Points Rankings.

ACL Monthly Regional Points Table							
Advanced		Competitive		Intermediate		Novice	
1 st	100	1 st	70	1 st	40	1 st	25
2 nd	99	2 nd	69	2 nd	39	2 nd	24
3 rd	98	3 rd	68	3 rd	38	3 rd	23
4 th	97	4 th	67	4 th	37	4 th	22
5 th – 6 th	96	5 th – 6 th	66	5 th – 6 th	36	5 th – 6 th	21
7 th – 8 th	94	7 th – 8 th	64	7 th – 8 th	35	7 th – 8 th	20
9 th – 12 th	92	9 th – 12 th	62	9 th – 12 th	34	9 th – 12 th	19
13 th – 16 th	88	13 th – 16 th	58	13 th – 16 th	33	13 th – 16 th	18
17 th – 24 th	84	17 th – 24 th	54	17 th – 24 th	32	17 th – 24 th	17
25 th – 32 nd	80	25 th – 32 nd	50	25 th – 32 nd	31	25 th – 32 nd	16
33 rd – 48 th	76	33 rd – 48 th	46	33 rd – 48 th	30	33 rd – 48 th	15
49 th – 64 th	72	49 th – 64 th	42	49 th – 64 th	29	49 th – 64 th	14

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 the 2020 ACL Championship event!**


New this year, ACL Conference Standings will now include your **Top 10 Local + Top 5 Monthly Regional Singles + Top 5 Monthly Regional Doubles (Blind Draw or BYOP) + Top 2 Conference Singles + Top 2 Conference Doubles (Blind Draw or BYOP) finishes**. National points are NOT included in your Conference standings.

ACL Conferences are formed at the discretion of the ACL.

- Each conference will hold 3 conference events throughout the 2019/2020 season.
- Conference Events **MUST** be scheduled as follows:
 - **Conference Event #1** to be held sometime between September 2019 and the 1st ACL National in Jan/Feb 2020.
 - **Conference Event #2** to be held after the completion of National #1 and before National #2
 - **Conference Event #3** to be held after the completion of National #2 and before the end of June 2020.
- The 2-Day Conference events MUST include Advanced, Competitive and Intermediate (Singles, BYOP, Blind Draw). Plus Seniors/Juniors/Women's/Crew if time allows.
- Payouts are guaranteed to be a **minimum** of 50% of the entry fees.
- **Players may only play in their assigned Conference events. Players who are located close to conference lines and who would like to compete in a conference other than their assigned conference MUST compete in a majority of their REGIONAL events within the desired conference.**
- **Juniors and College players are allowed to play in Conference events but cannot win prize money.**

ACL Conference Points Table							
Advanced		Competitive		Intermediate		Novice	
1 st	200	1 st	140	1 st	80	1 st	50
2 nd	198	2 nd	138	2 nd	78	2 nd	48
3 rd	196	3 rd	136	3 rd	76	3 rd	46
4 th	194	4 th	134	4 th	74	4 th	44
5 th – 6 th	192	5 th – 6 th	132	5 th – 6 th	72	5 th – 6 th	42
7 th – 8 th	188	7 th – 8 th	128	7 th – 8 th	70	7 th – 8 th	40
9 th – 12 th	184	9 th – 12 th	124	9 th – 12 th	68	9 th – 12 th	38
13 th – 16 th	176	13 th – 16 th	116	13 th – 16 th	66	13 th – 16 th	36
17 th – 24 th	168	17 th – 24 th	108	17 th – 24 th	64	17 th – 24 th	34
25 th – 32 nd	160	25 th – 32 nd	100	25 th – 32 nd	62	25 th – 32 nd	32
33 rd – 48 th	152	33 rd – 48 th	92	33 rd – 48 th	60	33 rd – 48 th	30
49 th – 64 th	144	49 th – 64 th	84	49 th – 64 th	58	49 th – 64 th	28

NATIONAL Tournaments (4 Total):

