



The American Cornhole League organizes and develops the sport for all ages and all skill levels. 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.

Purpose

As the sport of Cornhole continues to grow, so does a need to elevate the top players into the role of a professional athlete. The creation of the ACL Pro status and division set the groundwork for players to eventually become full-time professional Cornhole players.

How to Qualify

Below are the ways to qualify to become an ACL Pro for the 2019-2020 season:

1. Finish in the Top 160 of the ACL Overall Standings for the 2018-2019 season. This guarantees you the option to become an ACL Pro for the following season, if desired.
2. Finish in the Top 16 in one of the 14 ACL Conferences for the 2018-2019 season. This guarantees you the option to become an ACL Pro for the following season, if desired.
3. Players will be able to apply for a spot in the ACL Pro Division. These spots will only be available if the Pro Division is not filled by the players outlined in bullets 1 and 2. The ACL reserves the right to deny *all* application requests for the Pro Division. Priority for ACL Pro applications will be given to players with a higher ACL Overall ranking. To apply, email info@iplaycornhole.com
4. ACL Pros are expected to compete in a minimum of 10 points earning events each season at the regional and/or conference level to facilitate the growth of the sport. Singles and doubles at a regional or conference event count as two separate points earning events.

The ACL carries a maximum of 256 Pros for the 2019-2020 season. Contact info@iplaycornhole.com for application requests or additional information.

Benefits

1. The ability to refer to yourself as an ACL Pro in the public marketplace and market yourself to sponsors as an ACL Pro.
2. Participation in the ACL Pro Standings and Prize Pool associated with it.
3. Entry into the ACL Pro Singles, ACL Pro Doubles, and ACL Pro Blind Draws at ACL Nationals and the 2020 ACL Championships.
4. Opportunity to be selected for the ACL Pro Invitational
5. Opportunity to purchase an ACL Pro Officially licensed jersey.
6. Social Media banner design with the ACL Pro logo on it
7. Recognition on the ACL Website in the ACL Pro Section
8. Opportunities to be selected for ACL Special Events and Public Relations opportunities
9. International opportunities with the WCO.
10. Additional opportunity to appear on National ESPN telecasts.

2019-2020 Season Details

- The ACL Pro Division will be the *only* skill level within the ACL that will have a guaranteed prize pool.
- The minimum ACL Pro guaranteed prize pool is **\$250,000**
 - ACL Pro Standings (Singles and Doubles) - \$65,000, includes ACL Man of the Year, ACL Woman of the Year, ACL Team of the Year, ACL Pro Invitational/All-Star Game
 - ACL Pro Singles at ACL Nationals - \$10,000 x 4
 - ACL Pro Doubles at ACL Nationals - \$10,000 x 4
 - ACL Pro Balanced Blind Draws at ACL Nationals - \$10,000 x 4
 - ACL Pro Singles Championship - \$25,000
 - ACL Pro Doubles Championship - \$25,000
 - ACL Pro Championship Blind Draw - \$15,000, \$10,000 dedicated to money-winners throughout the season and \$5,000 for those who have yet to earn money during the season in the pro division.
- Pro Invitational/All-Star game selection process will be announced prior to the first National. The selection process will include performance, professionalism, and fan support.
- **Tentative** National Dates
 - January 31-Feb 2, March 13-15, May 1-3, July 2-5
 - ACL Championships: August 4-9
- ACL Pro Standings in each division will be based on Top 3 Pro National Finishes and the ACL Pro Championships. ACL Conference standings will no longer include ACL National points, they will only include a player's 10 best local, 5 best regional singles, 5 best regional doubles, 2 best conference singles, and 2 best conference doubles events.
- All eligible ACL Pros will be notified via email by July 15th if they are eligible for the ACL Pro Division. Acceptance of the invitation into the division must be submitted no later than August 15th.
- Juniors are eligible to apply for ACL Pro Status. Juniors that become an ACL Pro will forfeit their right to play ACL Juniors and ACL College.

