

*Greece Backgammon*

&

The World Backgammon Internet Federation



...would like to invite you to...

... Athens ...

(27 - 31 October 2021)

...for the 2021 **WBIF Tour Finals** and the...

3<sup>rd</sup> Athens Open / Amarilia Cup

!! Your Personal Event Guide !!

## Table of Contents

	Page
WBIF Tour Finals Information	3
The Venue	5
Rooms Reservation Procedure	8
Transfer Information	10
Side Events	11
Introducing: <i>FreeGammon</i> and <i>RandomGammon</i>	12
The Jackpots' Jackpot	15
The Swing	15
Side Events Schedule	16
Health & Safety Protocols	18
What to do (when I'm not playing) in Athens?	19
Your Hosts	27

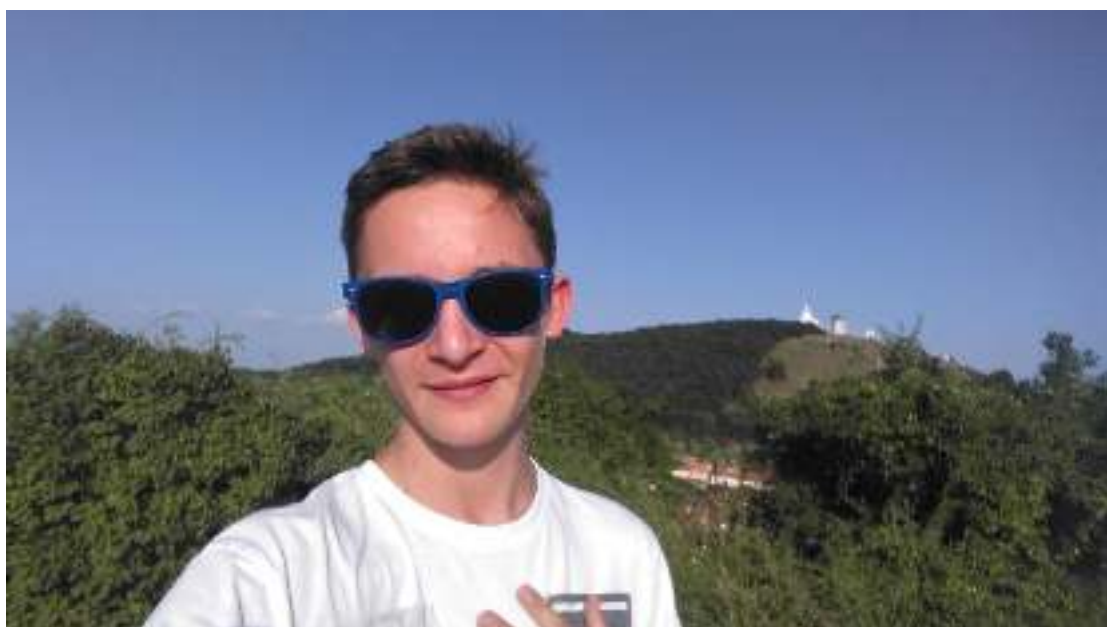


## WBIF Tour Finals Information

This is going to be the 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the prestigious WBIF Tour, an annual event organized by the World Backgammon Internet Federation (WBIF). In every tour, there are three online qualifiers, where players collect points in their attempt to finish among the top-30, in order to reach the live Finals.

### Past Finals

<i>Venue</i>	<i>Winner</i>
Vienna, Austria	Claus Elken (Denmark / Malta)
Isthmia, Greece	Michalis Manolios (Greece)
Malta	Kristoffer Hötzeneder (Austria)
<i>held online, due to Covid restrictions</i>	Jiří Vala (Czech Republic)



Jiří Vala, winner of the 2020 WBIF Tour Finals

This year, as seven players finished at the 29<sup>th</sup> place, there are 35 players who are entitled to participate at the Finals and are expected to fight for the title. They are:

