

OFFICIAL SEASON 3

PLAYER GUIDE



About the TCA

The TA&Rs Cornhole Association (TCA) is recognized as one of the Governing Bodies for the Sport of Cornhole, since 2023. TCA offers local and national tournaments, competitive cornhole rules and regulations, and a place for everyone to compete. *At the TCA, together we win.*

The TCA Proudly Offers

- **TCA Local Tournaments**, players who own a playTCA membership are welcome to participate in TCA Local Tournaments. Local Tournaments are events hosted by TCA Directors and Certified Officials. Competing in regionally-based Locals earns points towards the players / teams TCA Worlds standings. Local Tournaments come in four different tiers and players are sorted by skill level. TCA World Standings points differ depending on which tier a player competes in.
- **TCA Major Tournaments**, players can participate in TCA Majors where they face off against players across the country and the world. TCA Majors are coordinated by the TCA Corporate team and new events are being added all the time. Majors are also split by tiers, and the tiers offered at Majors will be determined by the registration count.
- **TCA World Championships**, players who complete throughout the TCA Season earn points in an effort to qualify for the TCA World Championships of Cornhole, held at the conclusion of each season – typically the second week of July.
- **TCA Invitational Tournaments**, players can be invited to TCA Invitational Tournaments by achieving certain statuses throughout the season. TCA Invitationals are coordinated by TCA Corporate. Tier play is not offered at TCA Invitational Tournaments. TCA Invitationals offered in a season may include TCA Elite Shootouts, TCA ProAm Challenges, TCA Skins Events, Kickoff Challenges, and other various tournaments as created by the TCA Corporate team. Not all TCA Invitational Tournaments are point-earning.



TCA Memberships & the TCA Season

The TCA believes that everyone should be able to compete at the highest level of Cornhole, which is why all TCA Members can participate with a FREE Membership! Any playTCA Membership offered is valid for the entirety of the TCA Season in which it's purchased. **The TCA Season runs from September 1st through the first Sunday in June, with the TCA World Championships of Cornhole being held during the first full week of July.** There are two available memberships to players looking to participate in TCA sanctioned events:

playTCA Social Membership <i>FREE</i>	playTCA Worlds Membership <i>\$40.00</i>
Eligible to compete in all TCA Local and Major tournaments, and are eligible to receive prizes (including cash and trophies) but NOT eligible to receive TCA Major Championship jerseys.	Eligible to compete in all TCA Local and Major tournaments, and are eligible to receive prizes (including cash, trophies, and TCA Major Championship jerseys).
Eligible to participate in the TCA World Championships of Cornhole, but not eligible to earn prizes.	Eligible to participate in the TCA World Championships of Cornhole and eligible to earn prizes.
Not eligible to achieve TCA PRO Status.	Eligible to achieve TCA PRO Status.
Not eligible to earn Player or Team of the Season.	Eligible to earn Player or Team of the Season.

TCA Membership Guidelines

- To participate in TCA-sanctioned events (Locals or Majors), a player is required to have a Scoreholio Player account.
- **NEW for S3!** All playTCA Memberships are processed through Scoreholio Seasons, players must register for their membership prior to playing in their first TCA-sanctioned event.
 - In Scoreholio Seasons, search **TCA Season 3**. Players are then able to select their desired playTCA membership type from under the Memberships tab.
 - Players choosing to upgrade from a playTCA Social membership to a playTCA Worlds membership during the season are able to do so through their Scoreholio account – in Scoreholio Seasons, navigate to the Memberships tab and choose “check for Upgrade options.”
 - Players choosing to upgrade must do so at the **BEGINNING** of an event. If a player upgrades in the middle of a tournament, they may not be eligible for the upgraded benefits (such as a TCA Major Championship jersey).

TCA Divisions

The TCA offers a series of divisions for players to compete. While TCA Directors have the option to run any of these divisions at their TCA Local events, only certain divisions are offered during TCA Majors.

