PLAYERS ELIGIBILITY and DIVISIONS PLACEMENT

American Deaf Cornhole, INC

2027

American Deaf Cornhole (ADC) welcomes players to participate in social and competitive play for all ages of 14 or older and all skill levels. Becoming a player allows you to compete against people of your similar skill level and always gives you an opportunity to see how you stack up against the best of the best.

NEW REVISION

Player Eligibility:

- **Hearing Status:**
  - A player must be one of the following:
    - Deaf
    - Hard of Hearing
    - Hearing Loss
    - Late-Deafened

Definitions:

- **Deaf:** A person with severe hearing loss or no functional hearing.
- **Hard of Hearing**: A person with a hearing loss that ranges from mild to severe but who can still communicate through spoken language
- **Hearing Loss:** A person cannot hear as well as someone with normal hearing.
- **Late-Deafened:** A person who grew up hearing and then lost all or most of their hearing as an adult.

NOTE: Use a cochlear implant, hearing aid, or any other hearing device for assistance are allowed.

Signing Skills Requirement: Players without signing skills are encouraged to learn basic signing. We will provide resources to help players practice independently before participating in any ADC tournaments.

IMPORTANT NOTE: If a player's eligibility is in question, they must submit verification of their audiogram. The ADC reserves the right to request an audiogram at any time to confirm eligibility.

AGE:

- Age 14 or up are eligible to play in all events including, kick off invitational and nationals tournaments.
- Minor waiver form signed by guardian/parents is mandatory for ages 17 & under.
  - Children of Deaf Adults (CODA)/Siblings of Deaf Adults (SODA) are allowed to play in all events.
    - No more than ONE CODA/SODA per team.
    - Any NON-DEAF ACO/ACL Pro and Advanced is not allowed to participate.
- Hearing spouses are allowed to play in all events.
  - A player who is a hearing that is married to a Deaf or Hard of Hearing player.
    - **Out of courtesy, please sign (use ASL) with full effort throughout the tournaments.**
- **Hearing immediate family members** of a Deaf player are allowed to play all events except for Doubles, Singles and Seniors events
  - The term "immediate family member" means, with respect to a person -
    - the natural or adoptive parent, child, or sibling of the person;

- the stepparent, stepchild, stepbrother, or stepsister of the person

ADC Divisions are intended to group players of similar skill level together for competitive and social play. It is important that players read, review, understand, and establish their skill level. This helps a player to know where they stand and compete against players of similar skill level.

In the Scoreholio app, we will use your overall in your 120 days to determine your PPR, if it is a zero then we will use the all time PPR.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Tournament Operation Coordinators/Director and Rules and Regulations Coordinator reserve the rights to observe and place any player in a division regardless of their POINTS PER ROUND and/or POINTS AVERAGE at any time in the any ADC's sanctioned events such as local, regional, invitational tournaments and National tournament.
- If we find a player that is sandbagging. The players will be removed from ADC sanctioned tournaments.

ADVANCEMENT: Players may be asked to advance to a higher division in the following year if these events occur in the Singles events in the Nationals.

BORDERLINE POINT SYSTEM: The borderline point system may allow a player to be placed in a lower division when their PPR falls within the **±0.05 threshold** of a division cutoff.

- For example, if the Competitive division range is **6.00–7.24** and a player's PPR is **6.03**, the player may be permitted to remain in or move to the **Intermediate** division.

DIVISIONS

- Advanced - The National champion (winner) will remain in the Advanced.
- Competitive - The National champion may move up to Advanced.
    - The second place and third place players will be case by case reviewed.
    - The other players that have an outstanding performance and their PPR show higher than their own division's PPR will move up to higher division (case by case reviewed)
- Intermediate - The National champion (winner) may move up to the Competitive division.
    - The second place and third place players will be case by case reviewed
    - The other players that have an outstanding performance and their PPR show higher than their own division's PPR will move up to higher division (case by case reviewed)
- Social - The National champion (winner) may move up to Intermediate.
    - The second place and third place players will be case by case reviewed.
    - The other players that have an outstanding performance and their PPR show higher than their own division's PPR will move up to higher division (case by case reviewed)
- Women's Social - No advancement required (case by case reviewed).
    - EXCEPT when a player wins three a row at the Nationals will move up to the Social, Intermediate, Competitive, or Advanced division.
    - The other players that have an outstanding performance and their PPR show higher than their own division's PPR will move up to higher division (case by case reviewed)

IMPORTANT NOTE: ADC will oversee and review the players' performance and statistics in any ADC's sanctioned events such as local, regional, invitational tournaments and any deaf sanctioned cornhole tournaments such as WSAD Mustangs, Florida Deaf Sunshine Cornhole, and others.

