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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2025 Canadian Cornhole Classic Coming to Charlottetown this September

First-ever ACO Canada Major to be held at Eastlink Centre

CHARLOTTETOWN, PE – Are you ready to become a cornhole fan, or maybe even a cornhole champion? Get ready PEI, because the American Cornhole Organization (ACO) is hosting its first-ever ACO Canada Major tournament this September at the Eastlink Centre Charlottetown as part of the kick-off to ACO Season 21. From September 25 to 27, dozens of professional cornhole players will take to the court for a chance at the championship titles and prize money. The event also welcomes non-pro players of all skill levels as well as the general public for ACO Blind Draw play.

Established in 2005, the ACO is the world governing body for the sport of Cornhole, a sport that has exploded in popularity both in backyards and on professional courts. While the game itself may appear to be simple, at the professional level, there are strict rules of play, various throwing techniques and lots of strategy. In fact, the ACO hosts dozens of Major tournaments each year for its global membership.

About the Tournament

The Season 21 ACO Canada Major will feature eight tournament categories for players of all ages to compete in, two of which are open to the general public.

Tournament categories include:

- ACO Big Blind (world points earning event, open to the general public)
- ACO Women's Singles (world points earning event)
- ACO Seniors Singles (world points earning event)
- ACO Juniors Singles (world points earning event for players under age 18)
- ACO Quads (open to the general public)
- ACO COED (world points earning event)
- ACO Major Singles Tournament (world points earning event)
- ACO Major Doubles Tournament (world points earning event)

The Luck of the Draw mini tournament will take place on Friday, September 26. It's open to the general public and always a fan favourite. In addition to the scheduled tournament, there will be open court(s) available for the general public to use throughout the tournament and festival weekend.

Funding support for the 2025 Canadian Cornhole Classic is being provided by the City of Charlottetown, Tourism PEI and the city's Special Events Reserve Fund. The partnerships help make international sporting events like this possible and bring new opportunities to the shoulder tourism season here in Charlottetown.

How to Participate

Registration will be open soon at <u>americancornhole.com/majors</u>. Entrance fees based on each tournament category will be posted upon registration opportunities that will be activated closer to the 'first pitch' of Season 21 in September 2025. Additional details about the tournament and surrounding festivities will be announced in the coming months.

Looking further ahead, Eastlink Centre Charlottetown is also excited to confirm it will play host to the ACO Canada Major tournament biannually for three years. The second tournament will take place in May 2026.

To learn more about the American Cornhole Organization, including how to become an ACO member to earn points toward qualification for the World Championships and the chance to win prize money as well as approved ACO cornhole bag partners, visit <u>americancornhole.com</u>. For official rules, visit <u>americancornhole.com/rules</u>.

QUOTES:

"Charlottetown is thrilled to host the first-ever American Cornhole Organization Canadian tournament. This event not only brings a unique and exciting sport to our city but also reinforces our commitment to hosting diverse and dynamic events that contribute to our local economy while also bringing together our community. We look forward to welcoming players and fans from across North America this Fall to experience all that Charlottetown has to offer."

– Mayor Philip Brown, City of Charlottetown

"Charlottetown continues to push the boundaries of sport tourism by embracing fresh and emerging event trends. Hosting the first-ever ACO Canada Major speaks to our city's ability to think outside the box and attract dynamic events that bring energy, visitors and economic benefits to our community." – Councillor Terry Bernard, Chair of the City of Charlottetown's Economic, Tourism and Cultural Development Committee

"We are excited to host the first ACO Canadian Cornhole tournament and we look forward to welcoming participants to PEI. There is so much to explore and experience and we hope everyone enjoys the sights and the world-class hospitality that PEI is known for. We also encourage Islanders to take in the event for a fun and memorable experience."

- The Honourable Zack Bell, Minister of Fisheries, Tourism, Sport and Culture

"The ACO is absolutely thrilled to welcome our neighbours to the north into the ACO Family as we continue to grow the game and sport of cornhole beyond our borders and into a worldwide phenomenon. This game that brings family, friends, neighbors and even total strangers together at all skill levels is our passion; a passion and a spirit of competition that we can't wait to share with everyone in Canada who shares that spirit! It's time for players from PEI and throughout Canada to ... BRING IT!!!" – Frank Geers, Founder and President of the American Cornhole Organization

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