

09-13 Town Hall: Manitoba Cornhole Association Governance and Competition Rules

Meeting Summary

1. Executive Summary

This meeting, led by Jeff Munday, President of the Manitoba Cornhole Association (MCA), served as an informational webinar and town hall for members. The purpose was to provide updates on governance, financials, strategic initiatives, and significant changes to competition rules for the 2026-2027 season, followed by an extensive Q&A session. Key attendees included the MCA Board: Jeff Munday (President), Jason McNish (Vice President), Vince (Treasurer), Alana (Secretary), and Leo Elliott (Member at Large), along with engaged players like Norris and Rory.

Key themes included establishing a formal operational structure, financial transparency, grassroots growth through school partnerships, and aligning with Cornhole Canada's new national standards. Major discussion points revolved around new rules to prevent "sandbagging," the introduction of a new tournament and points system, addressing player concerns about tournament fairness (board consistency, bracket creation), and outlining the strategic roadmap towards becoming a recognized Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) to unlock funding for player development.

2. Key Discussion Points

- **MCA Governance & Structure:**
 - Jeff Munday outlined the MCA's mission to build a welcoming, inclusive cornhole community. The MCA was formally established in 2024, requiring bylaws and policies compliant with non-profit standards.
 - The current board consists of Jeff Munday (President), Jason McNish (VP), Vince (Treasurer), Alana (Secretary), and Leo Elliott (Member at Large/Social Media). One board position is vacant.
 - **Board Terms:** Directors serve two-year terms and can be re-elected for a maximum of three consecutive terms (six years total).
 - **Board Selection:** Board positions are appointed based on a desired skill set, though the current vacant position will be filled via a call for nominations and a vote at the upcoming AGM.

- **Voting Structure:** A key clarification was made that voting rights at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) are held by registered clubs, not individual players. Each registered club receives one vote.
- **Transparency:** In response to member questions about accountability, the board committed to publishing AGM minutes, financial statements, and monthly board meeting minutes on the new website.
- **Financial Report & Fundraising:**
 - **Presenter:** Vince (Treasurer). The fiscal year-end is August 31.
 - **Financial Health:** As of August 31, 2026, the MCA has \$4,000 in the bank, up from \$2,200 the previous year. This is the first year with a positive balance.
 - **2025-2026 Performance:** The association generated just over 20,000 in revenue and had 18,000 in expenses, resulting in a net income of \$1,900.
 - **Use of Funds:** The current bank balance is earmarked for purchasing more “pitch pads” (playing surfaces). The board is entirely volunteer-based.
 - **Audits:** The organization does not undergo a formal external audit due to the high cost (\$4,500 for a review, \$10,000+ for a full audit). Financials are prepared internally and reviewed by the treasurer, a CPA. The board has two CPAs in total.
 - **Fundraising Proposal (from Norris):** A proposal was made to create fundraising activities (e.g., dedicated tournaments) to subsidize player costs for attending national championships, noting other provinces do this successfully. The board endorsed the idea for discussion at the next meeting.
- **Cornhole Canada Updates & National Alignment:**
 - **New Leadership & Professionalization:** Cornhole Canada has a new president (Kevin Bittman) and an expanded board (from 3 to 7 directors), leading to improved communication and formal processes.
 - **Player Registration & Insurance:** A mandatory \$15 annual player registration fee with Cornhole Canada is now required. This fee provides player insurance. \$5 of this fee is returned to the provincial association (MCA).

- **National Sport Organization (NSO) Status:** The national board is actively working towards NSO recognition from Sport Canada. This is a prerequisite for the MCA to achieve Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) status with Sport Manitoba, which would unlock significant funding for development.
- **National Committees:** Jeff Munday called for Manitoba members to join national committees (e.g., Points, Events, Social Media) to increase the province's influence. Jason McNish is on the national points committee.
- **New Competition Structure (2026-2027 Season):**
 - **PPR Calculation Changes (Anti-Sandbagging):** Points Per Round (PPR) will no longer include league night results. This is to prevent players from intentionally underperforming ("sandbagging") to stay in lower tiers. PPR will now be based on performance in designated local and regional tournaments for a "truer indication" of skill.
 - **PPR Timeline:** A player's previous season PPR will be used from September 1 to October 31, 2026. After November 1, 2026, the current season's Scoreholio "selected PPR" will apply.
 - **New Tier Structure:**
 - Tier 1: 7.0+ PPR
 - Tier 2: 5.5 - 6.99 PPR
 - Tier 3: 4.0 - 5.49 PPR
 - Tier 4 (Beginner): 0 - 3.99 PPR
 - **New Tournament Formats:**
 - **Local Tournaments:** Can run up to 4 per month, per division. Must use playoff bracket results only for points.
 - **Regional Tournaments:** Each region can host up to 6 per season. Must offer Tiers 1-3 for singles and doubles, with a minimum of 6 players/teams per division to earn points.
 - **National Ranking:** A player's rank is based on their top 20 League, top 5 Local, top 4 Regional, and top 2 Provincial (Singles & Doubles) results.
 - **System Inconsistency:** A rule was noted where a Tier 2 player competing in a Tier 1 local tournament would earn Tier 1 points that do not count toward

