



Lawn Darts Rules



History of the Game

Like many other games, including Horseshoes, Bocce, and Darts, Lawn Darts is a target game. Throwing an object at a target may be the oldest game on the planet. While Lawn Darts, as we know it today, originated in the 1950s, it is similar to the ancient Roman *plumbata*, lead-weighted darts carried by infantrymen in the Middle Ages. In 1988, Lawn Darts with sharp points were banned for sale by the Consumer Product Safety Commission in the United States. Today, Lawn Darts are made with a blunt weighted tip resulting in a safe version of the game.

Object of the Game

EastPoint Lawn Darts is a target game where the object is to throw the darts so that the weighted tip lands inside a plastic ring. The first player or team to reach a pre-agreed score wins the game. Players score one point for every dart that lands within the ring. Lawn darts from opposing players within the ring cancel each other out. Two opposing players, or two teams of two players may play EastPoint Lawn Darts. This game is easy to learn, simple to play, but difficult to master.

1. Get Ready!

- Gather one other player or three other players and create two teams.
- Select an open area without overhead objects, such as clotheslines or trees, and about 3 m (10 ft) wide and 15 m (50 ft) long.
- Stretch to warm up your muscles.

2. Get Set!

- Place the two target rings about 11 m (35 ft) apart. The distance between target rings may be decreased for younger players, or increased to about 18 m (60 ft) for a more challenging game, if space permits.
- Watch out for people and pets in the playing area. The players and spectators not currently throwing a Lawn Dart are responsible for watching to make sure that the game area is safe. They are responsible for alerting both the throwing player of unsafe conditions, and any nearby people or pets to stop and stay away from the path of the Lawn Dart. It is the thrower's responsibility to be watchful before swinging and releasing the Lawn Dart.
- Practice throwing the Lawn Darts. To throw one, hold it from the top, not the blunt tip, and toss underhand. See Figure A.
- EastPoint Lawn Darts must land with the weighted tip inside the target ring to count for a point. If the tip rests on top of the target ring for any reason, more than half the tip must be inside the ring to count as a point. See Figure B.
- Decide on game points before starting the game. Possible game points include 3, 15, or 21 points.
- Flip a coin to determine the player or team who throws first to begin the game.

Figure A: Throwing the EastPoint Lawn Dart

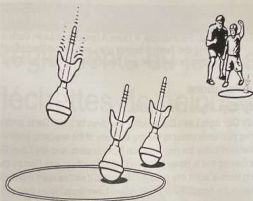
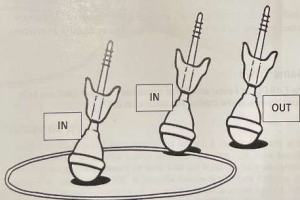


Figure B: Scoring for Lawn Darts



3. Go Play!

- Keep score verbally.
- A point is scored when a Lawn Dart lands in the target ring. However, if a player lands a Lawn Dart in the target ring, and then an opposing player also lands a dart in the target ring, the scores cancel each other out. For example, if Team A landed two Lawn Darts in the target ring and Team B landed one Lawn Dart in the target ring, Team A would score one point and Team B would score no points.

Game Variations

Handly Cup Style Lawn Darts

In Handly Cup Style Lawn Darts, points are given for Lawn Darts landing in the target ring plus darts closer to the ring than any of the opposing team's darts. Darts that land inside the ring are worth 3 points each, and any Lawn Dart outside the ring that is closer to the ring than any other Lawn Dart by the opposing team is worth one point. For example, if neither team managed to place a dart inside the ring, but one team had two Lawn Darts closer than any of the opposing team's Lawn Darts, the team would score 2 points. A Lawn Dart thrown inside the ring can be cancelled by an opposing team also throwing a dart into the ring. If both teams have darts in the ring, then no darts outside the ring may score.

Handly Cup Style matches usually are played with two teams that alternate throws and keep track of points, until one team scores a total of 21 or more.

Game Trivia

The F-16 Fighter Falcon aircraft was nicknamed the "Lawn Dart" due to its resemblance and nine crashes that occurred in 2007.