All of the divisions listed below will be offered during the TCA World Championships of Cornhole.

- World Singles – Open to all TCA Members
- World Doubles – Open to all TCA Members
- Women's Singles – Open to all female TCA Members (players are required to have a state recognized license or ID).

- Senior Singles – Open to all TCA Members 55 and older (players are required to have a state recognized license or ID).
 - A player may participate in the Seniors division at 54 years old, as long as they turn 55 years old before **June 1st** of the current season.
- Junior Singles – Open to all TCA Members 17 and younger (players are required to have a state recognized license/ID).
 - A player competing as a Junior in the current season must be 17 or younger as of **September 1st** (the first day of the TCA Season).
 - They may still participate as a Junior after they turn 18, as long as their birthday falls after **September 1st**.
- Mixed Doubles – Open to all TCA Members (teams must consist of one male and one female, recognized by state license or ID).
- Women’s Doubles – Open to all TCA Members (teams must consist of two females, recognized by state license or ID).
- Senior Doubles – Open to all TCA Members (teams must consist of two Senior-division eligible players, recognized by state license or ID).
- Junior Doubles – Open to all TCA Members (teams must consist of two Junior-division eligible players, recognized by state license or ID).
- Open Blind Draw – Open to all players.
- TCA Spin – Open to all players.

TCA Tiers

- TCA Core Events (Locals & Majors) are split into four skill-based tiers: **Open** (which is the highest rated level and is open to all players, including TCA PROs), **Advanced**, **Competitive**, and **Recreational** (which is the lowest rated level).
- Players new to TCA Events begin in the Competitive Tier and their tier status is adjusted based on their Season PPR¹. *A player may play in a tier rated above his or her determined base, but they may not play below.*
- TCA Corporate has the ability to adjust a player’s assigned Tier at their discretion based on competitive balance.
- TCA Pros are required to play in the OPEN Tier regardless of their Season PPR.
- **NEW for S3!** The OPEN Tier is the only tier that awards TCA Major Championship and TCA Worlds Championships jerseys.
- **NEW for S3!** REC, COMP, and ADV Tiers award cash prizes and trophies.
- **NEW for S3!** Any player recognized as a “PRO” in another national cornhole league (ACO, ACL, TCL, etc.) is required to play in the OPEN Tier, regardless of Season PPR.

Tier MINIMUM Requirements based on Player’s TCA Season PPR			
0.00-5.49 REC	5.50-7.74 COMP <i>New Players Begin Here</i>	7.75-8.54 ADV	8.55+ OPEN <i>PROs must play in OPEN</i>

¹A player’s Season PPR (Points per Round) is based on **only TCA Events** (Locals, Majors, Invitationals, etc) for that specific season. Players participating in a TCA event for the first time can begin as low as the COMP tier until they’ve established a TCA PPR baseline.

TCA Standings

As players compete in TCA-sanctioned events, they earn TCA World Standings in divisions they play. TCA Standings are used to seed players in TCA Tournaments, determine TCA PRO Status at the conclusion of the season, and qualify for the TCA World Championships event.

TCA Worlds Qualifying Standings

Standings for all TCA Divisions are made up of the following criteria:

- A player or team's ten (10) best finishes at TCA Local tournaments.
- A player or team's five (5) best finishes at TCA Major tournaments.

To qualify to play in the TCA World Championships of Cornhole, players or teams must accumulate a minimum of 50 points in the division they wish to participate in.

NOTE: The points-minimum requirement applies to the following divisions: World Singles, World Doubles, Women's Singles, Junior Singles, Senior Singles, and Mixed Doubles. Divisions not listed here do NOT need to meet the 50 point minimum.