their Tier 2 national ranking. Jason McNish is tasked with addressing this at the national level.

- **League & Tournament Operations:**

- **New League Governance:** Rory questioned opposition to a new league in Winnipeg. Jeff Munday clarified it's not local opposition but a Cornhole Canada policy of "one league per city." The existing East St. Paul league is considered outside Winnipeg city limits. Jeff and Jason committed to recusing themselves from any board vote on this due to a conflict of interest.
- **Board Consistency:** Norris raised a significant concern about inconsistent playing surfaces between boards (e.g., vinyl wrap vs. stained wood), creating an unfair advantage. While some argued adapting is a skill, Jeff Munday acknowledged the concern and committed to exploring grouping similar board types for specific tiers.
- **Bracket Transparency & Fairness:** In response to questions, Jason McNish stated tournament directors decide on bracket creation, with randomization favored to reduce sandbagging. Provincials use a round-robin for seeding into a double-elimination bracket.
- **Formal Appeals Process:** Players noted a lack of a clear process to appeal tournament issues (e.g., brackets, court assignments) in real-time. The board acknowledged this as a gap to be addressed.
- **Scheduling Provincials vs. Nationals:** A discussion was held on the timing of provincials (May), which leaves a long gap before nationals. Norris argued this leaves players underprepared compared to other provinces. A consensus emerged to explore adding a competitive regional tournament in July to bridge this gap.

- **Strategic Initiatives & Community Growth:**

- **New Website:** A new website, cornholemb.ca, was launched over the weekend of September 12-13, 2026. It will serve as the central hub for information, including events, bylaws, policies, and minutes, to enhance transparency.
- **Schools Initiative:** A major focus is integrating cornhole into school phys-ed programs. The MCA has presented at teacher professional development days and will host a large clinic at a Sport Manitoba event in October 2026. Norris is also personally donating bags to a high school program.

- **Manitoba 55+ Games:** Cornhole will be part of the provincial 55+ Games in June 2027 and, for the first time, the national 55+ Games.
- **Player Development:** The MCA is in discussions with “Level Up Cornhole” to bring a professional training clinic to Manitoba in the near future. The long-term goal is to secure PSO funding for robust player, coach, and official development platforms.

3. Decisions Made

- **Offer Tier 4 at Provincials:** A beginner Tier 4 division will be added to the next provincial championships based on member survey feedback. (Made by: Manitoba Cornhole board).
- **Establish Geographic Regions:** The MCA board has defined and approved official regions (Central Plains, Winnipeg, etc.) to align with Cornhole Canada’s new structure. (Made by: Manitoba Cornhole board).
- **Publish Governance Documents:** The board will publish AGM minutes, monthly meeting minutes, and financial statements on the new website in response to member questions. (Made by: Manitoba Cornhole board, during the meeting).
- **AGM Date:** The next AGM is tentatively scheduled for November 29, 2026. (Made by: Manitoba Cornhole board).
- **Recusal Commitment:** Jeff Munday and Jason McNish will recuse themselves from any board vote regarding approval of additional Winnipeg leagues due to a conflict of interest. (Made by: Jeff Munday & Jason McNish).
- **Explore Fundraising:** The board will formally discuss fundraising strategies at the next board meeting and consider forming a subcommittee. (Made by: MCA Board).
- **Explore July Regional Event:** The board agreed to explore adding a July regional tournament to bridge the readiness gap for nationals. (Made by: MCA Board, preliminary agreement).
- **Review Board Grouping:** The organizing committee will review the feasibility of grouping similar board types for specific tiers in future tournaments. (Made by: Jeff Munday, on behalf of the committee).
- **Address Appeals Process:** The board will add the creation of a formal player appeals process to their next meeting agenda. (Made by: Speaker 5 / MCA Board).

