




ACL Players Guide




2020 – 2021 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

- **Bronze:** Someone that plays in an ACL event but has not purchased an ACL Membership. This player will not show-up in the ACL Open Standings.
- **Silver:** This player will show up in the ACL Open Standings, but will not earn the 1,000 bonus points and will not receive tournament entry discounts.
- **Gold:** Players will show up in the standings, *earn a 1,000 point membership bonus and save money when entering ACL Monthly Regional, Conference and Open events.
- **Platinum:** Players will show up in the standings, have access to statistics, *earn a 1,000 point membership bonus save money when entering ACL Monthly Regional, Conference and Open events. They will also receive ACL Store Flash Sale offers, have access to the ACL Digital Network (ACLDN) and get **Early Bird** registration access for Open events and World Championships!
- **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. ACL Pro's are automatically Gold members. 

Player Membership levels	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Yearly Cost	Free	\$5	\$30	\$100
Player Points Appear in Standings				
Minimum \$5 Discount at Regional, Conference, Open and World Championship Events				
1,000 Bonus Points if Signed Up By Jan 31*				
ACL Store Flash Sale Offers				
Access to Personal Stats				
ACLDN (Digital Network) Membership				
Early Bird Access to Open Events and ACL World Championships				

*Note that players MUST purchase their ACL membership on or before 01/31/2021 in order to receive the 1,000 bonus points. Anyone purchasing ANY membership after 01/31/2021 will not get the 1,000 bonus points. **ALL memberships purchased during the 2020-2021 season will expire on 8/31/2021.**

Director Levels


- **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 and some Open events by working with other Regional Directors within their conference.

More information on directors can be found in the Directors Guide created by the ACL. To learn more you can [Contact Us](#)

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 a player to know where they stand and compete against players of similar skill level.

Conference/Regional 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 Advanced division at Regional and Conference events.
- **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. 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. Players who are at a high Competitive level should work towards getting better by challenging Advanced level players. (Dekaround Range: 71 – 90)
- **Intermediate**
 - 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**
 - The Novice 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)

*More information about Dekarounds can be found later in this document.

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 2021-2022



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

1. ACL Pro's for the 2020-2021 season who finish in the Top 100 of the ACL Pro Singles standings or Top 50 of the ACL Pro Doubles standings will automatically be eligible to be an ACL Pro in 2021-2022. This allows 100-200 of the current ACL Pro's to retain their Pro Status.
2. A minimum of the top 24 in the ACL Open Standings who do not qualify as an ACL Pro outlined in #1 above will be allowed to become an ACL Pro for the 2021-2022 season.
3. A minimum of 32 spots will be open to play for at the 2021 ACL World Championship in the "ACL Pro Qualifying" event. All 2020-2021 ACL Pros who did not qualify in #1 or #2 above will be eligible to play in this event along with other players. Exact details on who can play in this event will be released at a future date. The exact number of players who will qualify will be determined once #1 and #2 above are settled. A maximum of 512 players will be allowed in this event.

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, 2021
- **College** – Undergraduate College Students (Full Time or Part Time)
- **Adult** – 18 and over as of August 31st, 2021 (who are not College Eligible)
- **Senior** – 55 and over as of August 31st, 2021

ACL Events

ACL Events are created based on the following:

- **Area** – Local, Regional, Conference, Open, Pro Nationals, Pro Shootout Qualifiers
- **Division** – Pro, Advanced, Competitive, Intermediate, Novice
- **Special** – Pro Shootout 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 Open Standings is supported.

Bring Your Own Bags (BYOB)TM - 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.

[ACL Bags Policy](#)

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, Open).

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 Open Standings will take a player's **Top 10 Local Tournament Finishes** and use them towards their ACL Rankings.

