

2026 Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships

PRE-REGISTRATION

Register & more details:
www.MichiganBackgammon.com

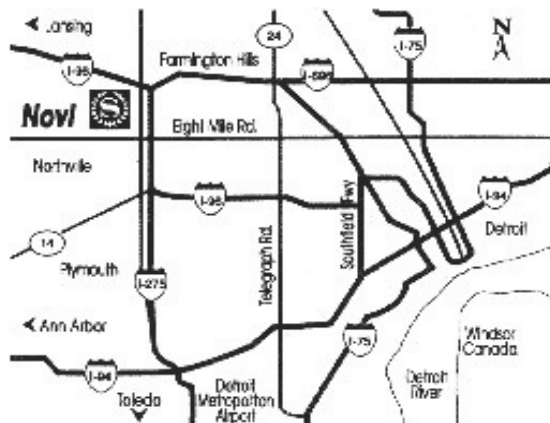
Event	Fee	Return	Side Pool
Player's Cup BMAB	\$250	100%	Multiple
Warm-Up Tournament	\$50/30/20	80%	\$20/20/10
ABT Open	\$300	90%	\$100/\$200
ABT Intermediate	\$200	85%	\$50
ABT Advanced Beginner	\$40	100%	\$10
Super Jackpot	\$1200	95%	\$300
Masters Jackpot	\$500	90%	\$200
Amateur Jackpot	\$200	80%	\$100
Open Doubles	\$300	80%	\$100
Limited Doubles	\$100	80%	\$50
Women's World of BG Fireworks Cup	\$50	85%	\$50
Judy Field Memorial Blitz	\$30	80%	n/a
Emil Mortuk Seniors	\$40	80%	n/a
Prince Barlow Juniors	\$40	80%	n/a
Talbot Summer Freeze-Out	\$50	90%	n/a
Greg Merriman Firecracker Jackpot	\$200/ \$100	90%/ 80%	\$100/\$50
After Tourney Tourney	\$50/20	80%	\$20/10

A tournament registration fee of \$100 applies to all participants. Fee is discounted to \$30 for Advanced Beginners and \$20 for doubles partners.

Coffee & snacks available throughout the weekend.

All Side Pools 95% Return

HOTEL INFORMATION



SHERATON DETROIT NOVI HOTEL

21111 Haggerty Road, Novi, Michigan 48375
 Located off I-275 at 8 Mile Road, Exit 167
 25 minutes from Detroit Metro Airport (DTW)

Ride share service from **Steve Grob**

Schedule in advance call/text 248-534-6251,
 or email stevenjgrob@gmail.com

Make Sheraton reservations by **June 1st** to ensure the Backgammon rate of \$119/\$129. Use the hotel link to make a reservation online, find it on the tournament website:
www.MichiganBackgammon.com

Or call (248) 349-4000 (Sheraton Novi)
 Please mention Michigan Backgammon when making your hotel reservations.

The Sheraton Detroit Novi Hotel features:
 Fitness Center / Indoor Pool
 Pet-friendly facilities
 Free self-parking at the hotel

Membership in the USBGF is required to play in ALL events. Please join us at usbfg.org, or sign up in Michigan. Membership starts at \$45/year.

CJC's Backgammon Boutique will be available for all of your backgammon needs!



Contact: Benjamin.A.Friesen@gmail.com

The 51st Michigan Summer Backgammon Championships



July 1-5, 2026

SHERATON DETROIT NOVI HOTEL

Player's Cup BMAB - July 1st
 Super Jackpot - July 1st
 Michigan Masters - July 2nd
 Doubles - July 2nd
 ABT Main Event - July 3rd

Celebration of Life:

Butch Meese & Greg Merriman - July 4th

Tournament Sponsors:

Flint Junior Master PRINCE BARLOW
 Nathaniel Field in memory of JUDY FIELD
 Jill McDonough in memory of
 Flint Club Champion GREG MERRIMAN
 Akemi Ota in memory of EMIL MORTUK
 Flint Club Member MAGGIE SWEENEY
 Michigan Master FRANK TALBOT
 Flint Club Champion DMITRIY OBUKHOV
 Women's World of Backgammon



TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

Wednesday, July 1, 2026

- 11:00am **Player's Cup BMAB**
- 7:00pm Welcome **Warm-Up** (\$50/\$30/\$20)
- 7:00pm \$1200 **Super Jackpot**

Thursday, July 2, 2026

- 9:00am Registration Opens
- 11:00am Michigan **Masters Jackpot**
- 11:00am Stoller **Amateur Jackpot**
- 12:00pm Judy Field Memorial **Blitz**, \$30.
Qualifiers win \$100; \$1350 Added.
- 1:00pm Emil Mortuk Memorial **Seniors** &
Prince Barlow's **Juniors** Jackpot
- 2:00pm Frank Talbot **Freeze-Out**
- 6:30pm Open **Doubles**
- 7:00pm Limited Doubles

Friday, July 3, 2026

- 9-10am Final Payments Accepted.
Must be pre-registered by July 3rd.
- 10:00am Lecture by TBD
- 11:00am **ABT Main Events** begin; All Divisions
- 5:00pm Dinner Break
- 7:00pm Play Resumes; All Events
- 8:00pm Greg Merriman **Firecracker Jackpots**;
\$200 Open / \$100 Limited Jackpot

Saturday, July 4, 2026

- 10:00am Play Resumes; All Events.
- 3:00pm **ABT Consolation Begins (New Time)**
- 5:00pm Dinner Break
- 7:00pm **Celebration of Life**; Remembering
Butch Meese & Greg Merriman.
Stories, memories, and light
refreshments before we resume play.
- 8:00pm Play Resumes; All Events
- 8:00pm Judy Field Memorial **Blitz - Playoffs**