- **Publish Meeting Summary:** The recording and a summary of this meeting will be published on the MCA website. (Made by: Jeff Munday).

4. Action Items

- **Task:** Send a follow-up email to all attendees summarizing the meeting, answering questions, and including a call-to-action for the \$15 Cornhole Canada registration.
- **Owner:** Jeff Munday
- **Due Date:** September 14 or 15, 2026
- **Notes/context:** To ensure all players receive the key information and registration link.
- **Task:** Finalize the date for the Annual General Meeting (AGM).
- **Owner:** MCA Board
- **Due Date:** TBD
- **Notes/context:** The original target of December 6, 2026 is no longer viable.
- **Task:** Add a Manitoba-specific player ranking leaderboard to the new MCA website.
- **Owner:** MCA Board / Website Designer
- **Due Date:** Approximately by late September 2026 (“in the next couple of weeks”)
- **Notes/context:** This will pull data from the national rankings provided by Cornhole Canada.
- **Task:** Present a cornhole clinic at the phys-ed teachers’ professional development day.
- **Owner:** Jeff Munday & Jason McNish
- **Due Date:** October 2026
- **Notes/context:** Key part of the schools initiative; they have been given the entire gymnasium.
- **Task:** Update the “Sponsors and Partners” section of the new website.
- **Owner:** Unstated (likely Jeff Munday or web team)
- **Due Date:** TBD

- **Notes/context:** The section was noted as needing updates during the website walkthrough.
- **Task:** Add results from past provincial championships (2025, 2026) to the website.
- **Owner:** Unstated (likely Jeff Munday or web team)
- **Due Date:** By September 20, 2026 (“This week”)
- **Notes/context:** Mentioned during the website tour as a pending update.
- **Task:** Finalize the venue for the 2027 provincial championships.
- **Owner:** Manitoba Cornhole Board
- **Due Date:** By mid-October 2026 (“Within the next thirty days”)
- **Notes/context:** Seeking a venue with better climate control and food/beverage options.
- **Task:** Publish AGM and monthly board meeting minutes on the website.
- **Owner:** Jeff Munday
- **Due Date:** TBD
- **Notes/context:** Jeff confirmed he had sent the files to the web developers for inclusion.
- **Task:** Send out a call for nominations for the vacant board position.
- **Owner:** Manitoba Cornhole Board
- **Due Date:** Before the November 2026 AGM
- **Notes/context:** The call will include a list of desired skill sets for the role.
- **Task:** Review and propose fundraising strategies to subsidize nationals participation.
- **Owner:** Jeff Munday & Jason McNish; potential fundraising subcommittee
- **Due Date:** TBD (for discussion at next board meeting)
- **Notes/context:** Inspired by Norris’s suggestion to cover entry fees and encourage broader participation.
- **Task:** Engage Cornhole Canada to clarify the “one league per city” policy.

- **Owner:** Jeff Munday (liaison), Jason McNish
- **Due Date:** TBD
- **Notes/context:** To address Rory's interest in starting a new league and ensure a transparent process.
- **Task:** Define and publish MCA guidelines for tournament bracket creation and seeding.
- **Owner:** Tournament Directors (Jeff, Jason); Jason to leverage national subcommittee insights
- **Due Date:** TBD
- **Notes/context:** To standardize processes and increase transparency.
- **Task:** Develop a court/board assignment policy to ensure fairness.
- **Owner:** Jason McNish (lead), Tournament Operations
- **Due Date:** TBD
- **Notes/context:** To address concerns about surface consistency, potentially reserving "TV boards" for finals.
- **Task:** Finalize details and announce a date for the "Level Up Cornhole" training clinic.
- **Owner:** Jeff Munday
- **Due Date:** By October 13, 2026 (within 30 days)
- **Notes/context:** A key player development initiative to bring professional coaching to Manitoba.
- **Task:** Finish and donate cornhole bags to Tech Voc High School.
- **Owner:** Norris (Speaker 2)
- **Due Date:** TBD
- **Notes/context:** A personal initiative to support grassroots development in schools.