**Thomas Myhr** and **Hans Kristian Mathiesen** from Denmark,  
**Steve Bibby**, **Simon Carter**, **Gaz Owen**, **Chris Rogers** and **Andrew Selby** from the United Kingdom,  
**Claus Elken** from Malta,  
**Uriel Ben-Mihael** from Israel,  
**Henning Frick**, **Ralf Sudbrak** and **Jürgen Schettler** from Germany,  
**Bernhard Mayr**, **Wolfgang Bacher** and **Reinhold Drugowitsch** from Austria,  
**Jiří Vala**, **Zdeněk Žižka** and **Honza Černý** from the Czech Republic,  
**Sean Casey** from Ireland,  
**Elias Kritikos** from Norway,  
**Luigi De Lazzari** from Italy,

**Steven Waller** from the United States,  
**Radu Ciortan** and **Michael Neagu** from Romania,  
**Katalin Veszeli** from Hungary,  
**Burak Çulhaci** from Turkey,  
**Roland Sahlén** from Sweden,  
**Costas Chiotinis, Ioannis Mathioudakis, Michail Proukakis, Ioannis Atmatzidis,**  
**Anastasios Maniatis, Tasos Anastasiou, Michails Manolios** and **Apostolos Amprazis**  
from Greece.

### ***Final Tournament Information***

Modus: Triple KO - 11 point Matches - Clock 18 min + 12 sec delay

Tie break: Points of Opponents

Entry fee: € 100 / Registration: 10% of entry fee

Sidepool: € 150 (optional) / In the case of players who get disqualified with the same number of points, the prize is shared (split depends on the number of participants).

### ***Prizes***

Five prizes: 30% / 25% / 20% / 15% / 10%

*(depending on the actual number of participants!)*



### ***Schedule***

#### **Thursday, 28 October**

13:00 - 14:00 Registration at the playing room of Hotel Amarilia

14:00 Round 1 / 16:30 Round 2 / 19:00 Round 3 / 21:30 Round 4

#### **Friday, 29 October**

11:00 Round 5 / 13:00 Round 6 / 15:00 Round 7 / 17:00 Round 8 / 20:00 Round 9 /  
22:00 Round 10

#### **Saturday, 30 October**

11:00 Round 11 / 12:30 Round 12 / 14:00 Round 13

#### **Sunday, 31 October**

ca. 19:00 Awards Ceremony / Snack

## The Venue

### LOCATION

The 4 \*\*\*\*\* Amarilia Hotel is located in Vouliagmeni, on the Athenian Riviera, the most exclusive and green coastal area of Athens. While enjoying a beachfront location, just 20 min. drive from Athens city center and the International Airport, Amarilia Hotel is an excellent choice for business and leisure travelers. The distance from the center of Athens is close enough for guests who need to commute and far enough to enjoy the tranquility of the picturesque area.

### ACCOMMODATION

The Hotel has 100 rooms and suites (each suite with 2 double rooms and a sitting area). All rooms and suites have balconies with sea or pool view and have been recently renovated.



### HOTEL SERVICES

The comfortable restaurant of 300 seats offers a wide choice of international and Greek cuisine and satisfies all dietary needs. The hotel also has café bar 'Allegro', that serves snacks, and a pool bar. Other services include 24-hour Internet room, currency exchange, room service, same day laundry & dry cleaning, car hire, travel assistance and doctor on call.

### SPORTS & LEISURE

The hotel has an outdoor sweet water swimming pool while the sandy beach, only steps from the hotel, offers most of the nautical sports.

### TRANSPORTATION

Continuous public bus service to the beaches and resorts along the coastal road between Athens and Cape Sounion.



### **GUEST ROOM FACILITIES**

Balcony with panoramic view of Vouliagmeni bay or the swimming pool

Free wireless high speed internet access

Direct phone line

Individually controlled air conditioning and heating

Hair dryer

Renovated bathroom with bathtub or shower

Work desk

Bathroom phone and deluxe amenities

Electronic key card locks

Remote controlled satellite TV

Electronic safe box

LED flat screen TV

Mini fridge / Coffee & tea making facilities

Connecting rooms available



### **DISTANCES**

Beach / 50 m / 1 min walking

Athens Center / 17 km / 20 minutes (by car)

International Airport (El. Venizelos) / 19 km / 20 minutes (by car)

Piraeus Port / 20 km / 25 minutes (by car)

### **BANQUETING FACILITIES**

Our spacious rooms, which can welcome up to total of 520 guests, are all filled with daylight and are tastefully decorated with paintings and unique pieces of antique furniture.

