

**VIRGINIA CORNHOLE
ASSOCIATION**

PLAYER'S GUIDE

2026 / 2027 VCA SEASON



YOUR ROAD TO THE FINALE

PLAY LOCAL. PLAY REGIONAL. EARN POINTS. EARN YOUR SPOT.

COMMONWEALTH | DOMINION | CARDINAL
ONE ASSOCIATION. THREE FLIGHTS. ONE COMMONWEALTH.

VCA IN 60 SECONDS

THE SEASON AT A GLANCE

LOCALS - Play unlimited events; only your best 12 Local results count toward your ranking.

REGIONALS - 6 events; your best 5 doubles & 5 singles results count. Each Regional uses 3 Rounders, which determine your Flight for doubles & singles that day only.

FINALE - Paid VCA membership + 6 counting Locals + 3 Regionals to qualify.

SCOREHOLIO - The event must be in the 2026/2027 VCA Inagural Season to count.

SEASON STRUCTURE

ITEM	2026/2027 SEASON
Regular Season	November 1 - April 30
Local Events	At least 26 offered
Counting Locals	Best 12
Regionals	6 total; best 5 doubles & singles count

VCA MEMBERSHIP - 2026/2027

MEMBERSHIP QUICK FACTS

Paid VCA Membership: \$25 for the season

Membership Deadline to get the 250 bonus points: December 31, 2026

A paid membership is not required to participate in VCA Local or Regional Events. Anyone can play in any VCA regular-season event.

Paid members:

- Appear in the official VCA Points & Rankings.
- Are eligible for the 2027 VCA Finale, provided all State qualification requirements are met.
- Receive 250 Membership Bonus Points added to their season points total.

Players may compete before purchasing a paid membership. If a player purchases the \$25 paid membership by December 31, 2026, all eligible VCA points earned earlier in the season become active and appear in the official ranking system, and the player receives the 250 Membership Bonus Points. If a player purchases the \$25 paid membership after December 31, 2026, all eligible VCA points earned earlier in the season become active and appear in the official ranking system; however the player does not receive the Membership Bonus Points.

LOCAL EVENTS & POINTS

HOW LOCAL EVENTS WORK

- Local format offered will be a Blind Draw
- There are no Flights and no Rounder Bonus Points at Local events
- 12 best locals will count towards your VCA ranking
- You can play as many sanctioned Locals as you want. The system keeps only your best 12.

LOCAL POINTS

FINISH	POINTS
Champion	100
Runner-Up	94
3rd	89
4th	84
5th-6th	78
7th-8th	73
9th-12th	68
13th-16th	63
17th+	58

REGIONAL EVENTS & POINTS

HOW REGIONALS WORK

- Play 3 Rounders.
- The field is ranked by records then differential. If players remain tied after all three criteria, a bag spin conducted by the Tournament Director will determine final order.
- Players are divided into Commonwealth, Dominion, and Cardinal Flights.
- Each Flight plays a double-elimination bracket.
- Flights show where you placed at that Regional; they are not permanent skill classifications.

ROUNDER BONUS

ROUNDER RECORD	BONUS
3-0	+6
2-1	+4
1-2	+2
0-3	0

REGIONAL BASE POINTS

FINISH	COMMONWEALTH	DOMINION	CARDINAL
Champion	200	170	140
Runner-Up	188	158	128
3rd	178	148	118
4th	168	138	108
5th-6th	156	126	96
7th-8th	146	116	86
9th-12th	136	106	76
13th-16th	126	96	66
17th+	116	86	56

REGIONAL POINTS FORMULA
Regional Points = Flight Finish Base Points + Rounder Bonus. Example: 3-0 Rounders, Commonwealth Champion: 200 + 6 = 206 VCA points.

