The Rules

Scoring, Cup points, Swiss pairing, standings, fees, and analysis settings

The following rules govern BMAB Athens 2027, held on Friday 26 February 2027 at the Hotel Royal Olympic, Athens, on the opening day of the 5th Greek Grand Prix (WBF Slam). Play follows World Backgammon Federation (WBGF) rules; the event is registered with BMAB, and it follows standard BMAB scoring and eXtreme Gammon analysis conventions. Athens uses the full skill-and-win system for both its own champion and European Players Cup points, as at Brighton.

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01 · SCORING

How points are awarded

Each 7-point match awards two separate points, tracked throughout the event:

- **1 point for the match win** — awarded to the player who reaches 7 points first.
- **1 point for the PR win** — awarded to the player with the lower performance rating (PR) in that match, as evaluated by eXtreme Gammon 2.

A player can therefore earn 0, 1, or 2 points from a single match.

> BOTH POINTS DECIDE ATHENS
> The Athens champion is decided by total points — match wins plus PR wins — across all five rounds (see Final Standings). The same points count in full toward each player's European Players Cup season total.

02 · EUROPEAN PLAYERS CUP POINTS

How Athens feeds the season table

The European Players Cup runs across several BMAB Players Cup legs in different cities, culminating in a season final in Budapest. Results from Athens count towards the European Players Cup leaderboard.

- Every match at Athens awards Cup points on the same basis as every other leg: **1 Cup point for the match win, 1 Cup point for the PR win** — up to 2 points per match.
- These Cup points accumulate to each player's running European Players Cup season total, carrying toward qualification for the Budapest final.
- At Athens, the leg's own standings use the same match-win + PR-win totals, so the leg table and the Cup points earned here match.

03 · SWISS PAIRING

Five rounds, no knockout

BMAB Athens is played as a single 5-round Swiss event — there is no separate knockout stage.

- Rounds 1–3 are pre-drawn, so play flows without waiting between rounds.
- Rounds 4 and 5 are drawn on the day from standings by match-win points — PR analysis takes longer than the gap between rounds.
- No player meets the same opponent twice.
- If the field is odd, the tournament directors announce how the bye is handled before Round 1.

04 · FINAL STANDINGS

How the Athens champion is decided

There is no bracket. After Round 5, the Athens champion is the player with the most total points — match-win points plus PR-win points — across all five rounds.

- If players are tied on total points, lower average PR across all rounds is ranked higher.
- If PR average is also tied, the placing is shared.

05 · FEES & REGISTRATION

Fees, side pools, and how to enter

One entry fee of €100, paid on site to the organiser, covers video recording of every match, transcription, the BMAB fee and the organiser's fee.

An optional side pool of €200 per entrant is collected and paid out by the organiser, separate from the entry fee. The pool goes to the highest-ranked pool entrant in the final standings; the organiser keeps a 5% handling fee.

- Field is capped at **48 participants** — a hard cap, with a waiting list after that.
- Register by email to hello@backgammondata.com with your name, country and BMAB rank (if any). Places go to the first 48 registrations, confirmed by reply; waiting list after that. The €100 entry fee is paid on site to the organiser on the day. Registration deadline to be announced.

06 · TECHNICAL RULES

On the board

- All matches are played on **live boards** with clocks.
- Match length: **7 points**, throughout the tournament.
- Clock: **14 minutes per player and match, plus a 12-second delay per move**.
- Play follows **WBGF** rules; the tournament is registered with **BMAB** as a qualifier for the European Players Cup.
- Matches must be **live, clocked, and pre-designated** — pairings are published before each round is played, consistent with BMAB's rules for a qualifying tournament.
- Every match is recorded and transcribed by the Backgammon Data team.
- **Schedule:** about 90 minutes per round, starting at 11:00, and play finishes before the 19:00 dinner break. No lunch break. Start times may be varied by the tournament directors; their decision on timing is final.

07 · ANALYSIS & PR

How PR is evaluated

All matches are recorded and transcribed by the Backgammon Data team, then submitted to BMAB for analysis. *(Note: BMAB's general rules default to splitting transcription between the tournament director and participants — the Backgammon Data team handles all of it instead, so players have nothing to transcribe.)*

- Analysis uses eXtreme Gammon's **"World Class Analysis"** preset with the **"Gigantic"** search interval, a **15×8 bear-off database**, and counts resignation errors toward PR.
- Each match is analysed **once**.
- Pairings and match results are posted on the day; full results including PR are published on backgammondata.com within 24 hours.

Full detail on BMAB's process: bgmastersab.com/about.

Questions about the rules?

Rulings at the board, disputes and venue matters are decided by the tournament directors, Máté Fehér and Arda Findikoglu; either may rule on the spot, and their joint decision on any appeal is final. Scoring, PR analysis and Cup points are decided by Máté Fehér.

BMAB Players Cup — Athens

Hosted at the Hotel Royal Olympic, Athens — at the 5th Greek Grand Prix

Recording, analysis & BMAB direction by Backgammon Data Limited

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