

BONGO BALL MANIA

2011 BEST NOVELTY GAME

Everyone's college experience is different. But with that said, most would agree that college, at times, can be incredibly stressful. Papers due, exams to study for, and of course it seems that every semester you have a class with the guy who refuses to pay any attention to his personal hygiene. With these factors considered, it seems fitting that the 2011 best Novelty game would be a full-on stress reliever. Bongo Ball Mania provides excitement and most certainly helps to alleviate the accumulated stress of a heavy semester.

Cutting Edge Productions, or C.E.P., has become known for their innovative creations in the world of Novelty entertainment. Bongo Ball Mania is no exception. Being the only game of its kind, it's fast paced, paint-ball like atmosphere brings a rush of adrenaline to those who engage it. The basics of the game include a series of capture the flag scenarios. Two techs set up everything (bongo ball has an extensive high quality obstacle course) and referee the action. Two teams of five enter the arena and generally play 'til the last man is standing. Each player is equipped with an air cannon, similar to a paintball gun, which fires nerf-like foam projectiles. "We bring out a professional, mobile paintball course which includes 25 giant colored obstacles to be used for cover," says Mike Seymore of C.E.P. The game come complete with everything needed to keep the players safe. "We split the students into two groups and provide them with helmets, chest protectors and the air cannons. We really get them all into the theme by making it professional and exciting."

To add to both the excitement and chaos of the game is the ammo rationing. Each player is provided only one projectile at the beginning of the game. Once that shot has been fired it is then up to the player to locate another object on the field of play, re-load, and fire again. This ensures that players must take chances in unprotected parts of the course in

order to gather ammo. With this in mind players have to make every shot count. "This is where it gets thrilling," Mike says excitedly. "You just fired off and now you have balls being fired at you. Then there is a ball three feet from you but you have to try and get it while being fired upon. When you have to start chasing balls in order to fire it becomes very challenging defensively." But with the

average game duration being only 3-5 minutes, there is no need to get down about being knocked out of a game. A new one will begin soon. The energy and excitement generated by Bongo Ball Mania is both buzz worthy and addictive. According to Mike, "Once it gets going it is like controlled chaos. You have nerf balls flying everywhere, people running around and diving behind obstacles, and crowds of cheering supporters."

Innovative, exhilarating, and of course any distraction from the endless amounts of school work given to students these days are all reasons for

Bongo Ball Mania taking the 2011 Novelty Game award. But it's the attention to detail and CEP's determination to always provide the highest level of both quality and professionalism in everything they do that earns them their place in the 2011 Readers Choice Awards.

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