RANKING & FINALE QUALIFICATION

YOUR REGULAR-SEASON RANKING
BEST 12 LOCALS + BEST 5 REGIONALS = YOUR VCA REGULAR-SEASON POINTS

DISQUALIFICATION CREDIT

A player who is disqualified (DQ'd) from a VCA-sanctioned event does not receive participation credit or VCA points for that event. A DQ'd Local cannot count toward the required 6 counting Locals, and a DQ'd Regional cannot count toward the required 3 Regionals for State qualification. Registering, checking in, or beginning play does not guarantee participation credit if the player is later disqualified.

QUALIFYING FOR STATE

FINALE QUALIFICATION
PAID VCA MEMBERSHIP + 6 COUNTING LOCALS + 3 VCA REGIONALS = FINALE QUALIFIED

EXAMPLE	STATUS
8 counting Locals + 5 Regionals	Eligible
12 counting Locals + 2 Regionals	Not eligible
5 counting Locals + 6 Regionals	Not eligible
6 counting Locals + 3 Regionals	Eligible

POINTS CHAMPION VS. FINALE CHAMPION

The VCA Points Champion earns the highest completed regular-season points total.
The VCA Champion wins the Finale event.
These are separate achievements.

HOW VCA FINALE WORKS

Every paid VCA member who completes 6 counting Locals + 3 Regionals earns an invitation to the VCA Finale. There is no ranking cutoff.
After April 30, all qualified players are ordered by final overall VCA points ranking. The qualified field is divided as evenly as possible into Commonwealth, Dominion, and Cardinal, with extra players assigned to Commonwealth first, then Dominion.
Your Finale Flight is earned from the final season standings and is locked. Another player's registration, withdrawal, or absence will not move you into a different Flight.
There are no Rounders at State. Your final regular-season ranking determines your seed within your earned Flight.
If a qualified player does not attend, the remaining players keep their relative season-ranking order and are seeded consecutively within that Flight. Nobody moves between Flights to fill an absence.
Each Flight plays its own double-elimination bracket to crown the Commonwealth Finale Champion, Dominion Finale Champion, and Cardinal Finale Champion.

BEFORE YOU PLAY

- Check that the event is identified as VCA-sanctioned.
- Make sure it is in the 2026/2027 VCA Season in Scoreholio.
- Make sure your Scoreholio account displays your government-issued first and last name so your results can be tracked accurately. If it does not have your government-issued first and last name you will not be rewarded your points.
- Check the VCA standings during the season to follow your counting results and Finale qualification progress.

VCA EVENT-DAY PLAYING STANDARDS

SCOREHOLIO

All VCA-sanctioned events will use Scoreholio for tournament operation and scoring purposes. Players are responsible for following their event assignments, game information, and scoring through Scoreholio throughout the event.

WARM-UP & REPORTING TO YOUR COURT

VCA events will use the Scoreholio warm-up timer. Once a game is assigned and the warm-up timer begins, players are responsible for reporting to their assigned court and preparing for play. Players should be ready to begin when the Scoreholio warm-up timer expires. Failure to report within the allotted warm-up period may result in a forfeit at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

SCORE REPORTING

Official game scores will be entered through the Scoreholio tablet located at the assigned board/court. Players are responsible for verifying that the correct final score and winning player/team are entered before leaving the court. If an accidental score-entry error is discovered after the game, it must be brought to the Tournament Director's attention as soon as possible.

SCORE & GAME DISPUTES

Any scoring, rules, equipment, or gameplay dispute should be brought to a Tournament Director's attention immediately when the issue occurs whenever possible. Players should not intentionally wait until later in the game or after the result has been finalized to raise an issue that could have been addressed when it occurred. If an accidental scoring or reporting error is discovered after a game, notify the Tournament Director immediately. The Tournament Director will determine the appropriate resolution based on the circumstances.

BOARD & COURT STANDARDS

VCA events will use regulation cornhole boards and regulation court distances.

- The front edge of the cornhole board is the foul line.
- A player may not cross beyond the front edge of the board while delivering a bag.
- Players may make reasonable adjustments to the boards as needed to maintain proper regulation distance and alignment.
- Any board, court, or playing-surface issue that cannot be reasonably corrected by the players should be brought to the Tournament Director's attention.

