

New Berlin Recreation Department

Cornhole League Info & Rules – Fall 2025



League Purpose.....

The purpose of the New Berlin Recreation Department Adult Cornhole League is to provide desirable physical activity and to foster ideals of good sportsmanship through wholesome recreation sports competition and participation.

It is the intent of the Recreation Department to retain teams in the sponsored adult sports league program on a fair and equitable basis and to include new teams in an orderly manner. The policies and regulations governing this program and their administration will be the responsibility of the Recreation Department as approved by the New Berlin Recreation Commission.

Rule 1 - GOLDEN Rules.....

1. Any vulgar, abusive, or inappropriate language will NOT BE TOLERATED. This is a public park and everyone needs to be respectful of this fact.
2. Please respect the playing equipment, Recreation Staff, and other teams.
3. Please contact the Recreation Representative in the event of a disagreement.
4. The Recreation Representative's decisions are FINAL.
5. A City Ordinance prohibits alcohol carry-ins at Malone Park without a permit. A concessions stand serving alcoholic beverages and various other beverage/food options will be open during League Play.

Violations: Violations could result in forfeiture of the game or match and even in removal from the league. Any forfeiture or removal from the league due to any violation will not result in a refund of any league fees.

Rule 2 – The Team, Players, & Fees.....

1. Playing teams will be made up of 2 players from a team's roster. 4 members are allowed on a roster in case of scheduling conflicts.
2. All teams must consist of players 18 and older.
3. All teams should have their "Team Fee" paid on or before Friday, September 5th. The \$70 entry fee is non-refundable after September 5th.
 - a. Fees can be paid online or in-person at the Recreation Department.
4. Teams that were registered during the previous season will have the first priority to return to the league.
5. Players are not permitted to play on several teams in the same night.

Rule 3 – League Format.....

1. Matches will be played on Monday evenings at Valley View Park beginning September 8th and will tentatively run for 8 weeks through Monday, October 27th (Two-week Postseason Tournament Oct. 20 & 27).

2. Each team will play a minimum of 2 matches per night. Each match consists of 3 games. ALL 3 games MUST BE completed for each match as we will be tallying game wins and point totals over the course of the full season. Teams must complete and sign-off on the provided Score Sheet prior to returning it to the on-site Recreation Staff.

Rule 4 – Game Play.....

1. Each game is played with 2 people per team. Teams must complete each match with the same players that started the match. In the case of scheduling conflicts, teams may rotate players from their roster between matches if they choose.
2. The boards (provided) will be 27 feet apart (front to front).
3. The object of the game is to score 21 points before the opposing team.
4. The home team listed for each matchup will choose which side of the boards their team wants to begin playing on.
5. The away team (designated on the schedules) will throw first to begin each match.
6. Partners will face each other from OPPOSITE BOARDS.
 - a. Partners should alternate sides of the board between games and should switch ends once per match.
7. Play will start at either board with all 8 bags.
 - a. Each team will play with 4 bags of the same color for the duration of the match.
8. Opponents will alternate throws until all 8 bags have been thrown.
9. After all 8 bags are thrown the round is scored. (*See Scoring*)
10. The highest scoring team will then throw first at the start of the next round.
11. Play is repeated (steps 7-9) to complete the "game".
12. The game will continue in this manner until one team scores or exceeds 21 points at the conclusion of a "round." Once this is done, then a winner will be decided for that game. (*See Scoring*)

Rule 5 – Scoring.....

1. Bag in The Hole – 3 points
2. Bag on the Board – 1 point
3. Bag thrown that comes to rest anywhere but in the hole or on the board, or a bag that hits the floor prior to the board (Bags Out-of-Count) – 0 pts
4. The league utilizes traditional scoring for games. To score a round, add up the total points based on the bag values from above for each team. For example: After a round or 8 bags played; Team #1 has thrown 1 bag into the hole (Bag in-Hole) and three off the board (Bags out), their total then is 3 points. Team #2 has thrown 1 bag on the board (Bag in-Count) and three off the board (Bags out), their total then is 1 point. The score would then be 3-1= 2 points for Team #1's total.
5. All scoring discrepancies need to be taken to the Recreation Specialist immediately. Protests on interpretation of or violation of rules must be made at the time of the incident by notifying the Site Supervisor. Please remember, we are out here to be fun! This is a social Cornhole League with friends.

