

LITTER LEAGUE



2023 OFFICIAL RULEBOOK



Over the years, Allegheny CleanWays has engaged with neighbors, businesses, and community organizations to remove more than 5.4 million pounds of debris from vacant lots, wooded hillsides, alleyways, roadsides, streams, and riverbanks. While much of that is done by dedicated individual volunteers, the Litter League demonstrates that teamwork can make even the most arduous work enjoyable. Whether you are new to litter collection or a seasoned veteran, we hope you cherish your time on the field, playing with friends.

learn more at AlleghenyCleanways.org



Since 1991, Friends of the Riverfront has worked to protect and restore the riverfront in the Pittsburgh region through trail development and stewardship after decades of legacy pollution. Most of the litter in our waterways starts on land. If that waste isn't properly managed, it finds its way through gully and gutter into our rivers. By playing in the Litter League, you are actively restoring our most precious ecosystems and improving our public health.

learn more at FriendsOfTheRiverfront.org

Litter League

2023

Official Rulebook

Presented by:



Written by:
Gregory Manley

Editors:
Kelsey Ripper, Myrna Newman, Alex Toner

Produced in association with:
Municipal partners throughout Allegheny County

Copyright 2023 Allegheny CleanWays & Friends of the Riverfront
all rights reserved.

Introduction

In 2020, Friends of the Riverfront and Allegheny CleanWays were awarded a grant by the RK Mellon Foundation which supported the expansion of volunteer-based litter programs. The Litter League was designed in 2021 during a period of restricted public gathering due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. The first season was conducted virtually with a single, in-person gathering on the Summer Solstice.

Inaugural Season Participants

Carnegie Mellon University - No Litter Please
East End - Trash Talkers
Penn Hills - Litter Avengers
Civil & Environmental Consultants Inc. - Waste Deep
Google SAS - Every Litter Bit
Locomotion - Locomoters
Fineview - 412 Redder Uppers
Confluence - Litter Collectors
TTG Imaging Solutions - Team TTG
University of Pittsburgh - I Felt Happy When You Redded Up
Duquesne Light - Lightning Bolt Litter Brigade

During the 8-week season from Earth Day to Summer Solstice, we collected 29,272.5 pounds of litter. Teams were awarded in four categories

The Helpers (most enthusiastic)
The Heavy Lifters (most weight collected)
The Cleanup Artists (most creative reuse)
The Archivists (best documentation & record keeping)

State of the Game

With two seasons under our belt and 75,000 pounds of total litter collected, we've shown our sport to be more than a ploy. The league is full of good hearted players of all ages, eager to make a real difference with their co-workers and neighbors.

This year we've streamlined the competition with more strategic challenges and a shorter overall season. It's our hope that as the game becomes easier to understand, more and more teams will join. There's no shortage of litter, and there's no limit to the fun we can make of collecting it.

Thanks for playing, and may the best team win.

Greg Manley - *Community Outreach & League Referee*

Myrna Newman - *Executive Director, Allegheny Cleanways*

Alex Toner - *Stewardship Manager, Friends of the Riverfront*

The Basics

Register

Create or join a team of up to 12 players in either division. Once registered, players will receive safety training and litter collection equipment. The \$1,000 recommended donation for Colleague Division team registration is fully tax-deductible.

Compete

Once you're equipped and prepared, Start collecting litter throughout the season on whatever schedule suits you best. Tournaments and challenges offer deeper engagement with the game and other players. Depending on your style, there are several ways to play:

- On your own schedule, by reporting collections online
- With your team in a group cleanup
- Against other teams at a Tournament

Celebrate

Share your experience and network with other collectors through a specialized app and celebrate alongside opponents at happy hours in some of the county's finest pubs. At the end of the season, you'll have a chance to earn exciting prizes and awards in four separate categories:

Heavy Lifters (most weight)
Cleanup Artists (most creative)
Archivists (best documentation)
Helpers (most inspiring)

Registration

Visit Friends of the Riverfront.org

<https://friendsoftheriverfront.org/volunteer-opportunities/litter-league/>

Encourage your neighbors or co-workers to visit the site and watch last year's highlights. Registration is open January 10th - March 20th

Select your Division

The Colleague Division is reserved for co-workers and requires a donation of \$1000 per team to Friends of the Riverfront. In gratitude for your company's donation, Friends of the Riverfront and Allegheny Cleanways will promote your brand through our various media. Neighborhood team registration requires no donation and is reserved for neighborhood organizations and free agents.

Choose a Team Name and Team Captain

Teams names can showcase an organization's camaraderie and creativity. Team captains should be spirited individuals who are eager to connect with other leaders across the league and act as representatives for their team, organizing cleanups and engaging with the challenges.

Download IfUIWill

Submit collections & comments or track your team's progress with a specialized App all from your smartphone. Create your profile and register or join the Litter League Colleague Division on <https://IfUIWill.net>

Prepare for the Earth Day Tournament

Coordinate with your team to get equipped and oriented to the safety & guidelines of the league. Start by reading this book!

2023 Schedule

The season opens the Friday before Earth Day and continues for six weeks until the final tournament on Saturday, June 3rd.

Earth Day Pickoff Tournament

Friday, April 21st

Colleagues: 2:00pm

Neighborhoods: 6:00pm

Mid Season Tournament

Friday, May 12th

Colleagues: 2:00pm

Neighborhoods: 6:00pm

Final Tournament & Awards

Saturday, June 3rd

Colleagues & Neighborhoods: 2:00pm

The Boundary



Allegheny County
Actual Survey Map, 1863

Laws of the Game

What is Litter?