BASIC GAME PLAY

SIDES & BAG COLOR

Player/team seed determines the side of the board and bag-color selection.

FIRST THROW

The player/team throwing first will be determined by a bag spin before the game begins.

TIMEOUTS

Each player/team receives 3 timeouts per game.

- Singles: Each player receives 3 timeouts.
- Doubles: Each team receives 3 timeouts.
- Each timeout may last a maximum of 1 minute.
- A timeout should be clearly communicated to the opponent.
- Timeouts may not be used to intentionally or unnecessarily delay play.

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AUTHORITY

The on-site VCA Tournament Director has the authority to make rulings and resolve disputes necessary to keep the event operating fairly and efficiently. Director rulings may include gameplay and scoring, court or board conditions, bag legality, player conduct, Scoreholio issues, late players and forfeitures, rule interpretation, and other event-day situations requiring an immediate decision. Players are expected to respect the Tournament Director's event-day ruling and continue play as directed. If a Tournament Director needs assistance interpreting or applying a VCA rule, the Director is encouraged to contact the VCA Board for guidance. The VCA Board may provide clarification or review unusual circumstances when necessary to maintain consistent application of VCA rules across sanctioned events.

ADDITIONAL EVENT & PLAYER RULES

SCOREHOLIO / TECHNOLOGY FAILURE

If Scoreholio, venue internet service, a scoring tablet, or other required technology becomes temporarily unavailable, the Tournament Director may continue the event using an appropriate temporary method of scorekeeping. Games and results must be documented accurately and entered or corrected in Scoreholio as soon as service becomes available. A technology failure does not automatically require a game or event to be restarted.

MEDICAL & INJURY SITUATIONS

Player safety takes priority. If a player becomes injured or experiences a medical issue during competition, play may be temporarily stopped and the Tournament Director should be notified immediately. The Director will determine whether a reasonable amount of time may be provided for the player to recover and resume play. If the player is unable to continue, the game may be forfeited. In doubles, a replacement or substitute player may not enter after competition has begun. Serious medical situations should be handled according to host-venue emergency procedures and appropriate emergency services contacted when necessary.

COMPLETING THE EVENT

Players must remain in and complete the event to receive VCA points and participation credit. A player who voluntarily leaves or withdraws before completing their required competition:

- Receives no VCA points from the event.
- Receives no participation credit toward State Championship qualification.
- Cannot use the event as a counting Local or Regional.
- Will have remaining required games handled as directed by the Tournament Director and Scoreholio.

Completed games and results may remain part of the official tournament record even though the withdrawing player receives no VCA points or participation credit. VCA believes that when you start an event, you finish the event. Players must complete their competition to earn credit for it. Extraordinary circumstances may be reviewed by the Tournament Director and VCA Board.

COMPETITIVE INTEGRITY, INTENTIONAL FORFEITS & FLIGHT MANIPULATION

Players are expected to make a good-faith competitive effort in every VCA game. Intentionally losing, intentionally forfeiting, manipulating scores or point differential, colluding with another player/team, or otherwise attempting to manipulate Flight placement, VCA points, rankings, or State qualification is prohibited.

The Rounder results and published VCA tiebreakers remain the standard method for determining Regional Flight placement. In an exceptional situation where the Tournament Director reasonably determines that Rounder results do not reflect a good-faith competitive effort or appear to have been intentionally manipulated to obtain placement in a lower Flight, the Tournament Director may move the player/team to a higher Flight to protect competitive integrity. Directors may consider observed play and prior knowledge of the players involved.

This authority should not be used simply to override legitimate Rounder results because a player performed better or worse than expected. When appropriate, the Director may contact the VCA Board for guidance. Intentional manipulation may also result in disqualification or additional VCA disciplinary action.

AGE ELIGIBILITY

VCA competition is open to players of all ages. There is no VCA minimum age requirement for Local or Regional Events. Players must still comply with any age-related requirements or restrictions established by the host venue.