## **ATTRACTIONS**

Spa & Thalassotherapy Center  
Temple of Poseidon at Cape Sounion  
Lake of Vouliagmeni  
Ancient Town of Thorikos at Lavrio  
Vouliagmeni Tennis Club  
Vorres Museum in Peania  
Vouliagmeni & Glyfada Yacht Marina  
'Koutouki' Cave in Peania  
Glyfada 18-hole Golf Course  
Glyfada Shopping Center



## **HOTEL SERVICES**

24-hour front desk  
Same-day laundry and dry cleaning  
'Artemis' Restaurant with Mediterranean cuisine  
Meeting rooms with natural daylight  
'Allegro' Café Bar  
Outdoor swimming pool (seasonal)  
Banqueting facilities available indoors & outdoors  
Travel assistance and Car hire  
24-hour internet room  
Room service  
Free wireless internet connection in all hotel areas  
Private transfers on request  
Currency exchange

## Rooms Reservation Procedure

Booking code for Special Tournament Prices: **BGLIVE**

Room prices (including breakfast) for the WBIF Tour Finals & Amarilia Cup:

Single room: **€ 88** per night\*

Double room: **€98** per night\*

(\* plus €3 tax/room per night)

### Instructions:

1. Enter website <https://amarilia.reserve-online.net/>
2. Click Booking Code on top of the page
3. Enter the booking code (**BGLIVE**)
4. Proceed with instructions needed (dates, room type, number of guests etc.)
5. After completing the reservation procedure, guests will receive an email with the confirmation of their booking.



### Payment policy:

A deposit of the first night is required to secure requested accommodation. For safety reasons, credit card used and its owner, must be present upon check-in. In case the same credit card cannot be provided, another credit card or payment in cash will be required. Please contact us for further information about third party payments.

### Cancellation policy:

In case of cancellation up to 15 days before the arrival, no cancellation fees will apply.



In case of cancellation until 6 days prior to arrival, 1 night cancellation fees will apply.

In case of cancellation during last 5 days prior to arrival or non-show, full cancellation fees will apply. Early departures are subject to cancellation fees.



### **AMARILIA HOTEL**

13, Agiou Nikolaou str. 166 71 Vouliagmeni, Athens Greece

T. +30 210 8990391

Dir +30 210 8990392

F. +30 210 8955790

E-mail: [info@amarilia.gr](mailto:info@amarilia.gr)

- Although it is not compulsory to stay in Amarilia Hotel in order to participate to the WBIF Tour Finals & Events of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Athens Open, we ***strongly*** recommend it. You will definitely NOT find a better value for money accommodation at this highly prestigious (and most expensive) suburban area of Athens!

## Transfer information

Kindly note that shuttle service is not provided.

Regarding transfer service from the Athens airport to Amarilia hotel

### By taxi:

Taxis are available 24 hours a day at the designated area located at Exit 3 of Arrivals level.

The taxi journey from the airport to the hotel takes 20 to 30 minutes and costs approximately 25-30 € with Day Tariff No 1 (05:01 am - 23:59) and approximately 37 € with Night Tariff No. 2 (00:00 - 05:00 am) depending on the traffic.

### By pre-arranged taxi:

Rates for pre-arranged taxis:

Athens airport to Hotel with tariff 1 (05:00 am - 00:00) is approximately 30 €.

Athens airport to Hotel with tariff 2 (00:00 - 05:00 am) is approximately 45 €.

Each taxi is for maximum 3 adults and 3 regular pieces of luggage (subject to change).

In this case, please send us your full flight details (flight no, departure airport and arrival time) as well as your cell phone number.

The taxi driver will be waiting for you in the airports' arrivals area holding a sign with your name on it.

Please keep in mind that all passengers are required to wear mask during the transfer.

### By Express bus:

Bus number X96 departs from the Airport at the Arrivals Level, between Exits 4 and 5. The ticket costs approximately 6 € per person.

The closest bus station to the hotel is Pigadakia (7-10 min walking distance).

Should you wish transfer from the Hotel to the Airport you can arrange it directly with the front desk upon departure.