- Each National will offer **ESPN Broadcasts!**
- There will be 4 National Tournaments during the season. These events will be spread out in different parts of the country. Estimated National dates are late January/early February, late March/early April, May and early July 2020.
- Nationals are likely to be **3-Day** events and include:
 - Pro Level:** Singles, Doubles, Balanced Blind Draw (only ACL Pro's may participate) 
 - Advanced Level:** Singles, Doubles, Blind Draw (no ACL Pro's)
 - Competitive Level:** Singles, Doubles, Blind Draw
 - Intermediate Level:** Singles, Doubles, Blind Draw
 - Crew Cup, Women's, Senior, Junior and College** events
*Note – Women's and Seniors will be seeded by Women's National and Senior National points (starting AFTER the first National)
 - Sit N Go Blind Draws and possibly other special events may be added
- Juniors and College players are allowed to play in National events but cannot win prize money.**
- Divisions with more than 64 players/teams or divisions which are expected to be on the ESPN broadcast will be split into multiple brackets with the winning player/team of each bracket facing off in a single elimination final bracket.
- ACL Standings will include your **Top 1 National Singles + Top 1 National Doubles (BYOP or Blind Draw)** scores for Points Rankings other than Pro's.

National Points Table

ACL National Points Table							
Pro/Advanced		Competitive		Intermediate		Novice	
1 st	400	1 st	280	1 st	160	1 st	100
2 nd	396	2 nd	276	2 nd	156	2 nd	96
3 rd	392	3 rd	272	3 rd	152	3 rd	92
4 th	388	4 th	268	4 th	148	4 th	88
5 th – 6 th	384	5 th – 6 th	264	5 th – 6 th	144	5 th – 6 th	84
7 th – 8 th	376	7 th – 8 th	256	7 th – 8 th	140	7 th – 8 th	80
9 th – 12 th	368	9 th – 12 th	248	9 th – 12 th	136	9 th – 12 th	76
13 th – 16 th	352	13 th – 16 th	232	13 th – 16 th	132	13 th – 16 th	72
17 th – 24 th	336	17 th – 24 th	216	17 th – 24 th	128	17 th – 24 th	68
25 th – 32 nd	320	25 th – 32 nd	200	25 th – 32 nd	124	25 th – 32 nd	64
33 rd – 48 th	304	33 rd – 48 th	184	33 rd – 48 th	120	33 rd – 48 th	60
49 th – 64 th	288	49 th – 64 th	168	49 th – 64 th	116	49 th – 64 th	56


With multiple brackets at ACL National events, bonus points will be earned in all divisions with the Overall Winner earning **10 Bonus Points** and the Overall Runner-Up earning **5 Bonus Points**

ACL Standings

- ACL will have separate standings for each of the following: **Pro Singles**, **Pro Doubles**, **Advanced**, **Competitive** and **Intermediate**. As well as **Conference Standings** for each Conference.

***New this season, players will be ranked by Division**

(Pro/**Advanced**/**Competitive**/**Intermediate**). If a player participates in more than one division they will show-up in each of the divisional standings with the exception of Pro's who will only show-up in Pro Standings and Conference standings.

- **Pro Singles Standings** are kept by player based on a Pro players Top 3 National Pro Singles Points + Pro Singles finish at the ACL Championships.
- **Pro Doubles Standings** are kept **by team** based on the following: 
 - Top 3 National Pro Doubles Points + Pro Doubles finish at the ACL Championships
 - Pro Standings are based on Pro Teams. If an ACL Pro plays with more than 1 ACL Pro player at National events, that player will show up in the Pro Doubles Standings more than once.

- **Advanced Standings** is a Combination of:

- Top 10 Regional Points (Best 5 Advanced Singles Events, Best 5 Advanced Doubles Events) + Top 4 Conference Points (Best 2 Advanced Singles Events, Best 2 Advanced Doubles Events) + Top 2 National Points (Best 1 Advanced Singles Event, Best 1 Advanced Doubles Event) + Top 10 Local Tournament Points.
- Points are used for seeding and to determine Pro eligibility.

- **Competitive Standings** is a Combination of:

- Top 10 Regional Points (Best 5 Competitive Singles Events, Best 5 Competitive Doubles Events) + Top 4 Conference Points (Best 2 Competitive Singles Events, Best 2 Competitive Doubles Events) + Top 2 National Points (Best 1 Singles Competitive Event, Best 1 Competitive Doubles Event) + Top 10 Local Tournament Points.

