



The World Backgammon Federation  
&  
*Greece Backgammon*



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

... Athens ...

(19 - 24 November 2024)

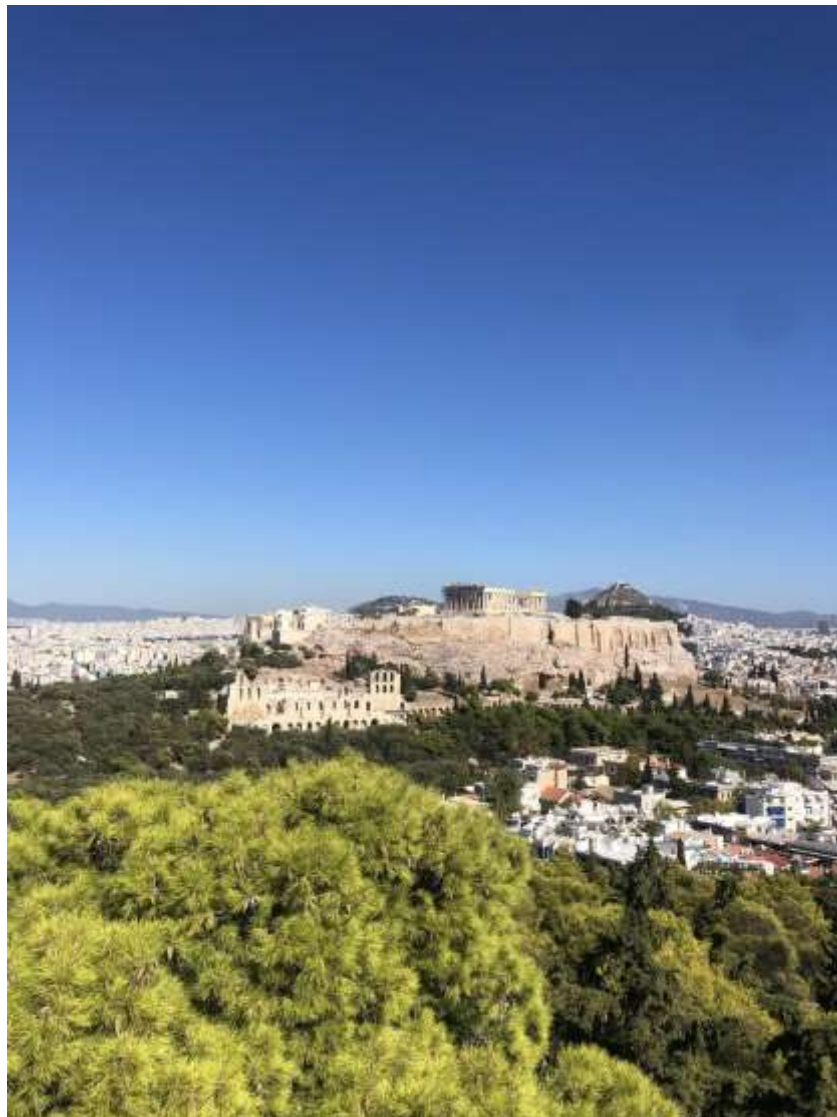
...for the 2024 **WBGF Clubs World Championship** and the...

5<sup>th</sup> Athens Open / Amabilia Cup

!! Your Personal Event Guide !!

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## WBGF Clubs World Championship Information

This is going to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the prestigious Clubs World Championship, an event organized annually by the World Backgammon Federation (WBGF).

### Past Championships

| <i>Dates &amp; Venue</i>                        | <i>Winners</i>   |
|---|--|
| October 11-16, 2022<br>Neum, Bosnia-Herzegovina | Tromsø<br>André Larsen<br>Geir Pedersen<br>Jon Kristian Røyset |
| May 24-29, 2023<br>Rosemont, Illinois           | The Loose Ones<br>Joe Russell<br>Ian Terry<br>Bob Zavoral      |

Each team will consist of three players, with the possibility of up to two reserves. There is a broad definition of the term “Club” in this WBGF event, as “players who usually play together”, in an effort to allow as many people to participate as possible. Consequently, apart from representatives of a specific club, players can form a team representing their neighborhood, district, town, city or state. Two players with a common playing area, can also “hire” one of their compatriots for the sake of the tournament or even a player from Greece, provided that players are “stuck” with their choices of teams for at least two consecutive years. This means that they will not be able to join another team next year, except if they are officially members of the specific Club participating.

Officially recognized Clubs, can be represented by more than one teams.

All teams will be divided into four groups and will play against all other teams which are on the same group, in matches “three against three”.