TCA PRO Status

The TCA offers multiple ways to earn TCA PRO Status, and it is obtainable through various divisions. A player must accomplish one of the following goals to achieve TCA PRO Status:

- **UPDATED for S3! TCA Ranked PRO** Finish Season 3 in the **Top 20** of the TCA World Singles Standings
 - PROs are announced after all TCA points have been entered and calculated (typically by the middle of June).
 - Valid for Season 4 & Season 5.
- **UPDATED for S3! TCA Unranked PRO** Finish in the **Top 3** of the TCA Mixed Doubles division.
 - PROs are announced after all TCA points have been entered and calculated (typically by the middle of June).
 - Valid for Season 4.
- **UPDATED for S3! TCA Unranked PRO** Finish in the **Top 3** of the TCA World Doubles division.
 - PROs are announced after all TCA points have been entered and calculated (typically by the middle of June).
 - Valid for Season 4.
- **TCA Unranked PRO** Finish in the **Top 3** of the TCA Women's Singles division.
 - PROs are announced after all TCA points have been entered and calculated (typically by the middle of June).
 - Valid for Season 4.
- **TCA Unranked PRO** Reach the Final 4 Bracket at the TCA World Championships of Cornhole in Singles.
 - PRO Status takes effect at the conclusion of TCA Worlds.
 - Valid for Season 4.

NOTE: For PROs earning their status by TCA Divisions (World Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Women's), the number of PROs are NOT static. If the #2 World Doubles team already consists of two TCA PRO Players, the TCA PRO Status is NOT extended to the #4 ranked team.

Players who achieve TCA PRO Status earn the following benefits:

- The ability to earn and/or purchase a TCA PRO Jersey.

- TCA Ranked PROs will receive one FREE TCA PRO Jersey at the conclusion of the TCA Regular Season, to be worn at the TCA World Championships of Cornhole.
- The ability to bypass World Singles Pool Play as select TCA Majors (based on registration numbers).
- The ability to compete in coordinated TCA PRO Invitational Tournaments, directed and announced by the TCA Corporate Team.

TCA Player / Team of the Season

The Player or Team who finishes #1 in their division will earn the title of TCA Player or Team of the Season.

Players and Teams will earn the following benefits:

- A Team of the Season or Player of the Season jersey, given out at the TCA World Championships of Cornhole.
- A **FREE** Gold Zone Ticket to TCA Worlds in the Division they earned the POS / TOS.
- The #1 Overall Seed in the Division they've qualified for during the TCA Worlds Championships.
- The ability to bypass Pool Play – if registration numbers allow – for the following season for the division attained.

NOTE: If multiple players or teams finish TIED for the top overall ranking, there will be a TOS / POS Playoff at TCA Worlds to crown the Team or Player of the Season. **All other teams or players who qualify for the POS / TOS Playoff will be seeded at the World Championships in the order of their playoff finish.**

Divisions Eligible for a Player of the Season

The following divisions will produce a **Player of the Season** at the conclusion of each TCA Season:

- World Singles
- Women's Singles
- Junior Singles
- Senior Singles
- Blind Draw

Divisions Eligible for a Team of the Season

The following divisions will produce a **Team of the Season** at the conclusion of each TCA Season:

- World Doubles
- Mixed Doubles

TCA Tournaments & Events

TCA Local Tournaments

TCA Local Events are tournaments that are coordinated by TCA Governors or Directors in their local market at a location and date of their choice in which players compete at a local level for World Standings points and prizes.

- Directors can pick and choose which **Divisions** they would like to coordinate for their TCA Locals based on the demand from players in that market.
- Directors are required to offer the OPEN tier for any division run, but have discretion to offer other tiers based on demand from players in that market.

TCA Local Qualifying Tournaments & Formats

- A player (or team) earns TCA Worlds qualifying points after playing in TCA Local Tournaments. Players can participate in as many Local Events as they wish, but only their **ten (10) best finishes** will count towards their Worlds point total.
- A player (or team) can earn points from any Tier, and Divisions are not sorted or broken down by Tier points. All points for the Top 10 finishes, regardless of Tier, are counted into the player's total point bucket.