SCOREHOLIO PLAYER NAME REQUIREMENT

To ensure accurate VCA Points & Rankings, every player's Scoreholio account must display the player's government-issued first and last name. Nicknames, aliases, team names, initials, or other names that prevent VCA from accurately identifying the player may not be used in place of the player's government-issued first and last name for VCA ranking purposes. Players are responsible for keeping this information correct. VCA may withhold results from the official VCA Points & Rankings until account information is corrected and the player can be accurately matched to their VCA record.

VCA BAG REQUIREMENTS

All VCA-sanctioned events require competition-quality, currently stamped cornhole bags manufactured by a recognized/reputable cornhole bag company.

APPROVED FOR VCA PLAY

- Bags must be a matching set of four competition-quality cornhole bags.
- Bags must display a current, clearly visible manufacturer/competition stamp or marking.
- Bags must be manufactured by a recognized competitive cornhole bag company.
- Bags must use plastic resin or comparable non-degrading synthetic fill.
- Bags must be in good playing condition with no holes, leaking fill, excessive damage, or alterations that affect play.
- VCA does not require one specific brand or governing organization's bags. Current competition-stamped bags from reputable manufacturers are permitted.

NOT PERMITTED

- Corn-filled bags.
- Department-store or recreational/backyard bags commonly sold with recreational cornhole sets.
- Homemade bags.
- Bags without an identifiable manufacturer/competition marking.

- Damaged bags that are leaking fill or otherwise unsuitable for competitive play.
- Bags altered in a way that changes their original playing characteristics.

BAG INSPECTION

A VCA Tournament Director may inspect a player's bags at any time if there is a question regarding legality, condition, manufacturer, stamp, or construction. If a set does not meet VCA requirements, the player must use another legal set before competition may continue.

VENUE RESPECT & PLAYER CONDUCT

VCA events are made possible by the venues, organizations, Tournament Directors, staff, and volunteers who welcome our players and support Virginia cornhole. Every VCA player is expected to treat the host venue and its property with respect.

PLAYERS MUST

- Follow all rules and policies established by the host venue.
- Respect venue owners, employees, Tournament Directors, volunteers, spectators, and fellow players.
- Properly dispose of trash and help keep playing areas clean.
- Respect tables, chairs, cornhole boards, scoring equipment, walls, floors, and all other venue property.
- Remain within designated player and spectator areas when directed.
- Follow all parking, food, beverage, smoking/vaping, and other venue-specific policies.
- Leave the venue and playing area in the same or better condition than it was found.

UNACCEPTABLE CONDUCT

Conduct that may result in a warning, game or event forfeiture, disqualification, removal from the venue, loss of VCA points, suspension from future VCA events, or other appropriate disciplinary action includes:

- Intentionally damaging venue or tournament property.
- Fighting, threatening behavior, harassment, or intimidation.
- Abusive or excessively disruptive behavior toward players, directors, staff, volunteers, or spectators.
- Refusing to follow reasonable instructions from the Tournament Director or venue staff.
- Throwing, kicking, striking, or intentionally damaging bags, boards, scoring equipment, furniture, or other property.
- Repeatedly leaving trash or creating unnecessary messes after being asked to correct the behavior.
- Violating host venue policies in a manner that disrupts the event or jeopardizes VCA's relationship with the venue.

RESPECT THE GAME

Respect the venue. Respect the staff. Respect the directors. Respect your opponents. Respect the game.

VCA reserves the right to take appropriate disciplinary action when player behavior threatens participant safety, damages property, disrupts an event, or jeopardizes VCA's ability to continue using a host venue.

IMPORTANT EVENT RULES

- Singles events need at least 6 participating players to award VCA points.
- Doubles events need at least 12 participating players / 6 teams.
- Late entries are not permitted once tournament play has begun.
- Players/teams may withdraw 24 hours in advance before an event. No day of event refunds.
- If an event cannot be completed, VCA points are not awarded unless VCA determines that enough competition was completed to establish fair and verifiable final placements.
- Tournament corrections or disputes must be submitted within 7 calendar days of tournament completion.

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