- **Intermediate Standings** is a Combination of:

- Top 10 Regional Points (Best 5 Intermediate Singles Events, Best 5 Intermediate Doubles Events) + Top 4 Conference Points (Best 2 Intermediate Singles Events, Best 2 Intermediate Doubles Events) + Top 2 National Points (Best 1 Singles Intermediate Event, Best 1 Intermediate Doubles Event) + Top 10 Local Tournament Points.

- **Conference Standings** are Based on Top 10 Local + Top 5 Monthly Regional Singles + Top 5 Monthly Regional Doubles (Blind Draw or BYOP) + Top 2 Conference Singles + Top 2 Conference Doubles (Blind Draw or BYOP) finishes.
- 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 best Conference singles finish, then 2nd best Conference singles finish, then best National singles finish, then 3rd best Conference singles finish, then Overall Standings, then coin toss.

Bonus Points!

There will be **50 Bonus Points** available for those players that attend all three Conference Events (added to your Conference points standings) and **50 Bonus Points** for those players that attend all four National Events (no bonuses for Pro's). There are also **1,000 Bonus Points** for Active ACL Members who purchase their membership on or before 12/31/2019.

The Value of ACL Points

ACL points are important in many ways. Here's just a few reasons why you will want to earn as many ACL Points as you can this year.

ACL Pro Points are used for all of the following



- 1 – As part of the criteria on who gets invited to the **ACL Pro Invitational** as well as other potential ACL Pro only events throughout the season.
- 2 – ACL Pro Standings will have a **Prize Pool** associated with them which includes Pro Doubles and Pro Singles.
- 3 – To determine the **ACL Team of the Year, Man of the Year and Woman of the Year**.
- 4 – To determine which Pro's will receive an automatic invite to be an ACL Pro next year.
- 5 – Seeding in all Pro tournaments.

ACL Conference Points

Conference points will be used to determine the top 16 players in each conference. The top 16 players in each conference will be invited to represent their conference at the **ACL Conference Crew Cup** event at the 2020 ACL Championships. Players will play for **Free** in this event and get a **Free** shirt! This event will have a guaranteed prize pool which will be disclosed by December 31, 2019.

ACL Advanced Points

ACL Advanced Points will be used for:




- 1 – The top 32 players in the Advanced Standings will automatically be eligible to become an ACL Pro for the 2020-2021 season.
- 2 – Another group of Advanced players will have the opportunity to play for a shot at being a 2020-2021 ACL Pro. This qualifying tournament will be held at the 2020 ACL Championship event.
- 3 – Seeding at all ACL Championship and National events. Regional and Conference events MAY also use points for seeding (TBD by each director)

ACL points will be used for seeding at most events, also points may be used for other bonuses, for instance, a sponsor could come in and sponsor the Advanced Points Standings or the Competitive Points Standings. Just like in the 2018-2019 season, more guaranteed prize events could be added during the season! Players with the most points are likely the one's who will be invited to those events.

The 2020 ACL Championships!

The **2020 ACL Championships** is a multi-day event that will be held in August 2020 (location TBD, minimum 5 day event). **OVER \$100,000** will be paid out with live broadcasts being held for many of the events.

2020 ACL Championship Guaranteed Prize Pool Events Include

- ACL Pro Singles Championship 
- ACL Pro Doubles Championship 
- ACL Pro Blind Draw 
- ACL Conference Crew Cup



Other Prize Money Events Will Most Likely Include:

ACL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Advanced Singles
- Advanced Doubles
- Advanced Blind Draw
- Advanced Crew Cup
- Competitive Singles
- Competitive Doubles
- Competitive Blind Draw
- Competitive Crew Cup
- Intermediate Singles
- Intermediate Doubles
- Intermediate Blind Draw
- Intermediate Crew Cup
- Women's Singles
- Women's Doubles
- Mixed Doubles
- Senior Singles
- Senior Doubles
- 70+ Senior Singles
- Junior Singles
- Junior Doubles
- College Singles
- College Doubles
- ACL Director Blind Draw

Seeding for all Championship tournaments (with the exception of Blind Draws and Crew Cup), will be based on ACL Points. Junior prizes are awarded in scholarship money.

Events are subject to change.

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.