There will be specific provisions during the draw, minimizing the possibility of more teams from the same Club / Area / Country (in this grade of importance) ending up in the same group.

Classification in the group stage is according to the number of wins (irrespective of the score, i.e. 2-1 and 3-0 are the same). However, if two or more teams end up with the exact number of team wins, the team with the most individual wins prevails (and in that case, 3-0 is much more preferable to 2-1). If two or more teams share the exact number of both team and individual wins, then the outcome is resolved by the score in the match(es) against each other at the group stage. In the rare occasion that all previous criteria cannot solve the matter, there will be short, full team consultation knock-out matches.

Teams ending up first in their groups, proceed directly into the quarter-finals. Teams ending up second or third, will have to play an extra round against some other 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> team from another group.

The bracket of pairings until the final, will be fixed as soon as the group stage is over. Consequently, there will only be one draw, that is, the initial one determining the group participants.

**Matchlengths:** 9-pts. at the Group Stage  
11-pts. at the Knockout Stage  
13-pts. for the Final

**Clock:** 2 min. per matchlength point + 12 sec. delay

**Fees:** € 300 per team  
(€ 240 entry + € 60 registration fees)

**Four prizes:** 45% / 25% / 20% / 10%



- WBGF rules apply throughout the tournament.
- The organization opts for “Responsible Moves”.
- Consequently, the strict definition of “Legal Moves only” does NOT apply!
  - Dice on checkers need to be rolled again.

## 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 WBGF Clubs World Championship & the Athens Open:

Single room: **€ 120** per night\*

Double room: **€130** 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 events of the 5<sup>th</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 35-40 € with Day Tariff No 1 (05:01 am - 23:59) and approximately 70-80 € 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 40 €.

Athens airport to Hotel with tariff 2 (00:00 - 05:00 am) is approximately 60 €.

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

## 5<sup>th</sup> Athens Open Events

All events of the 5<sup>th</sup> Athens Open are under the sponsorship of

*Amarilia Hotel 4\**.

### **Amarilia Cup**

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

A double elimination tournament with fighters' bracket, in two divisions, **Masters** and **Advanced**. Structure and rules will be identical in both divisions.

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%)

### **Amarilia Doubles**

A Doubles Consultation single elimination tournament. Matches will be played from Wednesday evening and 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: 9-pts. Clocks will be set at 22 mins. per pair + 15 sec. delay time. Two prizes (70/30%)



*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. Registration will be open until the completion of a reasonable field of

players and matches can be played continuously throughout the days of the Athens Open.

### **Amarilia DMP Challenge**

A single elimination 1-pointer. Similarly, there will be an opportunity for rebuys, depending on the number of participants. Two or four prizes, depending on the number of participants. Registration will be open until the completion of a reasonable field of players and matches can be played continuously throughout the days of the Athens Open.

#### Side Events Fees (in €):

|                                   | Entry | Registration | Total |
|-----------------------------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| <i>Amarilia Cup Masters</i>       | 240   | 60           | 300   |
| <i>Amarilia Cup Intermediates</i> | 120   | 30           | 150   |
| <i>Amarilia Doubles</i>           | 160*  | 40*          | 200*  |
| <i>Amarilia SuperJackpot</i>      | 360   | 40           | 400   |
| <i>Amarilia SpeedGammon</i>       | 40    | 10           | 50    |
| <i>Amarilia FreeGammon</i>        | 20    | 5            | 25    |
| <i>Amarilia RandomGammon</i>      | 20    | 5            | 25    |
| <i>Amarilia Swing</i>             | 20    | 5            | 25    |
| <i>Amarilia DMP Challenge</i>     | 8     | 2            | 10    |

\*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, Lakgammon etc.). 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).

