

LOCAL CORNHOLE TOURNAMENTS



What

Clubs and Districts can sponsor cornhole tournaments for adults and youth. The adult tournaments can be Official Tournaments, using the tournament guidelines provided by Optimist International. Optimists can also sponsor tournaments emphasizing healthy lifestyles and fun for youth and adults.

Benefits

This new Optimist program will support our Childhood Health and Wellness initiative through bolstering healthy lifestyles and mental health. This program allows youth and adults to have fun outdoors and socialize through competing in their local cornhole tournament.

Spark Fun in the Park

Clubs can host a local cornhole event for children, which will fall under the Optimist International activity category of “Spark Fun in the Park”. These tournaments encourage youth to turn off their computers and electronic games, engage in a healthy outdoor activity, and interact with other youth face-to-face.

The Cornhole Tournaments can be informal, emphasizing that the children have fun, learn social skills by interacting with others, compete with a positive attitude, and build their skills in this emerging competitive sport. Clubs can personalize their tournaments however they would like, for example:

- Youth decorate tabletop cornhole bag toss boards.
- The Club holds a tournament with a theme.
- They provide silly cornhole toss receptacles.
- They provide fun prizes and snacks for the participants.



The ways to personalize your Club’s tournament are as endless as your Members’ imaginations to make it a fun and engaging event.

An additional benefit to sponsoring a youth tournament is that it helps parents understand the benefits of Optimism for their children.

Adult Tournaments

Adult Tournaments can emphasize this new Optimist initiative. Clubs and Districts can hold Cornhole Tournaments for adults. The Clubs and Districts may provide the activity at no cost or ask participants to pay to participate. If the Optimists do raise money, they can donate the proceeds from the Adult Tournaments to an organization in their community, for example, one that assists those suffering from abuse.

In addition to providing financial support to Mental Health organizations, the adult participants themselves are engaging in an Optimistic Healthy Lifestyles activity. These Tournaments will be a win-win for the participants, the community, and the Optimist Club.

What's Next

Optimist International has developed guidelines for official tournaments. We encourage Clubs and Districts to use these when organizing an Optimist Cornhole Tournament. We encourage you to:

- Have your Club hold a fun-filled “Spark Fun in the Park” cornhole Tournament in your community. Make it an engaging and festive event. Encourage the youth and adults in attendance to get outside and enhance their physical and mental health.
- Hold an Optimist Cornhole Tournament at your next District meeting. You can have an exciting time with your fellow District Optimists and hone your skills.

Optimist International Activities Committee will continue developing materials and resources to help you plan for successful events. If you have pictures or descriptions of cornhole events you have held in your community or at a District meeting, please send them to us at programs@optimist.org.



For more information about Optimist International Programs & Activities, please visit optimist.org, e-mail programs@optimist.org or call us at 800-500-8130