DEMOTION: If any player wishes to move down to a lower division, they need to contact the Director of Tournament Operation to allow them to move down to a lower division in the same or following year if they meet any of two criteria below then it will be reviewed by the Tournament Operations committee.

1. Their point per round average falls into the lower division accordingly in the same year
2. .250 avg (ex. 2 wins/8 losses) of their records in past two years in the Singles events at the Nationals.
3. Placed in last 7-10 in the standings at ADC Local and Invitationals in the same year.
4. Placed in last 7-10 in the standings at any deaf sanctioned cornhole events (at least three events).

IMPORTANT NOTE: If needed, the Nationals committee will contact the local tournament directors for their consultation and to affirm the reasons to move players to the lower divisions.

- <u>DIVISIONS/EVENTS/SKILLS LEVEL:</u>
  - **ADVANCED DIVISION:**
    - Anyone can play in the Advanced Division knowing that this is where the best of the best will compete at ADC's Invitational and National events.
    - Players fully understand game strategy and most likely play and practice on a regular basis.
    - Players can execute sliding the bag and airmailing the bag as needed.
    - Point Per Round Range: 7.25 and up
    - (A player's average points per round during game play).
    - Dekaround Range (10 rounds): 70 and up
      - (A player's average points per round of 10 rounds dekaround/tournament).
  - **COMPETITIVE DIVISION:**
    - This division is for players who are good, but are good enough to beat the intermediate level players.
    - Players can enjoy competing in the events without including the Advanced players.
    - This player understands the game strategy, but may struggle with consistency and in a subsequent round or game.
    - Point Per Round Range: 6.00 - 7.24
    - (A player's average points per round during game play).
    - Dekaround Range (10 rounds): 50 - 69.99
      - (A player's total average points per round of 10 rounds dekaround/tournament).
  - **INTERMEDIATE DIVISION**
    - Players who have some experiences and enjoy playing casually.
    - 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.
    - Point Per Round Range: 4.75 - 5.99

        - (A player's average points per round during game play).
        - Dekaround Range (10 rounds): 35 - 49.99
            - (A player's total average points per round of 10 rounds dekaround/tournament).
    - **SOCIAL DIVISION**
        - This division is for the players that enjoy playing cornhole.
        - Players who have limited experience with the game and usually have very little control over where the bags are going.
        - Point Per Round Range: 0 - 4.74
        - (A player's average points per round during game play).
        - Dekaround Range (10 rounds): 0 - 34.99
            - (A player's total average points per round of 10 rounds dekaround/tournament).
    - **WOMEN'S SOCIAL DIVISION:**
        - This division is for the players that enjoy playing cornhole.
        - Any women who play in the Intermediate, Competitive or Advanced are not allowed to play in this division.
            - If any women play in the Social division, they can request to demote to this division (women's social division) as long as they meet the criteria >>> read DEMOTION above)
            - **NOTE**: If the number of women's registration is THREE (3) or less, they will be moved/joined in the Social.
                a. Tournament Operation Coordinators will ask them to see if they want to join another division (Social) or refund.
        - This player has limited experience with the game and usually has very little control over where the bag is going.
            - Point Per Round Range: 0 - 4.49
                a. (A player's average points per round during game play)
            - Dekaround Range (10 rounds) : 0 - 34.99
                a. (A player's total average points per round of 10 rounds dekaround/tournament)..
            - **NOTE FOR WOMEN ONLY:**
                - Women players CAN NOT participate in two divisions such as Intermediate and Women's Social divisions. They must choose one. (UNLESS the intermediate and women's schedules are at different times).

- Doubles Switcholio:
    - The Doubles Switcholio event is structured to provide equitable and competitive play for all participants. For the 2025–2026 season, the event will consist of two competitive divisions: **Advanced/Competitive** and **Intermediate/Social**. Division assignments are based on each player's POINT PER RATE (PPR).
        - Players with a **6.00 PPR or higher** will be placed in the **Advanced/Competitive Division**.

