The Rules

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

The following rules govern BMAB Budva 2027, held on Wednesday 14 April 2027 at the Royal Splendid Hotel & Casino, Budva, on the opening day of the 7th Merit 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. Budva 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 BUDVA
> The Budva 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 Budva 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 Budva count towards the European Players Cup leaderboard.

- Every match at Budva 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 Budva, 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 Budva 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 Budva champion is decided

There is no bracket. After Round 5, the Budva 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 evening programme. 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 — Budva

Hosted at the Royal Splendid Hotel & Casino, Budva — at the 7th Merit Grand Prix, 14–18 April 2027

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