Sunday, July 5, 2026

- 10:00am Play Resumes; All Events.
- 12:00pm **Women's World of Backgammon**;
Fireworks Cup - \$250 Added
- 3:00pm **FINALS** in all divisions
- 6:00pm After Tournament Tournament



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be available for all of your
backgammon needs!**

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES AND CONDITIONS

1. USBGF Rules are in place with the following rule options:
 - a. ***New*** Dice on checkers are valid.
 - b. Responsible Moves - If an illegal checker move occurs, the opponent must either require it to be corrected or to stand. No other type of infraction may be condoned. Players must not hit their own checker.
 - c. Clocks are required (except limited ABT).
2. **PRE-REGISTER** - All events require pre-registration. Visit michiganbackgammon.com/
3. **Eligibility** - ABT & Jackpot Events have skill level eligibility criteria. You must play in the division appropriate to your skill level. The USBGF Eligibility Committee has final say on which division(s) you are eligible to compete in.
4. **ABT Events**
 - a. Format - Open & Intermediate: Double Elimination with Fresh Draw Consolation. Limited: To be determined based on entries. Participants will play at least 4 matches.
 - b. Eligibility - Open: Anyone can participate. Intermediate: Generally > 8 PR with limited success in ABT events. Limited: Generally >15 PR with very limited tournament exp.
5. **Jackpot Events**
 - a. Format - Single Elimination, no re-entries
 - b. **Super Jackpot**: 16 max; 13-point matches
 - c. **Michigan Masters**: 32 max; 11-point matches
 - d. **Amateur Jackpot**: 32 max; 9 pts; Eligible for players with PR >6.5, experience, win %, etc. will be considered. No M3 or better titles.
6. **Doubles** Format: Single Elimination; no re-entries; 7 points. Maximum of 32 Open doubles teams. No open players in Limited doubles.
7. **Women's World of Backgammon** Fireworks Cup: \$50 Entry. Guaranteed 2 matches. **\$250 Added.**
8. **More Events!**
 - a. \$30 - Judy Field Memorial Blitz **\$1,350 Added**
 - b. \$40 - Emil Mortuk Seniors (65+)
 - c. \$40 - Prince Barlow Juniors (<65).
 - d. \$50 - Frank Talbot Freeze-Out. A score differential format unique to Michigan! Win the match by being the first to lead by 7 points. Don't miss this trophy event!

On Saturday at 7pm we will celebrate the lives of Greg Merriman and Butch Meese. Jason & Breiley Dordel (aka BlunderBlots) will be on site to video record your stories about these backgammon legends.

www.MichiganBackgammon.com

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Event Lead: Benjamin Friesen
Event Staff: Ben Friesen, Dan Minardi,
Clare Phelps, Mary-Ann Meese
Players Cup BMAB Staff: Roberto Litzenberger
& Dmitriy Obukhov
Streaming Sponsor: Dmitriy Obukhov
Videography: Backgammons' YouTube
sensation; BlunderBlots! (Bri & Jason Dordel)
USBGF Representative: Ed Corey

MICHIGAN SUMMER CHAMPIONS

- 1976 — Anne Binkow (MI)
- 1977 — Stanley Steele (IL)
- 1978 — Robert Silver (MI)
- 1979 — Peter Grossinger (MI)
- 1980 — Howard Perlman (MI)
- 1981 — Stanley Steele (IL)
- 1982 — Paula Allan (MI)
- 1983 — Michael Sudds (MI)
- 1984 — Howard Markowitz (IL)
- 1985 — Les Bart (MD)
- 1986 — Jim Wilson (MI)
- 1987 — Jack Kissane (NY)
- 1988 — Neil Kazaross (CA)
- 1989 — Gary Kay (IL)
- 1990 — Don Desmond (IL)
- 1991 — Harry Cohn (IL)
- 1992 — Stuart Hosen (TX)
- 1993 — Howard Markowitz (NV)
- 1994 — Dean Muench (IL)
- 1995 — Harry Cohn (IL)
- 1996 — Dennis Culpepper (VA)
- 1997 — Art Benjamin (CA)
- 1998 — Maurice Barie (MI)
- 1999 — Gary Margosian (MI)
- 2000 — Mike Senkiewicz (NY)
- 2001 — Rick Todd (MI)
- 2002 — Chuck Bower (IN)
- 2003 — Dean Adamian (MI)
- 2004 — Frank Talbot (MI)
- 2005 — Jeb Horton (NC)
- 2006 — Richard Munitz (NY)
- 2007 — Patrick Gibson (CA)
- 2008 — Neil Kazaross (IL)
- 2009 — Ed Bennett (NM)
- 2010 — Kit Woolsey (CA)
- 2011 — Ray Fogerlund (NV)
- 2012 — Phil Simborg (IL)
- 2013 — Rod Covlin (NY)
- 2014 — Gary Bauer (NJ)
- 2015 — Marty Storer (NH)
- 2016 — Ed O'Laughlin (VA)
- 2017 — Paul Farah (MI)
- 2018 — Audronis Zunde (CO)
- 2019 — Frank Raposa (VA)
- 2020 — Ray Fogerlund (NV)
- 2021 — Gyl Savoie (MI)
- 2022 — Marty Storer (NH)
- 2023 — David Winn (TX)
- 2024 — Bill Calton (MI)
- 2025 — Dana Nazarian (CA)