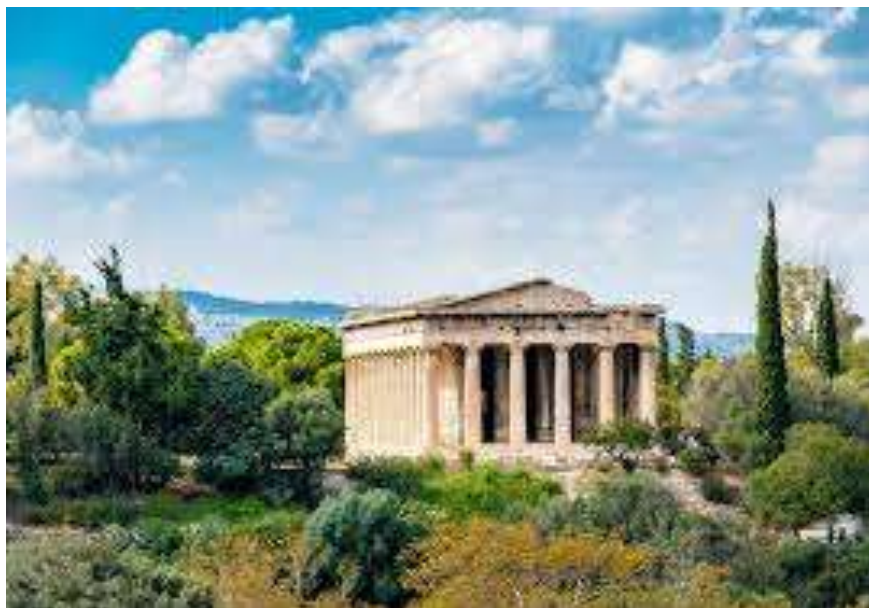
Player B places his checker #1 at the same position (in our example, point 19) and checker #2 at the point of his own choice (let's say, 7 – note that he can't place it at 6, as the point is already occupied by his opponent's first checker).

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 with your checkers' placement!



*Theseion, 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.

Note that although the **FreeGammon** competition will be open for registrations until a reasonable players' field is completed throughout the duration of the 5<sup>th</sup> Athens Open, **RandomGammon** will be exclusively held on Friday evening, as players will be given identical, computerized starting positions for all their matches.

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!

Players who participate in both **RandomGammon** and **FreeGammon**, will be asked to evaluate their experience.



*The Parthenon, Acropolis, Athens*

## **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 Tuesday at 16:00 to Sunday at 17:00, wins the total pot – plus the title of the Amarilia Jackpots' Jackpot Winner, accompanied by a commemorative cup!



*Vallianeio Megaron, Panepistimiou 32, Athens*

## **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*



## Events Schedule

### Tuesday, 19 November

- 13:00 Registration starts for all events at the Amarilia Hotel
- 14:30 Registration closes for the *WBGF Clubs World Championship* / Public Draw
- 15:00 Start of the *WBGF Clubs World Championship* / Groups Stage
- 16:00 Start of the *Amarilia SpeedGammon, Amarilia FreeGammon, Amarilia DMP Challenge* and of 4 or 8-player MiniJackpots (€10/20/50/100, 85% return)  
Start of the *Jackpots' Jackpot* Competition

### Wednesday, 20 November

- 11:00 Playing room opens / WBGF CWC continues / Side events continue
- 18:45 Registration closes for the *Amarilia Doubles*
- 19:00 Start of the *Amarilia Doubles* (min. of two rounds played)

### Thursday, 21 November

- 11:00 Playing room opens / WBGF CWC Semifinals & Final  
*Amarilia Doubles* continues / Side events continue
- 18:45 Registration closes for both divisions of the *Amarilia Cup*
- 19:00 Start of the *Amarilia Cup*

### Friday, 22 November

- 11:00 Playing room opens / All events continue
- 18:45 Registration closes for the *Amarilia SuperJackpot*
- 19:00 Start of the *Amarilia SuperJackpot*
- 20:45 Registration closes for the *Amarilia RandomGammon*
- 21:00 Start of the *Amarilia RandomGammon*

### Saturday, 23 November

- 11:00 Playing room opens / All events continue
- 18:45 Registration closes for the *Amarilia Swing*
- 19:00 Start of the *Amarilia Swing*

### Sunday, 24 November

- 11:00 Playing room opens / All events continue
- ca. 14:00 Start of the Finals
- 17:00 Close of the *Jackpots' Jackpot* Competition
- ca. 19:00 Prize giving Ceremony / Light Snack

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 “Spyros Louis”, home of the 2004 Olympic Games





Go to the Seaside





Try the local Delicacies







Discover the City by Night



## Your Hosts



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



**MICHAIL PROUKAKIS** Tournament Director



**CLAUS ELKEN** Webpage Manager

### Additional Information:

- The organization reserves the right to alter slightly the program, if considered necessary.
- The organization reserves the right to refuse a player's participation without giving any excuse, if such a participation is seen as harmful for the WBGF high standards of competition.
- 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/>

Or contact **Michail Proukakis**: [proukakis@hotmail.com](mailto:proukakis@hotmail.com)

(+30) 6974466427 WhatsApp or Viber



Chance of a lifetime...

...to participate in a great international tournament...

...and to take your chances for a WBGF title...

...in a single visit...

...to the hospitable city of...

... Athens !