We remain at your disposal for anything else you may need and please advise should you wish us to arrange transfer for you.

Kind Regards

Katerina Tzanodaskalaki / Reservations Department

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E-mail: [info@amarilia.gr](mailto:info@amarilia.gr)

[www.amarilia.gr](http://www.amarilia.gr)

## Side Events

Apart from hosting the Finals, the Greece Backgammon organizes a series of Side Events, under the sponsorship of *Amarilia Hotel 4\**. Side events are structured in such a way, as to enable most WBIF Tour finalists to participate, but in general participation is open to all.

### Amarilia Doubles

A Doubles Consultation single elimination tournament, open for everybody, WBIF Tour Finalists or not. Matches will be played during the whole period of the games according to the availability of players. (In extreme circumstances, the organization may ask a couple to be represented by a single player, if the other is engaged at some other event which falls behind schedule). Matchlength: 11-pts. Clocks will be set at 22 mins. per pair + 15 sec. delay time. Two prizes (70/30%)

### Amarilia Cup

The main event sponsored by *Amarilia Hotel 4\**.

A double elimination tournament with fighters' bracket.

Matchlength: 11-pts. for the Main, 7-pts. for the Fighters / Final: 13-pts. (& 9-pts. if a second final match is needed). Three prizes (50/30/20%)



*Olympian Zeus temple, Athens*

### Amarilia SuperJackpot

A single elimination, 9-pt. matches Jackpot. Two prizes (70/30%)

### Amarilia SpeedGammon

A single elimination, 5-pt. matches tournament. Clocks will be set at 2 mins. per player + 10 sec. delay time. There will be an opportunity for rebuys, depending on the number of participants. Two or four prizes, depending on the number of participants.

Side Events Fees (in €):

	Entry	Registration	Total
<i>3<sup>rd</sup> Athens Open / Amarilia Cup</i>	140	20	160
<i>Amarilia Doubles</i>	175*	25*	200*
<i>Amarilia SuperJackpot</i>	260	40	300
<i>Amarilia SpeedGammon</i>	35	5	40
<i>Amarilia FreeGammon</i>	20	5	25
<i>Amarilia RandomGammon</i>	20	5	25
<i>Amarilia Swing</i>	20	5	25

\*per pair



*Lycabettus Hill, Athens*

## Introducing: **FreeGammon** and **RandomGammon**

**FreeGammon** and **RandomGammon** are two variances of Backgammon, which are based on the same idea: A different starting position in every game!

Over the years, there have been attempts to create new games by changing the initial position of checkers and some, have attracted public attention (e.g. Nackgammon). Our proposal is much more radical: Change everything at any new game!

It can be argued that the constant starting position of a traditional backgammon game, is so much thoroughly studied over the decades (especially after the introduction of bots), that players can learn at least the three first moves by heart. Therefore, players with a better memorization ability, have an advantage over

others, who may be blessed with other qualities, such as strategic understanding of a position.

These games are especially designed for the latter sort of players.

No more five checkers stacked on the six-point.

No more a 167 – 167 pips race.

Best first rolls become completely different in the context of a completely different position every time. There may be games where an initial 51 will be significantly better than a 31.

All other rules of backgammon apply.



*Herodium Theatre, Athens*

**FreeGammon** has been conceived by Giorgos Avdis, Nikos Dikaros and Michail Proukakis of the Greek Backgammon Federation, the first match being played in Eretria on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.

In this variant, players place their checkers manually on the board, just before the start of every new game, following a simple rule:

Player A places checker #1 at his chosen point. (e.g. 19).

Player B places his checker #1 at the same position (in our example, point 19) and checker #2 at the point of his own choice (let's say, 7 – note that he can't place it at 6, as the point is already occupied by his opponent's first checker).

Then, player A has to place his checker #2 at his own 7, following which, he places his checker #3 at the point of his own choice (the only exception being 18, as it is already occupied by his opponent. Note that an obvious choice could be point 19 once more, already creating a high anchor.)

Using this method, both players place their 15 checkers and start to play a completely awkward game.

