



51. BACKGAMMON FINNISH OPEN

SEMINAR & WARM-UP - FRIDAY 22.5.2026

MAIN TOURNAMENT - SATURDAY - SUNDAY 23.-24.5.2026

CLARION HOTEL AVIAPOLIS - VANTAA

INTRODUCTION

- Backgammon Finnish Open has reached it's 51st edition and we are excited to organize the tournament in the very accessible 4-star Clarion Hotel Aviapolis right next to the Helsinki-Vantaa airport.
- The reigning world champion Timo Väätäinen will have a seminar on Friday evening. After that a warm-up tournament and next day players may travel in *Business* or *Economy class*. Those new to the scene can test their wings in 3-elimination flight *Learn to fly*. Speedgammon, DMP-tournament, and four player jackpots are also available.
- For announced arrivals, please visit www.suomenbackgammon.fi
- Why not spend a lovely weekend in vernal Helsinki rolling the dice!



VENUE & DATE

- **Clarion Hotel Aviapolis**
- Karhumäentie 5, Vantaa
- The stylish conference hotel which was built in 2016 is located right next to the Helsinki-Vantaa airport.
- **Seminar & Warm-up - Friday 22.5.2026**
- Conference room "Taste".
- **Main tournament - Saturday - Sunday 23.-24.5.2026**
- Conference room "View", 1 floor. It is the biggest conference room in the hotel, 247 m2.

CLASSES AND FEES

Business class

- **350 €**
 - 280 € main
 - 40 € two meals
 - 30 € registration fee
- Side pools:
 - **A.** 50 € **B.** 100 € **C.** 200 €
- Players may choose 0, 1 or 2 side pools. If two, only A+B or B+C.
- Last chance sidepool 20 €

Economy class

- **140 €**
 - 85 € main
 - 40 € two meals
 - 15 € registration fee
- Side pools:
 - **A.** 20 € **B.** 40 € **C.** 80 €
- Players may choose 0, 1 or 2 side pools. If two, only A+B or B+C.
- Last chance sidepool 20 €

Learn to fly

- **80 €**
 - 30 € main
 - 40 € two meals
 - 10 € registration fee
- Side pools:
 - **A.** 10 € **B.** 20 €
- Players may choose 0, 1 or 2 sidepools.
- Last chance sidepool 10 €

FORMAT

BUSINESS AND ECONOMY CLASSES

MAX. 16 PLAYERS IN A CLASS

1. SWISS 3 x 11 p. with double elimination.
2. FINAL BRACKET
 - Players who survived the swiss stage will play in the final bracket, which is seeded according to swiss standings. Players who won 3 / 3 in swiss will get a bye, and if that is not possible, 5 % of the prize pool.
3. LAST CHANCE
 - All other players will play in the Last chance tournament on Sunday, besides the main semifinalists.
 - Clock obligation: 2 min / point + 12 seconds delay

17 - 32 PLAYERS IN A CLASS

1. PROGRESSIVE CONSOLATION 11 / 9 p.
2. LAST CHANCE
 - All other players will play in the Last chance tournament on Sunday, besides the main finalists and consolation finalists. Clock obligation: 2 min / point + 12 seconds delay

FORMAT

LEARN TO FLY

- Swiss with triple elimination – Last chance
- Tournament is run with Drawboss software. During swiss players with the same record are paired, if possible. Bye is awarded to a player with the worst record. Only one bye per player until all remaining players have got a bye. Players can only face each other once, if possible. Next round will be drawn when all of the matches of the current round have been finished.
- Player is eliminated after 3 losses.
- When a player is eliminated he/she will fall to Last chance-tournament, played on Sunday. However players who cash in main tournament don't go to Last chance.
- It's difficult to estimate the number of rounds in the tournament, but the main final will be played on Sunday in any case.
- Clock option: 3 min / point + 15 seconds delay (clocks are recommended)

MATCH LENGTHS

Business class

- MAX. 16 PLAYERS
 - Swiss 3 x 11 p.
 - Quarter-finals 11 p.
 - Semifinals 13 p.
 - Final 15 p.
- 17 - 32 PLAYERS
 - Main 11 p.
 - Main final 15 p.
 - Consolation 9 p.
 - Consolation final 11 p.
- Last chance 5 p.

Economy class

- MAX. 16 PLAYERS
 - Swiss 3 x 11 p.
 - Quarter-finals 11 p.
 - Semifinals 11 p.
 - Final 13 p.
- 17 - 32 PLAYERS
 - Main 11 p.
 - Main final 13 p.
 - Consolation 9 p.
 - Consolation final 11 p.
- Last chance 5 p.

Learn to fly

- Triple elimination match length will be decided according to attendance, most likely 5 p. Final rounds might be shortened / extended based on the schedule.
- Last chance: 5 p.