ACL Local Points Table					
Advanced		Competitive		Intermediate	
1 st	30	1 st	20	1 st	10
2 nd	29	2 nd	19	2 nd	9
3 rd	28	3 rd	18	3 rd	8
4 th	27	4 th	17	4 th	7
5 th – 6 th	26	5 th – 6 th	16	5 th – 6 th	6
7 th – 8 th	25	7 th – 8 th	15	7 th – 8 th	6
9 th – 12 th	24	9 th – 12 th	14	9 th – 12 th	5
13 th – 16 th	23	13 th – 16 th	13	13 th – 16 th	5
17 th – 24 th	22	17 th – 24 th	12	17 th – 24 th	4
25 th – 32 nd	21	25 th – 32 nd	11	25 th – 32 nd	3
33 rd – 48 th	20	33 rd – 48 th	10	33 rd – 48 th	2
49 th – 64 th	19	49 th – 64 th	9	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 at least 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 2020 – June 2021). The last day to run a June 2021 Monthly Regional will be Wednesday June 30th, 2021.
- Tournaments may be run on different days. **Example:** 1st Tuesday of every month is Regional Singles. 2nd Tuesday of every month is BYOP doubles. 3rd Tuesday of every month is Blind Draw Doubles, etc...
- In order for a Monthly Regional tournament to be worth Regional 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. “Special” events like women’s or seniors can NOT be worth Regional points. They must be for local points.
- Monthly Regionals MUST be seeded starting no later than November. September and October can be random if the Monthly Regional director chooses to do so.
- **All directors MUST offer a minimum \$5 discount for Gold and Platinum ACL Members at Regional, Conference and Open events.**
- Payouts will vary based on Regional Director.
- Players may play in more than one Monthly Regional Event in a Month, but only the top score for singles and top score for doubles/blind draw will count as their Monthly Regional Score for that month.
- ACL Open 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 and STATE CHAMPIONSHIP Tournaments:

New this year will be a State Championship event for each state. In past years there were 3 Conference events per Conference. In 2020-2021 there will be two Conference events per Conference AND one State Championship per State. The State Championship events will now count for Conference points.

The Top 16 players in each conference will represent their Conference and compete for the ACL Conference Cup at the 2021 ACL World Championship event!

ACL Open Standings will include **Top 2 Conference/State Singles + Top 2 Conference/State Doubles (Blind Draw or BYOP) finishes.**

ACL Conferences are formed at the discretion of the ACL.

- Each Conference will hold 2 Conference Events and 1 State Championship per State throughout the 2020/2021 season. It is HIGHLY recommended that the 2 conference events be held in different locations. Most conferences cover multiple states or have large states, these events should be spread out if at all possible.
- Conference/State Event dates MUST be approved by the ACL National Directors. We do not want Conference Events to be run the same weekend as ACL Open Events in the same geographical area.
- The 2 or 3 Day Conference/State events MUST include Advanced, Competitive and Intermediate (Singles, BYOP, Blind Draw). Plus Novice and Seniors/Juniors/Women's/Crew if time allows.
- Entry fees and payout percentages will be the same for all Conference/State events.
- Conference Events MUST be seeded
- **Players may only play in their assigned Conference events and the State Championships of the State they live in. 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

Open Tournaments (8 minimum):

- Each player may play in as many Open tournaments as they wish.
- There will be a MINIMUM of 8 ACL Open Tournaments during the season. For the 2020-2021 Season the following Conferences are guaranteed to host an ACL Open event (based on 2019-2020 ACL Memberships sold).
 - Atlantic Conference
 - Great Lakes Conference
 - Mid-East Conference
 - Mid-West Conference
 - North-East Conference
 - South-East Conference
 - South-West Conference
 - West Conference
- Open tournaments are a minimum 2-Day event and include Open Doubles and Open Singles. Any additional tournaments held at Open events will count for local points.
- At these events all players pay the same entry fee and are put into one group for doubles and one group for singles. Each player will play a minimum of 6 games using the ACL Rounders format. After ACL Rounders is over all players are split into 3 or 4 levels for singles and each player results are combined with their partners results to form 3 or 4 levels of doubles. Each level then competes in a double elimination doubles bracket and a single elimination singles bracket. Level 1 is the top level and will earn the most points and earn the most prize money. All players will play no less than 9 games!
- Payouts are expected to be 60% of the entry fees.
- Event MAY also include a Pro Shootout Qualifying event
- **Juniors and College players are allowed to play in Open events but cannot win prize money.**
- ACL Open Standings will include your **Top Open Singles + Top Open Doubles (BYOP or Blind Draw)** scores.