Over time, some players may devise checker placement strategies, which suit their own preferences. Their opponents of course, have the ability to stop them by placing their checkers at relevant positions. While less experienced players may have a preference for pure races, others have significantly better winning chances by playing complicated positions, such as backgames. In general however,



**FreeGammon** initial positions, would be difficult enough for any average player to handle, giving a significant advantage to those with a deep strategic understanding of the game.

Note that following the checkers' placement method mentioned above, there is always the possibility of a short race (less than 100 pips in both players' positions) or for unprotected blots over the board before the first roll. Needless to mention that if a player hits in his first roll, his winning chances increase exponentially. So... be careful in your checkers' placement!



*Thisseion, Athens*

**RandomGammon** is the natural descendent of **FreeGammon**, in which the various initial positions are given by a simple, computer software, rather than the players themselves. In that way, we win something (time, for sure), but lose something else (the development of individual players' strategies in relation to their preferred sort of initial positions). **RandomGammon** may prove ideal for tournament organizations, as all players competing in a specific round of a given event, may be obliged to play exactly the same initial positions in every one of their games.

The software we will use during the **Athens Open** games, devised by Kostas Konstantinou, does not allow for short races (every player starts with more than 100 pips) or unprotected blots at the initial position. Only experience will show us, if these limitations are adequate to provide our community, with a new and intriguing experience.

As both games allow for eXtremeGammon analysis, it will be extremely interesting to see how world class players will perform, given a completely unfamiliar starting position, in which they may well make a mistake even in their first move!

This is going to be the first ever tournament in **RandomGammon** and **FreeGammon**.

Players who participate in both, will be asked to evaluate their experience.

## The Jackpots' Jackpot

There will be continuous mini-jackpots running throughout the event (€10 / €20 / €50 / €100), in which there will be an 85% return to the winners.

The Greek Federation would like to subsidize the player who scores best in its jackpots, regardless whether he / she has managed to win any individual mini-jackpots.

Every win gives points which are relative to the level of entry fee – that is, a player who constantly participates in €10 jackpots, needs ten victorious matches to reach a player who has achieved a single win at a €100 jackpot.

A special pot is created, which receives 5% of all entry fees, plus a subsidy by the Greek Federation: €100 if popular interest proves to be low and we finish up to 20 mini-jackpots, or €200 if the total number of mini-jackpots held, exceeds 20 – irrespective of the level of entry fees.

The player who has collected the most points from Wednesday evening to Sunday afternoon (the exact time will be announced on site), wins the total pot – plus the title of the Amarilia Jackpots' Jackpot Winner, accompanied by a commemorative cup!

## The Swing

The Swing ("Havuz" in Turkish) is a backgammon variance which is particularly popular in Turkey. We would like to thank Arda Findikoğlu, for sharing with us his experience in organizing such events.

All the participants registered for the Swing, are given 10 points for the start. Players are paired in the beginning of each round by manual random draw and asked to play a single pointer with the doubling cube included in the game, as if it were a money game. Gammons and backgammons are normally counted.

At the end of each game, the game points are multiplied with the doubling cube rate to calculate the points transferred from one player to the other.

As rounds go by, the stakes rate is increased.

The players who lose all their points are eliminated and the player who collects all the points of all other players at the end, becomes the winner.

If a player has less points than the stakes level of that round, then she / he plays for all of her / his points.

If a player gets a "bye" in the draw, he pairs the first name drawn in the draw of next round.

*Stake levels per round: 1/1/2/2/5/5/10/10/20/20/20/40/40/40/80/80/80/All In*

## Side Events Schedule

### Wednesday, 27 October

19:00 Registration starts for all events at the Amarilia Hotel

19:50 Registration closes for the *Amarilia Doubles*

20:00 Start of the *Amarilia Doubles* (min. of two rounds played)

### Thursday, 28 October

11:00 Playing room opens

*Amarilia Doubles* continues

Start of 4 or 8-player MiniJackpots (€10/20/50/100, 85% return),

Quarter-entries (8 players x €20) & Semi-Entries (4 players x €40) as qualifiers for the *Amarilia Cup*.

