

43rd CHICAGO OPEN

BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT

Memorial Day Weekend
May 21–26, 2025

Embassy Suites O'Hare
5500 N River Rd, Rosemont, IL 60018

Tournament Conditions

- ▶ The Chicago Open is by invitation only.
- ▶ The Director reserves the right to refuse an entrant without giving any reason.
- ▶ All fees paid onsite must be in cash.
- ▶ Eligibility for all events is subject to approval.
- ▶ All events at the Chicago Open will be played in accord with the USBGF Tournament Rules with the following options:
 - Legal Moves
 - Dice on Checker
- ▶ All events at the 2025 Chicago Open are **"Clocks Required"** with only two exceptions, the Novice Division and the 1-Point Quickie
- ▶ Baffle Boxes may be used by either player upon request but may not be forced upon one's opponent.
- ▶ Recording of any/all matches is permissible by either player upon request.
- ▶ The number of places paid in any event is dependent upon the number of entrants and may be adjusted at the Director's discretion.

Please bring your own board and digital clock



2024 Chicago Open Champion Alberto Showaki accompanied by Tournament Director Rory Pascar.

Hotel Reservations

The Embassy Suites by Hilton Chicago O'Hare Rosemont is offering a special rate of **\$149** per night for single or double occupancy for all nights except Friday & Saturday where King rooms are \$159 and Queen/Queen rooms are \$179. You may call one of the numbers below or book online by going to www.ChicagoOpenBG.com and clicking the Hotel Button in the top right corner of the website. If you call, be sure to mention the Chicago Open Backgammon Tournament when making your reservations.

Call for Reservations

847-678-4000 (hotel direct) or
800-EMBASSY (central reservations)

All reservations must be made by May 6, 2025 to guarantee the group rate.



The Backgammon rate includes a hot breakfast buffet for up to two people to include the Chicago Open staple: Bagels, Cream Cheese, and Smoked Salmon. The Hotel "Happy Hour" will provide complimentary drinks/snacks every night during the tournament.

Hotel Information

The Embassy Suites O'Hare has 294 spacious rooms. All rooms at the hotel are 2-room suites with a separate parlor area from the bedroom. Amenities include complimentary airport shuttle, WIFI, mini refrigerator, microwave, safe, indoor pool, & fitness center. Hotel Parking in the Embassy Suites' Garage is discounted from \$39 to just \$15 daily.



QUESTIONS? Contact Rory Pascar at (617) 699-9100 or Rory@ChicagoOpenBG.com

Main Tournament Details

All Divisions will be the Quadruple Elimination "MoreSwiss" format.

Open Championship: 9-point matches, \$400 entry fee, 90% return, \$200 side pool.

Intermediate Division: 9-point matches, \$200 entry fee, 85% return, \$100 side pool.

Novice Division: 3-point matches. \$50 entry fee, 100% return.

Visit ChicagoOpenBG.com/main/#format for full tournament details.

Unlucky Dice Last Chance – All players in the Open and Intermediate who lose 4 matches Saturday (end of round 5) will get a "Free Roll" into this single elimination event to be played on Sunday. All matches are 5 points. Anytime an Intermediate player faces an Open Player they will start with a 1-0 lead. 1st Place will receive a custom board from our sponsor **FM Gammon**. 2nd Place receives \$300.

Tournament Ruling Committee:

Jeb Horton, Neil Kazaross, Dan Minardi, Bill Riles, and Frank Talbot

Tournament Eligibility Committee:

Dmitriy Obukhov, Ian Terry, Jonah Seewald, Roberto Litzenberger, and Benjamin Friesen

In partnership with Backgammon Galaxy and APBG, matches will be streamed all weekend! Please use the following links to view these live streams.

<https://youtube.com/backgammongalaxy>
<https://youtube.com/aplive>

QUESTIONS? Contact Rory Pascar at (617) 699-9100 or Rory@ChicagoOpenBG.com

43rd CHICAGO OPEN

BACKGAMMON TOURNAMENT

Memorial Day Weekend
May 21–26, 2025
ChicagoOpenBG.com

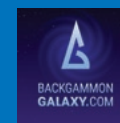


featuring

- **2025 Women's National Championship**
- **Players Cup (BMAB)**
- **Lecture** – Michihito "Michy" Kageyama
- **CJC's Backgammon Boutique**

Embassy Suites by Hilton
Rosemont, Illinois

Across from Rosemont Convention Center



Schedule of Events

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2025

- 5:00 PM** Registration Opens for Players Cup (BMAB)
- 6:00 PM** Players Cup (BMAB) Begins (3 Rounds to be Played Wednesday Night)

THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2025

- 11:00 AM** Players Cup (BMAB) Continues (Final 2 Rounds)
- 11:00 AM** Registration Opens for All Events
- 12:00 PM** Markowitz Masters Qualifier
- 12:00 PM** Faster Master Start Time #1
- 12:15 PM** Limited Jackpot Start Time #1
- 12:15 PM** Intermediate Jackpot Start Time #1
- 1:00 PM** 1-Point Quickie Begins
- 1:00 PM** 5-Point Blitzes Begin
- 1:30 PM** Juniors vs Seniors Begins
- 1:30 PM** SpeedGammon Begins
- 3:00 PM** 2025 Women's National Championship Begins
- 3:00 PM** Markowitz Masters Start Time #1
- 3:00 PM** Faster Master Start Time #2
- 3:15 PM** Limited Jackpot Start Time #2
- 3:15 PM** Intermediate Jackpot Start Time #2
- 7:00 PM** Markowitz Masters Start Time #2
- 7:00 PM** Faster Master Start Time #3
- 7:15 PM** Limited Jackpot Start Time #3
- 7:15 PM** Intermediate Jackpot Start Time #3
- 8:30 PM** Zavoral Board Tournament Begins
- 10:30 PM** No More Matches Begin

