



Players Cup Backgammon Event Texas Backgammon Championships

Wednesday, February 4th , 2026

Dear Backgammon Player,

You are invited to participate in the second **Players Cup Backgammon** Tournament of 2026 which will be held at the **The Gunter Hotel | 205 East Houston | San Antonio, Texas | 78205 USA**. This event is part of the 2026 Players Cup and participants will receive stars towards the annual race. All matches are submitted to BMAB (Backgammon Masters Recording Body) for ranking as well as Backgammon World Ranking. This special event takes at the start of the **12th Texas Backgammon Championships**.

The format of the tournament is as follows. **First 4 rounds are random pairings, the last round is Swiss pairing. 9 point matches.** All matches will be played with game clocks, which will be set at 18 minutes of bank time and a 12 second delay for each match. All matches played will be recorded, transcribed and uploaded. Each participant will receive the XG files of their matches and links to the videos.

The tournament will have the following tentative schedule:

- 11:00 am – Registration
- 11:15 am First time player orientation (mandatory for first times at Players Cup)
- 11:45 am – Announcements and Door Prizes
- 12:00 pm – Rounds 1 to 4
- Dinner Break and end of days play after Rd 4 completed
- **8:00 pm Round 5**

Round 5 will be Swiss pairing.

Tournament cost is **\$150 entry fee into a prize pool (100% return) , \$100 registration/transcription fee.**

The prize will be distributed as follows but may be adjusted depending on the number of participants: \$150 will go to the player determined by XG to have been the “unluckiest”, known as the Unlucky Dice Winner. Of the remaining prize pool:

- 39% Tournament Winner
- 28% Tournament Runner-Up
- 20% 3rd Place
- 15% 4th Place

There will also be three side pools:

- Win Side pool A (100% return) \$50 entry
- Win Side pool B (100% return) \$100 entry
- PR Side pool C (100% return) \$100 entry



To enter side pool B, side pool A must also be entered. All can enter PR side pool C.

For each side pool, the winner and runner-up take 67% and 33% of the pool money. **However, if fewer than 4 players enter one (or more) side-pool, the winner will take all.**

The criteria for determining the tournament winners (and winner of side-pools A and B) will be based **solely on the number of match wins**. PR is only taken into account for the PR side pool. Where ties occur, the prize money will be shared equally.

With regard to the PR side pool, any score within 1% of the lowest PR shall be deemed to share first place (and first place only).

All match files from the tournament will become public domain material and the complete results of the tournament will be submitted to Players Cup, BMAB and Backgammon World Ranking . Video files will upload to "Backgammon Cafe" YouTube account.

The sole winner of the event will receive an Iron Legacy Star. If the winners are shared each winner will receive a percentage of an Iron Star. Fractional Iron Stars never expire but are not awarded until a full star is achieved.

We hope all participants will enjoy the challenge of the tournament and its original format. You can find out more information on how the stars are calculated and for Players Cup Backgammon stats at:

www.playerscupbackgammon.com

Sincerely Yours,

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