

# 2020 SYDNEY OPEN ONLINE BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT

## STARTS ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 18th



### FORMAT

The tournament format is Triple-Elimination Swiss consisting of eight rounds to nine points. Players are eliminated if they lose any three matches. This combines the best aspects of Knockout and of Swiss style tournaments. A player can lose up to two matches and still win the tournament. Players are paired according to their scores; top score plays second top score and so on. No two players are paired more than once. Players will be randomly paired for the first round and, if there are an odd number of players, a bye will be randomly awarded to one player. If, after eight rounds, two or more players have equally won the most number of matches, further decider rounds will be held to determine the winner. The eventual winner is the player who, after at least eight rounds, has won the most matches. If all players but one have been eliminated before the completion of all rounds, the remaining player is declared the winner.

### ENTRIES, FEES AND PRIZES

Entries close at 10 pm on Saturday October 17th. The tournament will commence on Sunday October 18th. Entry is open to all current members of the Australian Backgammon Federation (ABF). Match results will be added to ABF ratings. There is no limit to the number of players who may enter the tournament. There are no buy-backs. The entry fee is \$50 and there is an optional side pool of \$100. 100% of the entry fees will be returned as prizes as follows:  
1st Prize, to the winner: 60% of the pool plus a trophy (donated by Sydney Backgammoners)  
2nd Prize, to the runner-up: 30% of the pool  
3rd Prize, to the third-placed player: 10% of the pool  
Note that 2nd and 3rd prizes are awarded on score values even if the same number of matches were won. With equal scores prizes are split. The full amount of the Side Pool is awarded to the highest ranking participating player.

### REMITTANCE

All monies will be held by the ABF who will, at the end of the tournament, distribute the prizes. Please deposit your entry fee of \$50 and, if applicable, the \$100 optional side pool into the ABF account:  
BSB: 082048      Account No: 839626033      Reference: Sydney Open  
Please email the treasurer, John Symon, at [treasurer@ausbgf.org.au](mailto:treasurer@ausbgf.org.au) to alert him of your entry and to give him your mobile number. If you are unsure if you are a current member of the ABF John can let you know. Membership costs \$10 per year. Your details will be shared only with tournament entrants so that matches can be arranged.

### WHERE TO PLAY

By agreement, players can choose to play at any venue. Backgammon Galaxy and Safe Harbor Games are common options. It is recommended that clocks are used and set to Normal. The faster clocks are to discourage cheating. Of course I wasn't referring to you. By agreement, players can choose slower clocks or even no clocks. It is up to the players to arrange games among themselves.

### SCORING

In any match, the score difference (points won minus points lost) determines your Score Points. For example if you beat your opponent 9-2, your Score Points are 7 and your opponent's are -7. The winner will be awarded a further 100 Match Points. So your Total Points for that match are 107 and your opponent's are -7. This total is added to prior totals to give the current ranking score which determines the pairing of the next round. If in any round there is an odd number of players, the player at the bottom of the ladder will receive a bye, which counts as a win. The bye player is awarded 100 Bonus Points but no Score Points (as no match was played).

### SCHEDULE

In Swiss tournaments a round cannot commence until all matches in the previous round have been completed. For this reason we shall have a strict 6-day schedule for each round. Pairings for each round will be emailed after 10 pm on Saturdays. Results must be reported by 10 pm the following Friday by email to the Tournament Director, Gary Stavrou, at [gstavrou1941@gmail.com](mailto:gstavrou1941@gmail.com). Late entries (after 10 pm Saturday October 17th) can be accepted into Round 2 with a zero score.

### UNFINISHED MATCHES

Matches whose results are not reported by the due time will not be scored. This counts as a loss for both players. It is likely that in such cases one player will be completely blameless. It is not feasible to follow email trails and apportion blame to one or both players. The "no result, no score" rule will be automatically imposed. No ifs, no buts, no sob stories. If a player can't play or aborts a match for any reason, the Point Score is the score-to-date. 100 Bonus Points will be awarded to the opponent. Aborted or forfeited matches will be scored only if reported by the closing time of the match (10 pm Friday). Unscored players can still proceed to the next round if they have not lost three matches overall.

The Tournament Director shall be the final arbiter of disputes and will be guided by international tournament rules, giving consideration to sportmanship and fairness. If the TD considers that a player is "gaming" the rules he may, after one warning, forfeit that player's match.