

Online 2025 | Rules

This document describes the rules and format of the Ultimate Backgammon Championship – Online Edition 2025.

Only GMs, former UBC participants, and granted wild cards are eligible to enter.

Please note, that the regular UBC is still ongoing, this online edition is its own tournament.

Prizes

- 1st prize: Buy-in for the €1000 Speed World Championship at the BGWC 2026 in Fairmont Monte Carlo.
- 2nd prize: A Backgammon Galaxy board from our new collection.

Entry

Free (invitational only)

Tournament Start Date

September 15th, 2025

Registration

Register by emailing mehmet@backgammongalaxy.com before August 30th. The draw will be made on August 31st. The Drawboss link will be shared on <https://www.backgammongalaxy.com/ubc>.

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Tournament Format & Details

- Swiss System with Triple Elimination until the final 8 remain, where it goes to cup format.
- Each round: 10 × 5-point matches on Backgammon Galaxy with clock setting: Speed. The scoring system to determine the winner is the same as the UBC final. Whoever gets to 11 points first wins. In case of a draw at 10-10, the lower median (not average) error rate wins the match.
- 1 week to complete each round.
- Players connect via Backgammon Galaxy Friends and Chat feature and schedule playing times. If no schedule is agreed upon, the scheduled time will be Sunday at 15:00 CET. The tournament director may set a different forced time if certain time zones are present. Matches are played via Play a Friend mode on Backgammon Galaxy, where each match costs 250 Galaxy Coins, so please ensure you have enough coins for ten matches.
- The analysis used to decide error rate points will be the XG 4-ply analysis (Star Member analysis) on Backgammon Galaxy with no draw margin, unless the exact same error rate appears on the second decimal, for example 3.24 vs. 3.24; in that case, both players get 0.5 points for the analysis. If the error rate is 3.23 vs. 3.24, the 3.23 wins 1 point for the error rate. The Galaxy analysis is the final judgment, with the only exception being software malfunction, in which case a 4-ply analysis is done with the XG desktop version.
- Results and match links (or simply match IDs) shall be submitted to the Tournament Director, Mehmet Cakici, by the winner, at mehmet@backgammongalaxy.com. Also connect with him via the Backgammon Galaxy Friends & Chat system for instant messaging. To get the link for each match, open it in Analysis mode and copy the URL from the web browser.
- The tournament director has the authority to overrule an error rate point if there is a technical issue taken into account, like a software bug, for example.
- Backgammon Galaxy Star Membership is required from the start date of the tournament in order to have 4-ply analysis.

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- It is the player's responsibility to have a stable internet connection during the matches.
- Quarterfinals: Seeded by median error rate from the 4-ply Backgammon Galaxy analysis.
- If fewer than 8 qualify, remaining spots will go to players with the lowest median error rate among those eliminated in the last Swiss round across all their matches in the tournament.
- From the quarterfinals to the final, we will be live streaming matches on Backgammon Galaxy's YouTube channel.
- The stats will be posted on the UBC website under a newly created online section.
- Tournament brackets will be done using Drawboss software and the link will be shared on the UBC website.
- To ensure fair play, each player must set up a camera (phone, webcam, or action cam) approximately one meter to the side at a 45° angle, clearly capturing the full screen, hands, and body. The recording must be in landscape mode, with a minimum resolution of 720p (Full HD or 4K is not required). All games must be recorded. If matches are played without video, the error rate point will automatically be forfeited.
- All recordings should be uploaded as an unlisted YouTube link and shared with the tournament director, who will review every submission.
- The use of mobile phones during matches is strictly prohibited, as they may be used for cheating.

Please feel free to create any kind of content from the tournament, such as posting screenshots or streaming/recording your matches.

Best regards, **Backgammon Galaxy**