Rule 6 – Throwing the Bags.....

1. The first side of contestants alternate pitching bags until they have thrown all four bags, then the remaining contestants (pitching from the other bags platform) continue to alternate in the same manner until all four bags are delivered and the round has completed. A contestant may deliver the bag from either the left or right pitchers box (3ft to the left or right of the box, the same length of the box) but, in any one game, all bags must be delivered from the same pitcher's box.
2. A contestant shall pitch the entire game with the same hand or arm, except in the case of a medical emergency. Each individual contestant shall deliver the bag within 20 seconds. The time shall start when the contestant steps onto the pitcher's box with the intention of pitching.
3. The team which scored in the preceding round shall pitch first in the next round. If neither team scores, the teams will pitch the same as they did the previous round. The pitcher must maintain constant contact with the designated pitcher's box during the entire address and release of the bag. The opponent, while not pitching, shall stand behind the platform at least 2 feet to the rear of the contestant who is pitching.

Rule 7 – Foul Bags.....

A foul bag is a bag which was delivered in non-compliance with one of the rules of the game. It scores as a "Bag Out-of-Count" and is to be removed from the board before any more bags are pitched. Bags already on the board that have been knocked into foul territory by a foul bag should be returned to the scoring area. Additionally, bags that are in-count, but are knocked into the hole by a foul bag must be returned to their original scoring position. The following are rule violations that must be spotted and called by a contestant. The penalty is to declare the bag a foul bag, which requires the bags to be removed from the board prior to resuming play.

1. Any bag pitched when the contestant has made contact with or crossed over the foul line before the bag is released.
2. A bag pitched from a different pitchers box than the first bag.
3. Any bag that contacted the floor or the ground before coming to rest on the bags board.
4. Any bag that leaves a contestant's hand once the final forward swing of the delivery process has started shall count as a pitched corn bag. A bag that is accidentally dropped by a contestant before the final forward swing has started shall not be considered foul and may be picked up and pitched. A contestant's bags shall be called foul if the contestant removes any bag before the scoring of that bag has been agreed upon.

Rule 8 – Winning the Game.....

The game shall be played until the first team reaches (or exceeds) 21 points at the completion of a round. The winning team does not need to win by two or more points. The game can never end in the middle of a round. Thus, if a team that pitches first reaches or

exceeds 21 points, the game can not end until the other side is allowed to pitch all their bags, and the round is completed. If the game is tied at 21 or more at the end of a round, play continues until one team achieves a higher score at the end of a round and wins the game.

Rule 9 – Forfeits.....

1. Each match is allotted 35 minutes to play 3 games. A team will forfeit their match if at least two players do not show up within 15 minutes of their scheduled playing time or do not provide 24 hour notice awarding the opposing team the winner. If a team shows up within the allotted 15 minutes, that team will not receive extra time to play. They must complete the match in the remaining 45 minute allocated match time. If all 3 games have not been played within the scheduled timeframe, the team that showed up late will lose the remaining games in the match.
2. A “no-show” is when you do not provide a notice between the hours of 8:00am – 4:30pm that you will not be able to make your match or do not show up for your match at all. This will be recorded as a forfeit.
3. A team that forfeits a match due to failure to provide required numbers of players must pay a forfeit fee to New Berlin Recreation Office before the team’s next scheduled match. Teams who notify the Recreation Specialist 24 hours prior to forfeited game will pay \$15. No showing a game or notice less than 24 hours will result in a \$25 fee. Failure to pay the fee before a team’s next scheduled night of matches will result in forfeiture of said matches. Fees can be paid in-person, via mailed check, or online.
4. Multiple forfeits:
 - a. 2nd Forfeit: Team must pay another forfeit fee.
 - b. 3rd Forfeit: May result in immediate expulsion from the current league and possible disqualification from future leagues.