14:30 Start of the *Amarilia RandomGammon*

18:30 Start of the *Amarilia Swing*



*The Parthenon, Acropolis, Athens*

### Friday, 29 October

11:00 Playing room opens

MiniJackpots / Quarter-Entries / Semi-Entries continue

14:30 Start of the *Amarilia FreeGammon*

### Saturday, 30 October

11:00 Playing room opens / MiniJackpots continue

11:20 Registration closes for the *Amarilia Cup*

11:30 Start of the *Amarilia Cup*

20:50 Registration closes for the *Amarilia SuperJackpot*

21:00 Start of the *Amarilia SuperJackpot*

Sunday, 31 October

11:00 Playing room opens / All events continue

11:50 Registration closes for the *Amarilia SpeedGammon*

12:00 Start of the *Amarilia SpeedGammon*

ca. 19:00 Prize giving Ceremony / Light Snack



*National Library, Athens*

**Live Match Transmissions on our YouTube & Facebook pages:**



Athens Backgammon Open channel



Athens Backgammon Open group page





## Health & Safety Protocols

The following health and safety protocols are being enacted for the protection of all players and staff due to the current impact of the COVID-19 Delta variant and to ensure the integrity of the tournament. We ask for your full cooperation in following these protocols. Please note that non-compliance will not be tolerated, and warnings will be issued by the Tournament Director. Failure to heed these warnings will result in participants being excluded from all tournament activities.

At registration, all participants will be required to provide one (1) of the following:

1. **Proof of vaccination** – present a vaccination card or a similar document showing that the complete vaccination took place at least 14 days ago. The second dose must have been administered if two injections are required for a vaccine. Only a vaccine approved in the EU is permitted as proof
2. If no proof of vaccination is available, then a **negative PCR test result** from the past 72 hours or a **negative PoC-Antigen test result** from the past 48 hours must be provided.
3. Persons who have recently recovered from COVID-19 must have provide a **positive PCR test result** that is at least 15 days but no more than 180 days old.



Furthermore, the following safety protocols will be in effect for the duration of the tournament.

- **Mask Requirement:** At all times, participants must wear a mask at the registration desk and while in the tournament playing hall. Masks may be removed by players only by mutual agreement. All spectators are required to wear them.
- **Hand Sanitation:** Stations will be available throughout the tournament hall. Players are asked to sanitize their hands between each match.
- **Social Distancing Tables:** Tables in the playing room will be spaced farther apart than usual to provide an appropriate level of social distancing.
- **Breaks:** Match breaks will be extended from 5 to 10 minutes allowing players more time to rest / relax from mask wearing.
- **Showing Symptoms:** Participants who show flu-like symptoms will not be allowed to take part in the tournament, even if they are pre-registered. In case of doubt, the tournament organizers are entitled to take the temperature of any participant and require a new negative COVID test result.

Thank you for your understanding while we do our best to provide a safe playing environment for all attendees.



What to do (when I'm not playing!) in Athens?



You can visit the city landmarks





Walk through picturesque neighbourhoods







Explore a vivid – or a more quiet way of life





Enjoy a coffee or lunch

Monastiraki Square







Panathinaikon Stadium, venue of the first modern era Olympic Games (1896)

Sense the spirit of Sports history

The Olympic Stadium, home of the 2004 Games







Go to the Seaside





Try the local Delicacies





Discover the City by Night



## Your Hosts



**BERNHARD MAYR** President of the WBGF / WBIF



**STEFANOS HARAKLIAS** President of the Backgammon Federation of Greece



**MICHAIL PROUKAKIS** Tournament Director for the events of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Athens Open



**EVANGELOS LORIDAS** Technical Director





CLAUS ELKEN Webpage Manager



GEORGIOS NTISLIS Tournament Director for the WBIF Tour Finals

#### Additional Information:

- The organization reserves the right to alter slightly the program, if considered necessary.
- Furthermore, more prizes may be given at side events, in case of a significantly larger than expected number of participants.
- World Backgammon Federation (WBGF) rules apply, unless otherwise specified.
- Bringing your own equipment (boards, dice etc.) is desirable.

Is there anything else you would like to know?

Official Website: <https://en.greecebackgammon.com/>

Chance of a lifetime...  
...combine two prestigious backgammon tournaments in one  
international visit...  
...to the hospitable city of...

# ... Athens !