- Player A's Top 10 Singles Finishes include 4 finishes in the OPEN Tier, 2 finishes in the ADVANCED Tier, and 4 finishes in the COMPETITIVE Tier. *All of these finishes are grouped into Player A's TCA Locals point bucket.*
- TCA Locals are seeded by Total Points in that Division. For the first TCA Local of the year, players will be seeded randomly.
- Once seeded, Players or Teams are placed into a double-elimination bracket.
- All players are required to have a Scoreholio account. The email address on that account must match the email address associated with their TCA Membership.

TCA Local Minimum Player Requirements

For a tournament to qualify as a TCA points-earning event, a minimum player count must be met. The player count varies by division. All Tiers have the same player minimum.

- All World Singles tournaments require a minimum of three players.
- All Set Teams tournaments (World Doubles, Mixed Doubles, Senior/Women's/Junior Doubles) require a minimum of two teams.
- Women's Singles, Junior Singles, Senior Singles all require two players.
- Blind Draw requires a minimum of four players.
 - Blind Draw requires an even number of players. If registration ends with an odd number, the last player to register may need to drop out.

TCA Local Point Scales

All Local Divisions operate on the same point system. Point Totals vary by Tier level of the Tournament offered.

PLACE	OPEN	ADVANCED	COMPETITIVE	RECREATIONAL
1st	25	20	15	10
2nd	24	19	14	9
3rd	23	18	13	8
4th	22	17	12	7
5th	20	15	10	5
7th	18	13	8	3
9th	16	11	6	3
13th	14	9	4	3
17th	12	7	4	3
25th	10	5	4	3

TCA Major Tournaments & Events

TCA Majors are large tournaments coordinated by the TCA Corporate team. Like Locals, TCA Majors offer four (4) different skill based levels based on a player's TCA Season PPR. TCA Majors will operate on a standard format throughout the Season and will offer the following Divisions (if turn-out allows):

- World Singles
- World Doubles
- Women's Singles
- Senior Singles
- Junior Singles
- Mixed Doubles
- Open Blind Draw
- **NEW for S3!** TCA Spin

TCA Major Qualifying Tournaments & Formats

- A player (or team) earns TCA Worlds qualifying points after playing in a TCA Major. Players or Teams can participate in as many Major Events as they wish, but only their **five (5) best finishes** will count towards their Worlds point total.
- Players (or teams) can earn points from any Tier, and Divisions are not sorted or broken down by Tier points. All points for the Top 5 finishes, regardless of Tier, are counted into the player's total point bucket.
 - Player A's Top 5 Singles Finishes include 3 finishes in the OPEN Tier, 1 finish in the ADVANCED Tier, and 1 finish in the COMPETITIVE Tier. *All of these finishes are grouped into Player A's TCA Major point bucket.*
- TCA Majors are seeded by Total Points in that Division. Once seeded, Players or Teams are placed into a double-elimination bracket.
- **NEW for S3!** Players are required to purchase their TCA Major tickets through Scoreholio to help monitor registration and provide transparency.
 - For DOUBLES events: one player will purchase the team ticket and register a spot, the second teammate will need to join the team after the ticket has been purchased.

TCA Major Championships & Split Brackets

Splitting brackets will be necessary when the number of players / teams reaches a certain threshold. Any Tier level can play through a split bracket.

World Singles & World Doubles

- If a Tier contains 64 or less total Players / Teams, it will remain one bracket.
- 65-128 total Players / Teams will be split into two brackets.
- 129-256 total Players / Teams will be split into four brackets.

Women's, Seniors, Juniors, Mixed Doubles

- 64 or less total Players / Teams will remain in one bracket.
- 65-128 total Players / Teams will be split into two brackets.
- 129-256 total Players / Teams will be split into four brackets.

Blind Draw Doubles

- 128 or less total Players will remain in one bracket.
- 129-256 total Players will be split into two brackets.
- 257-512 total Players will be split into four brackets.

