

Saint Matthew Parish Picnic Cornhole Rules

Objective

- Be the first team to reach (or exceed) the target score at the end of an inning of play. The target score will be 15 points for the first two rounds and 21 for the semi-final and finals.

Cornhole Board Distance

- The cornhole boards are placed 27 feet apart from front edge to front edge.
- The Students Tournament will have the boards placed 21 feet apart

Cornhole Rules

- Cornhole is played with two teams, each consisting of two players.
- Players pitch their bags in an underhand motion from the pitcher's box next to each side of the board.
- Players alternate turns tossing their cornhole bags toward the opposite board.
- After each team has pitched four bags, players tally the score. This constitutes an inning.
- The next inning then starts with the teammates pitching to the opposite board.
- The team who scored points in the previous inning goes first in the next inning. If it was tied, the team who went first in the last inning gets to go first again.

Cornhole Scoring

- A cornhole bag that goes through the hole is worth 3 points.
- A cornhole bag that lands on the board and stays there is worth 1 point.
- A cornhole bag that lands on the ground or bounces onto the board is worth 0 points. A bag that bounces onto the board should be removed before the next toss.
- Bags hanging partially into the hole count as 1 point unless they completely fall through the hole before scoring is completed.
- **Cancellation Scoring:** Only one team can score points per inning. The team with the higher score cancels out the points of the opposing team in that inning.
- **Points Calculation:** The team with the higher score in an inning earns the difference in points. For instance, if Team A scores 5 points and Team B scores 2 points in an inning, Team A earns 3 points for that inning.

Warmups and Starting

- Each player is allowed a maximum of 4 throws for warm up once assigned to a lane. Teams will play a single round Rock, Paper, Scissors to decide who throws first.

Winning the Game

- The first team to reach or exceed 21 (or 15 for the first two rounds) points at the conclusion of an inning is the winner. Games are only won at the completion of an inning, allowing both teams equal turns each round. There is NO “bust” penalty for exceeding 21 (or 15) points. There is NO “win-by-2” rule in effect. A team can win 21-20, or 23-17, etc....
- Once a game is completed, please immediately report to the cornhole official so the next teams can get underway.

Time Limit

- Once a matchup reaches 20 minutes, players will be alerted they have reached the time limit and the following procedure will be used for the completion of the match once the current inning is completed. Play will continue a maximum of 2 more innings so that each player will get one more turn. If a team reaches 21 (or 15 in the first two rounds) in the first extra inning, the game is over. If the game remains tied after the two additional innings, play continues one inning at a time until one team outscores the other in an inning.

Prizes, Entry Fees, and Registration Details

- The Winners of the Open Play Tournament will receive a \$200 cash prize. Registration for the Open play tournament is \$20 per team. Registration is limited to a maximum of 16 teams.
- The Winners of the Student Tournament will receive a \$100 cash prize. Registration for the Student Tournament is \$10 per team. Registration is limited to a maximum of 16 teams.
- The Student Tournament is limited to players who have graduated high school in 2026 or are younger.
- The open play tournament is for any team with a player above the student tournament threshold. This could include a parent and a student, two adults, or any combination otherwise. A team of two school students can enter the adult tournament if they desire.
- Seeding will be randomly assigned, while factoring in a slightly earlier or later start time (must be requested in advance) to better accommodate open play competitors also working the picnic. Requests must be emailed to ahalfmann@stmatthewtn.org by Wednesday, July 15.

Disputes

- Should any dispute arise, the Cornhole Official has the authority to make a final ruling. Any Protest beyond the Official's ruling may result in the protesting player being placed in the dunk tank. Remember we are having fun at a parish picnic. Good Luck!