Litter is generally defined as “improperly managed waste”. It includes intentionally discarded waste such as cigarette butts, beverage containers, and old televisions. It also includes unintentional waste, such as overflow from trash cans or improperly secured loads that accidentally release debris along roadways. For the purpose of the Litter League, litter is defined more specifically as:

Improperly managed manufactured waste

This definition intentionally excludes biodegrading plants and animals

Field of Play

During the season players are allowed to collect litter on all public properties and thoroughfares of Allegheny County, according to local municipal practices & procedures.

Safety

- Do not empty containers of unknown liquids
- Do not collect hypodermic needles
- Segregate sharp objects into a closed & labeled container
- Contact authorities about dangerous weapons or drugs
- Do not collect dead animals or loose feces
- Sanitize hands before touching food or skin
- Wash clothes immediately after collecting

Equipment

All players must wear gloves while collecting litter. Additional recommended equipment for litter collection includes:

- closed-toe shoes
- 5-7 gallon sturdy bucket*
- grabber*
- hand sanitizer*
- water bottle
- hi-visibility vest*
- smartphone (for recording/reporting collections)
- trash bags
- luggage scale (for weighing collections)*
- litter-transportation vehicle (wagon, trailer, truck, etc...)

*Provided by the league

Team Captains

Captains are the referee's primary contact (unless otherwise specified) for the duration of the season. As Captain, a player agrees to:

- Recruit up to 12 players for their team
- Submit company pledge / donation paperwork as required
- Communicate with the referee on behalf of their team
- Represent their team at all Tournaments & Ceremonies

Scoring

Team points are awarded for three reasons:

- most overall litter by weight (1 point each week)
- most litter in tournament (2 points each)
- accomplishing challenges (1 points each)

Collection

Prior to a non-tournament team collection event, **coordinate with municipal authorities** to ensure swift removal of consolidated litter. While each municipality will have its own guidelines, best practices for litter collection include:

- Consolidate litter in heavy-duty bags, weighing ~35 lbs
- Segregate sharp objects into a closed, sturdy container
- Place all litter in a single, truck-accessible location
- Send a clear image of the consolidated litter to referee with GPS coordinates

If organizing a collection event within the City of Pittsburgh, teams captains must submit a Volunteer Request Form to the Department of Public Works:



<https://pittsburghpa.gov/dpw/volunteer-apps/>

All collections and challenges must be recorded by referee.

Tournaments

Three 90 minute, in-person contests between teams occur at the beginning, middle and end of the season. Tournaments are facilitated by the league referee with special rules to ensure fair-play and camaraderie.

Orientation

All players should arrive 20 minutes prior to collection for check-in, field orientation and safety review. Players will be provided a map the tournament boundary

Courtesy

Tournaments are opportunities to demonstrate positive civic engagement. The “field” is public space and players will likely encounter non-players during the event who should be treated as audience, not obstacle. Though close proximity competition naturally leads to strong emotions and extraordinary physical feats, safety and common courtesy must take priority above competition. Foul language and hurtful behavior may result in suspension of play.

Contact

This is a no-contact sport. Any aggressive contact between opponents will result in immediate suspension from play.

Possession

During a Tournament, the first player to touch a piece of litter (with glove or grabber) assumes team possession. Possession is surrendered after 3 seconds without contact and eligible for collection by an opponent.

Celebration

Every Tournament will conclude with a social hour at a public location. Awards and special recognition for supporters will be announced during this celebration.

Challenges

Three challenges will be introduced on Opening Day which will remain active through the final tournament. Additional “pop-challenges” may be announced at any time throughout the season.

CHALLENGE #1: Say Hello

Introduce yourself and your team in style. Uniforms, banners, chants, player profiles, music videos.. it's up to you.

CHALLENGE #2: If You Build it...

Work together to create something new out of your collected litter. A specific prompt will be given at the beginning of the season.

CHALLENGE #3: Pick your poison

Collect and display the largest assortment or widest array of litter from a single brand/manufacturer.



Reporting

Every piece of collected litter should be reported as accurately as possible. There are several options depending on your style of play:

IfUIWill - (IfUIWill.net) This app facilitates communication and tracks total weight collected by player, team, and division

Google Forms - (<https://forms.gle/Rs74mTyJVB5K9S5A7>) Team captains should use this online form when submitting challenges and group collections

Email - (greg@friendsoftheriverfront.org) When all other modes are insufficient or inaccessible, reports can be emailed directly to the referee

Tournament - During a tournament, referees will record and report all collections at the central dumpster



Awards

Outstanding team participation is awarded in four separate categories

Helpers inspire the league through excellent engagement, good sportsmanship, and outstanding courtesy.

Heavy Lifters collect the most overall litter (by weight)

Cleanup Artists exhibit the most creative reuse of litter

Archivists demonstrate the most detailed and thorough reporting

Additional Resources

[Keep America Beautiful 2020 Litter Study](#)

[Pennsylvania Litter Research Study \(2020\)](#)

[The Cost of Litter & Illegal Dumping in Pennsylvania \(2020\)](#)

[Litterology](#)

[Allegheny County Dumpsite Survey& Assessment](#)

Thanks to our 2023 sponsors!

**LITTER LEAGUE IS A PROGRAM OF
ALLEGHENY CLEANWAYS
AND
FRIENDS OF THE RIVERFRONT**