Open Points Table

ACL Open Points Table							
Level 1		Level 2		Level 3		Level 4	
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

ACL Virtual and Ghost Tournaments

The American Cornhole League has developed events that you can play at home! ACL Virtual and Ghost tournaments allow you to play against other players from all over the world! For steps on how to play ACL Virtual go to <https://www.iplayacl.com/aclvirtual>. The events are counted in the standings as “Local” tournaments which will also help your ACL ranking.




Dekarounds

Dekarounds are one way of determining what skill level a player may be. A dekaround involves a player throwing by him or herself a total of 10 rounds (40 bags) and totaling their score. A player can throw by themselves by starting on one side of the board, throwing 4 bags and counting their score for round 1. They then walk down to the other board (staying on the same side) and throwing 4 more bags and counting their score. After 10 rounds (40 bags total) you see what your total score is. As seen in the [ACL Divisions / Skill Levels](#) section above an average of 91 or above puts you in the Advanced Skill level. 71-90 is Competitive, 51-70 is Intermediate and 50 and below is Novice.

To make it even easier the ACL has a way to track your score for a dekaround. To do so you can follow these steps:

1. Go to <https://www.iplaycornhole.com/> and click on Login in the upper right hand corner.
2. On the next screen login to your ACL account. If you do not have an ACL account you can click on “Join ACL” and create a new ACL account (it’s free!)
3. Once logged in click on “Dekaround”
4. Then click on “Start Dekaround Tracker”
5. Now you are ready to play! After you throw your first round you enter how many bags you made in the hole and how many were on the board, then click the right arrow to move to the next round. After you’ve played 10 rounds you can click on “Save Game” and your game will save. You can then look at your average Dekaround score and history of your Dekaround in the ACL system!

ACL Standings

- ACL will have separate standings for each of the following: **Pro Singles**, **Pro Doubles**, **ACL Open Standings** and **ACL Virtual**. ACL Open Standings are also split out to form **Conference Standings** for each Conference, **State Standings** for each State, **Women's Standings** and **Senior Standings**.
- Details on **Pro Singles** and **Pro Doubles Standings** can be found in the ACL Pro Players Guide. 
- **ACL Open Standings** is a Combination of:
 - Top 10 Local Tournament Points + Top 10 Regional Points (Best 5 Regional Singles Events, Best 5 Regional Doubles Events) + Top 4 Conference Points (Best 2 Conf/State Singles Events, Best 2 Conf/State Doubles Events) + Top 2 Open Points (Best 1 Open Singles Event, Best 1 Open Doubles Event).
 - Points are used for seeding and to determine Pro eligibility.
- **Conference Standings** are simply the ACL Open Standings split out by Conference.
- **State Standings** are simply the ACL Open Standings split out by State.
- **Women's Standings** are simply the ACL Open Standings split out to only include Women.
- **Senior Standings** are simply the ACL Open Standings split out to only include Seniors.
- 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 (does NOT include State tournament for the tiebreaker), then 2nd best Conference singles finish, then best Open singles finish then coin toss.

COVID Adjustments

The ACL recognizes that the 2020-2021 season will almost assuredly be impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic. Thus, the following point adjustments will be made if that is the case.

- For every two months that a state (any state with ACL players) cannot run a regional we will reduce the number of regionals that count towards a player's standings. For instance, if California is shut down and regionals cannot occur in September and October then instead of taking a players 5 best regional finishes (doubles and singles) we will now take a players 4 best regional finishes. This adjustment will be made for ALL players, not just those that live in a state that is shut down.
- For every three months that a state cannot run ACL events we will reduce the number of Conference/State events that count towards a player's standings. Thus, if a state is shut down 3-5 months during the 2020-2021 season, then we will only take a players ONE best Conference/State finish to use towards ACL Open Standings.




Bonus Points!

There are **1,000 Bonus Points** for any player purchasing a Gold or Platinum membership on or before 01/31/2021.

The 2021 ACL Championships!

The **2021 ACL Championships** is a multi-day event that will be held in August 2021 (location TBD, MINIMUM 5 day event).

2021 ACL World Championship Guaranteed Prize Pool Events Include

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



ACL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Other Prize Money Events Will Most Likely Include:

- 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 and Women's Doubles
- Co-Ed Doubles
- Senior Singles, Senior Doubles and 70+ Senior Singles
- ACL Director Blind Draw

Seeding for all Championship tournaments (with the exception of Blind Draws and Crew Cup), will be based on ACL Points

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.