Split Bracket Champions & The Overall Champion

When splitting is necessary, split brackets will play down until there are four total players / teams remaining.

If a division is split into **two brackets**, each split bracket will play down until there are two players / teams remaining; if a division is split into **four brackets**, each split bracket will play down to its champion.

In either of those split brackets, those final four players / teams will be placed into a TCA Final Four bracket seeded by TCA Standings for that division. Records from split-bracket play will **NOT** be carried over to the TCA Final Four bracket.

New for S3!

TCA Signature Throwcase & PRO Series

Certain TCA Majors may be designated as TCA Signature Throwcases, coordinated by the TCA Corporate Team. A Signature Throwcase will include a PRO Series event open to current TCA PROs and will typically offer expanded Divisions compared to the traditional TCA Major schedule. Divisions may include Women’s Doubles, Junior Doubles, Senior Doubles, and TCAdaptive Doubles.

- The Point Scale for ALL DIVISIONS during a Signature Throwcase will follow the standard TCA Major Point Scale.
- The formatting and tournament play of TCA PRO Series events is still under revision and will be communicated to eligible players once TCA Corporate has implemented such events.

TCA Major Point Scales

All Major Divisions operate on the same point system. Point Totals vary by Tier level of the Tournament offered. Players receive points based on their overall finishes. In the instance a Major contains a split bracket, a player’s **overall finish point total** may reflect differently from the **split-bracket finish**.

PLACE	OPEN	ADVANCED	COMPETITIVE	RECREATIONAL
1st	60	50	40	30
2nd	59	42	32	22
3rd	58	41	31	21
4th	57	40	30	20
5th	56	35	25	15
7th	54	33	23	13
9th	52	31	21	11
13th	50	29	19	9
17th	48	27	17	7
25th	46	25	15	5
33rd	44	23	13	3
49th	42	21	11	1

New for S3!

TCA World Championships of Cornhole

At the conclusion of each TCA Season, the TCA hosts the World Championships of Cornhole. The Worlds event is typically held during the second week of July, and requires players to meet certain criteria to be eligible.

To be eligible for SINGLES events at the TCA World Championships of Cornhole (World Singles, Women’s/Junior/Senior Singles, etc.), a player must earn a minimum of 50 points in the division they wish to compete in.

To be eligible for DOUBLES events (World Doubles, Mixed Doubles), a team must earn a minimum of 50 points. Women’s/Junior/Senior Doubles do **not** have a minimum point threshold.

TCA Gold Zone Tickets

Certain statuses earn a player or a team a FREE TCA Gold Zone Ticket to the TCA World Championships of Cornhole.

Those statuses are outlined below:

- Finishing as part of the TCA Elite 8 (Top 8 Ranked PROs in the TCA World Singles division).
- Finishing as the Player of the Season in the Women's Singles, Senior Singles, Junior Singles, or Blind Draw division.
- Finishing as the Team of the Season in the World Doubles or Mixed Doubles division.

TCA Invitational Tournaments

TCA Invitational Tournaments are coordinated by TCA Corporate and can be introduced at any point during the season. Invitational's have multiple formats to help grow engagement across the TCA and introduce new ways to play. Examples of TCA Invitational Tournaments and their formats could be as follows:

TCA ProAm Challenge

In a Blind Draw format, TCA PROs are placed into one group while non-PROs are placed into another. Each PRO is paired with a non-PRO to create a ProAm team. Teams are randomly seeded and placed into a double-elimination bracket. This event may be Round Limited if it's held during a TCA Signature Throwcase event.

TCA Signature Throwcase Shootouts

Some TCA Majors will be coordinated alongside TCA Signature Throwcase Shootout events. TCA Throwcase Shootouts are open to TCA PROs and only offer World Singles and World Doubles divisions. In Throwcase Shootout events, all games are played in a round-limited format and will play until 15-rounds are complete (or a team reaches the 21 point limit, whichever comes sooner). Points earned will follow the TCA Major breakdown in the OPEN Tier.