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2025

- 10:00 AM** Registration Continues
- 11:00 AM** Doubles Tournament Begins (first 3 rounds will be played)
- 11:00 AM** Markowitz Masters Start Time #3
- 11:15 AM** Limited Jackpot Start Time #4
- 11:15 AM** Intermediate Jackpot Start Time #4
- 5:00 PM** Dinner Break
- 8:00 PM** Round 3 of All Jackpots Begin
- 8:00 PM** All Side Events Continue
- 11:30 PM** No More Matches Begin
- 11:30 PM** Registration Closes for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions - ALL FEES DUE

SATURDAY, MAY 24, 2025

- 9:30 AM** Welcome Announcements & Calcutta Auction
CHICAGO OPEN ABT MAIN TOURNAMENT BEGINS
- 11:00 AM** Round 1 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 12:00 PM** Novice Division Begins
- 1:15 PM** Round 2 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 3:30 PM** Round 3 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 5:30 PM** Dinner Break - Optional Banquet
- 7:30 PM** Round 4 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 9:30 PM** Round 5 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 9:30 PM** All Side Events Continue
- 11:30 PM** No Matches More Begin

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2025

- 10:00 AM** Round 6 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 10:00 AM** All Side Events Continue
- 10:30 AM** The "Unlucky Dice" Last Chance Begins
- 12:00 PM** Play Continues Novice Division
- 12:00 PM** Round 7 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 2:00 PM** Round 8 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 4:00 PM** Round 9 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 6:00 PM** Dinner Break
- 8:00 PM** **Lecture by Giant #3 Michihito "Michy" Kageyama "Gravity in Backgammon"**
- 9:00 PM** Round 10 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 9:00 PM** All Side Events Continue
- 11:30 PM** No More Matches Begin

MONDAY, MAY 26, 2025

- 10:00 AM** All Side Events Continue
- 10:00 AM** Round 11 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions
- 12:00 PM** Round 12 for ABT Open and Intermediate Divisions (if necessary)
- 2:00 PM** Markowitz Masters Final Begins
- 3:00 PM** After Tourney Begins

REGISTER ONLINE
on the Chicago Open website:
www.ChicagoOpenBG.com



Side Event Details

Markowitz Masters

\$600 entry fee, 90% return, \$300 side pool, 11-point matches. There will be an optional \$300 qualifier at 12:00pm on Thursday May 22nd. (2 min/12 sec)

Faster Master

\$500 entry fee, 90% return, \$250 side pool, 11-point matches. (1 min/10 sec)

Limited Jackpot

\$300 entry fee, 85% return, \$150 side pool, 9-point matches, Top World Class players are not eligible. (2 min/12 sec)

Intermediate Jackpot

\$200 entry fee, 85% return, \$100 side pool, 9-point matches. Open/Championship level players are not eligible. (2 min/15 sec)

Doubles Tournament

\$400 entry fee, 80% return, \$200 side pool (per team), 7-point matches. (3 min/15 sec)

Zavoral Board Tournament*

\$150 entry fee, 87.5% return, 7-point matches, 1st place wins Zavoral Board and 2nd place wins \$400 (based on 16 players). Continuous entries all weekend until field of 16 is complete. (2 min/12 sec)

SpeedGammon

\$100 entry fee, 85% return, \$50 side pool, 7-point matches. (2 min total/8 sec)

Juniors (under 60) vs Seniors (60+) Tournament

\$60 entry fee, 80% return, \$30 side pool, 7-point matches. There will be 2 brackets. The winner of the Juniors will face the winner of the Seniors for a Chicago Open logo FM Backgammon board. (2 min/12 sec)

The Blitz

\$30 entry fee, 83.3% return, 5-point matches. 4-player knock-outs. Winner gets paid \$100. (2 min/12 sec)

1-Point Quickie

\$20 entry fee, 80% return, 1-point matches

The After Tourney Tourney

\$100 entry fee, 80% return, \$50 side pool, 5-point matches. (2 min/12 sec)

95% Return in All Side Pools

2025 Women's National Championship

\$100 entry fee, \$75 Re-Buy, only after 1st loss if spots still remain available, 90% return, \$50 side pool. 9-points in the Main bracket and 5-points in the Consolation.* (2 min/12 sec)

*The Winner will receive a choice between a lavender Women's World of Backgammon ArtGammon Board or \$500 bonus cash, while the Finalist and Consolation Winner will each receive a Belair Watch valued at \$250 courtesy of Alan and Joan Grunwald.



Players Cup (BMAB) in Chicago

In 2022, the Chicago Open hosted a BMAB event for the first time and set a World Record with 32 participants. In 2024 we broke the record again with 44. We hope to smash that record in 2025. Dmitry Obukhov and Roberto Litzenberger will direct this "Players Cup (BMAB)" event. Should you have any questions please email Dmitry directly at DmitryObukhov@gmail.com.

Fees

- Entry Fee is \$150 (100% return)
- Side Pool A \$50 and B \$100 (100% return)
- PR Side Pool C \$50 and D \$100 (100% return)
 - * 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.
- Registration/Transcription Fee \$75

Format

- 5-rounds of 9-point matches
- 3 rounds of random pairings followed by 2 rounds of Swiss pairings
- All matches will be recorded and transcribed to electronic match files then analyzed by the current version of eXtremeGammon using BMAB settings.

SCHEDULE

Wednesday, May 21st

- 5:00 PM** Registration begins
- 6:00 PM** Rounds 1-3

Thursday May 22nd

- 11:00 AM** Final 2 Rounds