Rule 10 – Inclement Weather Policies.....

1. The New Berlin Recreation Department Information Line **262-754-1700** is in service to provide weather notices as efficiently as possible. This hotline will be updated for postponements and site changes no later than 4:30 PM on match days when weather conditions are questionable. If inclement weather occurs after 4:30 PM, typically the hotline will not be updated and a decision regarding matches will be made at the playing site.
2. Additionally, the City of New Berlin web site publishes rainout information at: <http://www.newberlin.org/475/Program-Status> and on the Rec. Dept. Facebook page.
3. Heavy rains on the day preceding match day may make it necessary to move matches indoors for that day. Department changes are judgmental and made by 4:30 PM. Individual matches not cancelled or moved by the Recreation Department may be cancelled or moved by the on-site League Attendant.

4. If there are no programming conflicts at the New Berlin Activity and Recreation Center and matches need to be moved indoors due to inclement weather, the league supervisor will alert managers before 4:30pm about this site change. The goal is to play matches indoors at the New Berlin ARC (15321 W. National Ave.) as a first option before having to postpone due to weather.
5. Postponed matches may be rescheduled by the League Coordinator in accordance with available facilities and dates. The Department reserves the right to not reschedule matches that have no bearing on 1st place. There is no guarantee that all matches will be played due to weather constraints.
6. Rainouts may be made up by rescheduling matches and adding them to a regularly scheduled match night or extending the season.
7. No refunds of any fees if your team has not played all of its matches.
8. Should matches be rained out and cannot be moved indoors, managers are responsible to check the website for makeup dates. (See *Schedules & Game Time*)
9. If a game/match has been suspended due to inclement weather, the managers are responsible for noting the current game/match score on the provided Score Sheet so the game/match can be resumed at a later time or date.
10. In the case of inclement weather that causes the Emergency Sirens to be blown in New Berlin, all matches will be automatically stopped immediately. Participants will be requested to seek shelter. The sirens are only utilized for a tornado warning which means that a tornado has been spotted in the Waukesha County area. Tornado watches are not included in the sirens.

Schedules & Game Time.....

1. The full League schedule will be emailed to the Team Managers the week prior to the start of the season and can also be found on the Cornhole Portion of the Recreation Department's website: <https://www.newberlin.org/1114/Cornhole>.
2. Updated schedules due to reschedules or other reasons will be emailed to the Team Managers as soon as they become available. The most up-to-date schedules can always be found on the Cornhole Portion of the Recreation Department's website: <https://www.newberlin.org/1114/Cornhole>.
3. Depending on the amount of registered teams in a given league, match times are scheduled for 6:00pm, 6:50pm, and 7:40pm. If both teams are present and bags/boards are available, we may start 6:50pm and 7:40pm matches earlier than scheduled with approval from both teams. Due to daylight becoming shorter as we progress into the fall, the league will be held in the outfield of Malone Park Field #5 with the use of the lights after sunset.

***Please note New Berlin Recreation reserves the right to extend or shorten the season due to rain outs.*

Awards and Postseason Tournament

At the end of the 6-week regular season, a two-week postseason tournament will be held to decide the league champion. All teams in the league will qualify for the postseason tournament and seeding will be determined based on overall records during the regular season. In the event of a tie in standings the following tiebreaker conditions will apply; 1. Head-to-Head record against the opponent during the regular season, 2. Game Differential during the regular season (difference between total games won and total games lost). The first and second place finishers in the postseason tournament will receive awards (to be decided by the League Coordinator and announced closer to the postseason tournament).