2020-2021 Season Details

Starting with the 2020-2021 ACL season, the selection process for ACL Pros will change. At the conclusion of the 2019-2020 ACL season, the top 192 ranked ACL Pros in ACL Pro Singles standings will automatically be invited into the 2020-2021 ACL Pro Division. Additionally, the top 32 ranked Advanced players will automatically qualify as an ACL Pro. Then, all remaining ACL Pros and the top X Advanced players (determined based on number of ACL Pros from previous season) from the Advanced Division rankings will be invited to the "ACL Pro Gauntlet" event at the 2020 ACL Championships to compete for the remaining 32 spots in the Pro Division. The number of Advanced Division players will be adjusted each season to ensure 128 players are competing in the ACL Pro Gauntlet.

Example #1 – 256 players (which is the maximum) accepted the ACL Pro invitation for 2019-2020. This means that 64 (256 – 192) ACL Pro's will play in the ACL Pro Gauntlet. This leaves 64 spots (128-64 pros) for Advanced players to enter the Gauntlet. These 128 players are playing for 32 Pro spots.

Example #2 – 212 players accepted the ACL Pro invitation for 2019-2020. This means that 20 (212 – 192) ACL Pro's will play in the ACL Pro Gauntlet. This leaves 108 spots (128-20 pros) for Advanced players to

enter the Gauntlet. These 128 players are playing for 32 Pro spots. If there are less than 196 ACL Pro players in a season, then an ACL Pro Gauntlet will not occur and all open spots the following season in the Pro Division will be filled top-down from the Advanced Division.

Cost and Expectations

- ACL Pro Membership is \$1,000 per player, which is highly recommended (but not required) to be paid by a sponsoring business or organization. Payment plan option may be requested. If 256 Pros compete, that ensures a minimum 98% payout throughout the season, with over 100% payout if less than 256 Pros compete. The breakdown of the membership fee is as follows:
 - ACL Pro Singles entry fees at ACL Nationals and Championships: $\$100 \times 5 = \500
 - ACL Pro Doubles entry fees at ACL Nationals and Championships: $\$50 \times 5 = \250
 - ACL Pro Blind Draw entry fees at ACL Nationals and Championships: $\$50 \times 5 = \250
- ACL Pros will sign a contract with the ACL. This will include certain restrictions and expectations. It is not a player representation contract. ACL Pros may obtain their own independent agents or represent themselves in business matters.
- ACL Pros are expected to actively promote the ACL and the sport.
- Officially licensed ACL Pro jerseys may be purchased directly through the ACL, or another officially licensed ACL distributor. Purchasing of these jerseys is not required. In the event of an ACL Pro reaches a nationally televised game and does not have an ACL Pro jersey, they will be provided a generic ACL Pro jersey. Contact Micheal Kean for information on ACL Pro jerseys (michael@iplaycornhole.com). Pros will be allowed a maximum of 5 ACL Pro sponsors on a jersey. Sponsors must be approved by the ACL and are subject to details outlined in the ACL Pro Contract.
- ACL Pros are expected to play in only ACL points events or approved special events, no other nationally organized Cornhole association tournaments are permitted.
- ACL Pros are expected to honor agreements with any sponsors.
- ACL Pros are held to the highest standards found in the ACL Player Code of Conduct.
- ACL Pros will no longer be permitted to participate in Advanced, Competitive, Social, or Tailgate division tournaments at ACL Nationals. ACL Pros may *only* compete in Advanced division tournaments at the local, regional, and conference level in order to qualify for the 2020 ACL Conference Cup.
- ACL Pros are expected to maintain a positive social media presence that facilitates the growth of the game.
- ACL Pros are expected to attend and be seated for of all ESPN and ESPN 2 National Telecasts when attending events.
- ACL Pros should seek additional revenue sources including player appearances, lessons, and endorsements.
- The ACL seeks to have many ACL Pros committed to full-time professional cornhole starting in 2020-2021.

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