        - Players with a **5.99 PPR or lower** will be placed in the **Intermediate/Social Division**.
        - **Note:** The borderline point system utilizing **0.05 (+/–)** does **not** apply to this event.
    - **Round Robin Play:** both divisions will begin with a **four-game round robin**.
        - The number of rounds within each game will be finalized as the event approaches the National Tournament and may be adjusted based on time, participation levels, and venue capacity.
    - **Bracket format:**
        - **Advanced/Competitive Division**
            - **Tier Assignment:** upon completion of round robin play, players will be ranked by PPR and assigned to tiers according to the following structure:
                - The top **60%** of ranked players will advance to **Tier 1**.
                - The remaining **40%** will advance to **Tier 2**.
            - **Pairing Procedures:** Pairings within each tier will be assigned using one of the following standardized pairing methods:
                - **Top-With-First-or-Lower-Half Method:** the highest-seeded player in Group 1 will be paired with the highest-seeded player in Group 2. Subsequent pairings will follow sequential seed order (2nd with 2nd, 3rd with 3rd, etc.).
                - **Top-With-Bottom Method:** the highest-seeded player in Group 1 will be paired with the lowest-seeded player in Group 2. Pairings will continue inward until all players are matched.
        - **Intermediate/Social Division**
            - **Tier Assignment:** following round robin play, tier assignments will mirror the Advanced Division:
                - The top **60%** of ranked players will advance to **Tier 3**.
                - The remaining **40%** will advance to **Tier 4**.
            - **Pairing Procedures:** pairing methods for this division are identical to those used in the Advanced/Competitive Division:
                - **Top-With-First-or-Lower-Half Method:** pairs the highest-seeded player in Group 1 with the highest-seeded player in Group 2, followed sequentially by remaining seeds.
            - **Top-With-Bottom Method: p**airs the highest-seeded player in Group 1 with the lowest-seeded player in Group 2. Pairings continue inward until all players are assigned.
    - **Additional Regulations**
        - All players are expected to report to assigned courts promptly and adhere to event timelines.
        - Tie-breaking procedures, if necessary, will follow the standard ADC competitive regulations.
        - The Tournament Director reserves the right to adjust grouping, tiering, and pairing procedures in response to unforeseen circumstances, participation levels, or venue limitations.

- **SENIORS SINGLES EVENTS:**
  - Seniors - age 55 or above
    - Except only If you are turning 55 in the same calendar year (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) as Nationals, we will grant you to participate
      - For example, If Nationals is hosted in September and you are 54 and will turn 55 on November 20th, you may participate in the Seniors tournament.
      - Women with age of 50+ are welcome to participate. (NEW)
  - Women's Seniors Division - age 50 or above
    - Except only If you are turning 50 in the same calendar year (1/1/2024-12/31/2024) as Nationals, we will grant you to participate.
      - For example, If Nationals host in September, and you are 49 and will turn 50 on November 20th, you may participate in the Seniors tournament.
  - **NOTE**: If the number of women's registration is THREE (3) or less, they will be moved/joined in the Seniors (55+, men/50+, women).
    - Tournament Operation Coordinators will ask them to see if they want to join another division (Seniors) or refund.
    - If we have FOUR (4) or more women, the women's division will occur.
      - Therefore, this rule applies: If you won two championships in a row or ended up in the top 2 in a three-years span, you will be required to move up to Seniors' 55+ Division.

- **MIXED DOUBLES EVENT:**
  - One male and one female
    - Bring your own partner.
  - Open to all skills/divisions.
  - Formats will be round robin and double-elimination. We will offer at least two (2) tiers/brackets.

- **SWITCHOLIO EVENT:**
  - Switcholio is a blind draw round robin in which players get a new partner for every game for # of round robins games and get ranked on an individual basis. The organizer can use that leaderboard to recognize and reward top finishers, or seed them into a single or double-elimination playoff.
  - Open to all skills/divisions.

- **LUCK OF THE DRAW DOUBLES EVENT:**
  - The tournament operation coordinators will use Scoreholio format in order to pair up the partners based on the divisions.
    - Advanced will be placed in the Column A;
    - Competitive will be placed in the Column B;
    - Intermediate, Social and/or Women's Social will be placed in the Column C
    - Check the scoreholio's how to pair up the partner: https://docs.scoreholio.com/tournament/team-generation/blind-draw-1
      - **Separating Skill into A/B/C Categories**: you can have partnerships randomly

generated from one large pool of all players, or assign players to skill-based pools (A/B, or A/B/C) to add parity to the mix. If you do this, the system will first pair all A players with C players. If there are more A's than C's, the system will start pairing remaining A's with B's. When all A's have been paired up, the system will start pairing B's with C's and finally pairing all the B's together. In this situation, Scoreholio's RNG code generates one random number from the higher pool, then a second random number from the lower pool, and pairs up those players.

        - **NOTE:** It depends on the numbers of participants, we will do our best judgements with the placements for the divisions.

- **CREW CUP EVENT:**
    - Crew Cup teams consist of four (4) players
        - Teams will be formed by drawing (Luck of the Draw or Snake Format)
        - The sequence will be divided into 5 divisions - Advanced, Competitive, Intermediate, Social, and Women's Social.
    - Crew Cup teams will be determined based on the numbers of participants signing up.

ALL TOURNAMENTS FORMAT WILL BE FINALIZED in one week prior to Nationals event.

- In any unexpected circumstances, ADC has the right to change the players' and fans' guidelines and tournament formats.

Last revision: November 24, 2025