SIDE TOURNAMENTS

	Warm-up (On Friday)	Speedgammon (re-buy) max. 32 players	DMP (re-buy) max. 32 players	4 player jackpots, throughout the weekend
Format	Single elimination	Single elimination	Single elimination	Single elimination
Fee	40 € (35 € + 5 € registration)	20 €	10 €	10 € / 20 € / 50 € / 100 €
Side pool	20 €	20 €	10 €	-
Match length	7 p. 5 p., if over 16 players	5 p.	1 p.	5 p. (10 / 20 / 50 €) 7 p. (100 €)
Clock setting	Obligation 2 min / point + 12 sec.	Obligation 2 min + 10 sec.	Option 2 min + 12 sec.	Option 2 min / point + 12 sec.

SCHEDULE

Friday 22.5.

- 17 - 17.45 Seminar by Timo Väätäinen
- 17.45 - 18 **Registration - Warm -up**
- 18 Warm-up starts
- 23 Doors close

Saturday 23.5.

- 10.30 - 11.45 **Registration - Business, Economy, Learn to fly**
- 11.45 - 12 Draw and opening speech
- 12 Business, Economy & Learn to fly starts!
- 18 - 19 Dinner break
- 24 Last match of Saturday is finished (estimation)

Sunday 24.5.

- 10.45 Doors open
- 11 Semifinals (or consolation semifinals) in Business and Economy
- 11 - 12 Learn to fly continues
- 12 **Registration - Last chance side pools**
- 13 Last chance in Business, Economy & Learn to fly starts!
- 14 Lunch break at convenience
- 15 Finals in Business, Economy and Learn to fly
- 16 Prize giving ceremony after the finals
- 17 Tournament ends at latest (estimation)

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION

Business & Economy	Learn to fly	Warm-up	Speed-gammon	DMP	Jackpots	Sidepools
MAX. 16 PLAYERS 1. 50 % 2. 20 % 3./4. 10 % each 1. LC 10 % If there are 5 % bonuses after swiss, the prize distribution will be updated. 17 - 32 PLAYERS 1. 45 % 2. 20 % 1. Consolation 17,5 % 2. Consolation 7,5 % 1. LC 7 % 2. LC 3 % Trophies to the main finalists, consolation winner, and last chance winner.	1. 45 % 2. 20 % 3. 15 % 1. LC 12,5 % 2. LC 7,5 %	1. 70 % 2. 30 %	1. 50 % 2. 25 % 3./4. 12,5 %	1. 50 % 2. 25 % 3./4. 12,5 %	1. 100 %	1. 100 % If two or more players are eliminated in the same round, the pool will be split.

EAT & DRINK

- Dinner on Saturday and lunch on Sunday are included in the tournament fee. Communal dining helps in schedule maintenance. Special diets are taken into account, so please inform us beforehand.
 - Saturday dinner: Salmon, roasted potatoes, bread, coffee / tea
 - Sunday lunch: warm main course, two salads, bread, coffee / tea
- Social guests can join too, if they are announced in advance. 25 € Saturday dinner, 15 € Sunday lunch.
- We must inform the hotel about the rough turnout to the two meals few days before the tournament so please announce your arrival.
- Restaurant The Social à la carte Friday - Sunday 18 - 22.
- The bar closes at 23 on Friday and Saturday, but drinks can be bought from the reception too.



HOTEL ROOMS

- Hotel Clarion Aviapolis offers discount prices for time period Friday-Monday 22.-25.5. There is a limited number of discount rooms for Standard twin and Standard double- rooms, so make sure to book yours in time. The offer is valid until 22.4.2026.
- [Link to the room reservation](#)
- 95 € 1 person
- 105 € 2 persons
- Breakfast and use of sauna and gym are included.
- It's also good to check if [Strawberry hotels](#) have other discount campaigns going on!
- Check-in 15:00 - check-out 12:00



ARRIVAL TO THE HOTEL

- **Clarion Hotel Aviapolis** - Karhumäentie 5, Vantaa
- Please note, that there are several hotels within the airport with similar sounding names.
- 1,5 km from the Helsinki-Vantaa airport terminals. From the airport: Take the I train for 2 minutes (one stop), get off at the Aviapolis stop and get off in the direction of Aviabulevardi. You can also get to the hotel by bus (1-2 stops), with the nearest stops being Teknikontie and Mekaanikontie.
- From the centre of Helsinki, the main railway station: The I and P trains run along the Ring Road between the centre of Helsinki and the airport and stop at the second line station at Aviapolis. Get off at the station in the direction of Aviabulevardi. You can also get there by bus number 600, which has a stop at the hotel on Teknikonti.
- ~20 km Katajanokka terminal (Viking Line) & Olympia terminal (Tallink & Silja Line)
- Free parking! Ask the hotel for details.
- Journey planner, tickets and timetables: <https://www.hsl.fi/en>



WHAT ELSE?

- Please announce your arrival to Warm-up, Business, Economy and Learn to fly (social guests if you wish to take part in the meals) to e-mail address: suomenbackgammon@gmail.com. The announcement is important regarding the food orders, and it makes the work of the organizer easier.
- Please bring your own board (and clock) if you have one!
- membership of Suomen Backgammon ry. is required of Finnish players.
- [WBGF tournament rules](#) apply. Legal moves apply.
- The tournament organizer holds the right to adjustments regarding the tournament.
- Welcome to Finland!
- Tournament director: Simo Huovinen
- Tournament organizer: Finnish Backgammon Association

