



BACKGAMMON MASTERS SERIES

BMAB (Middle East) #1 Ranking Tournament

Tuesday, October 30, 2018

Dear Backgammon Player,

You are invited to participate in the first **Backgammon Masters Awarding Body (Middle East)** Ranking Tournament which will be held at the Merit Park Hotel & Casino. This special event precedes the 6th Merit Open International Backgammon Championship 2018.

This tournament is limited to 16 players, so pre-registration is required. We don't expect to have available seats on the day of the tournament.

The format of the tournament is **truncated round-robin** where **each player plays five rounds of 7 point matches**. All matches will be played with game clocks, which will be set with 14 minutes of bank time and a 12 second delay for each match. Moreover, all matches played will be recorded and subsequently transcribed to electronic match files which will then be analyzed by the current version of eXtremeGammon using BMAB settings.

The registration period will take place between **12:00 pm and 12:30**.

The tournament will have the following schedule:

- 12:00 – Registration
- 12:30 – Announcements, Door Prizes, and Q&A
- 13:00 – Rounds 1 to 5
- 20:00 – Dinner
- 21:00 – Merit Park's Welcome Cocktail (don't miss!)
- 22:00 – Play resumes*

*in case matches weren't completed by dinner break

At tournament registration, players will pay **€50 registration and hospitality fee, and €125 entry fee into a prize pool (100% return)**, which will be distributed as follows:

- 70% Tournament Winner
- 30% Tournament Runner-Up

Hospitality will include snacks and drinks (open buffet) throughout the tournament.



There will also be four side pools:

- Side pool A (100% return) €50 entry
- Side pool B (100% return) €100 entry
- PR Side pool C (**110% return**) €50 entry
- PR Side pool D (**110% return**) €100 entry

To enter side pool B, side pool A must also be entered. Similarly, to enter PR side pool D, PR side pool C must also be entered.

For each side pool, the winner and runner-up take 70% and 30% 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 winner and runner up (and winner of side-pools A and B) will be based solely on the number of match wins. Where ties occur, the prize money will be shared equally. With regard to the PR side pools, any score within 1% of the lowest PR shall be deemed to share first place (and first place only).

The PR prizes will be awarded to the two players -- or one player if fewer than 4 players are in the same PR side pool -- with the lowest aggregate PR, determined from the completed XG player profiles, which weighs the PR from each match against the number of decisions made. The PR prize cannot be awarded until all the matches are transcribed and then analyzed. Consequently, it is expected that there will be a two week period between completion of tournament and the award of PR prize.

At the end of the tournament, players will be provided with 3 recorded match videos. Each player will be required to transcribe these three matches within 14 days and submit the match files to Amir or David via email. Players may use third parties to perform this function. Such a service is available at this tournament for the fee of €12 per match or €30 for the three assigned matches.

All match files from the tournament will become public domain material and the complete results of the tournament will subsequently be reported and submitted to the Backgammon Masters Awarding Body (BMAB). Matches will be analyzed using the current version of eXtremeGammon (XG) using the following settings: Standard World Class Analysis but with "Gigantic" search interval, 15 x 8 bear-off database, and resignation errors counting.

If you accept the invitation it is imperative that you commence and complete the tournament, as a late cancellation will have a negative impact of the whole format for all participants.

Therefore, you are kindly asked to confirm your participation by answering the following:

- Send a €30 deposit via PayPal to David.pr@gmail.com
 - Whether you wish to make use of the match transcription service (€12 per match or €30 for all assigned matches)
 - Whether you are able to bring a memory stick of capacity 8GB or more if you do not require the match transcription service
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Please note that the €30 deposit will be deducted from the entry fee upon registration or returned via PayPal.

Important Notice – Due to a conflict of schedule, if you decide to participate in the BMAB Middle East ranking tournament, you cannot participate in the 869BG warm-up event. **Therefore, by registering to the BMAB Middle East Ranking Tournament, you waive your right to participate in the 869BG warm-up event.**

For any question or concern please contact **Amir Eshraghi (amirsnooker@gmail.com) or David Presser (David.pr@gmail.com).**

We hope all participants will enjoy the challenge of the tournament and its original format.

Sincerely Yours,

The BMAB (Middle East) Directing Team

(Amir Eshraghi and David Presser)
