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How to Win at Internet Backgammon – Learning for Free

By Stephen Todd

The first backgammon web site came online in 1994, but now that there are fast Internet connections, online backgammon has become extremely popular.

Before you challenge a human opponent to a game of online backgammon, you need to build up your playing skills – here's how to do it for free:

1. The basics of the game are easy to learn, and there's plenty of information for free on the Internet.
2. Download some Shareware and freeware backgammon programs from the Internet – these programs are often weak – but that's a good thing – you can learn to play against these programs without getting discouraged – everyone likes to win now and then.
3. When you can regularly beat the Shareware and freeware backgammon programs it's time to download a freeware version of a top-notch backgammon program – jellyfish.

JellyFish uses artificial neural networks, and the program was developed, by having the program play against itself!

A search for "Jellyfish Light" will lead you to the download page.

The freeware version of Jellyfish has had some useful features disabled but the playing strength has not been tampered with.

On the highest playing level, it is quite capable of beating top backgammon players.

You can decide later, whether to purchase one of the other three versions, in order to gain access to the disabled features.

Playing Online

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When you are competent at playing against the Jellyfish program at the higher levels, it's time to challenge a human opponent to a game of Internet backgammon.

After you have located an Internet backgammon site, you will be able to choose from playing against a computer opponent or a human opponent that could be located anywhere in the world. The options surrounding Internet backgammon include the choice to join a league; play in a tournament; play for cash prizes, as well as move ahead in the ranking between a host of Internet backgammon players.

Internet backgammon is offered by a variety of websites that you may be familiar with, including MSN and Yahoo Games.

With MSN, a player could choose to play Internet backgammon, as well as other enjoyable games. Internet backgammon matches can be played either under Rated, Standard or Short play options. Friends can play amongst one another or could choose to challenge the computer to an Internet

backgammon match. Many have praised the graphics that are used on this website, including an array of realistic, bright colors and graphics.

Yahoo Games offers numerous Internet backgammon rooms to wander about, displaying fun and interesting names such as the Veteran Vortex. Players can choose to initiate an Internet backgammon game in a variety of different levels of play, including beginner and advanced.

There is also an option to play a social game of Internet backgammon where players can chat with one another. For an extra charge, leagues can be established where members are allowed to join and challenge one another.

This website offers unlimited game play against the computer and human challengers.

For more information on backgammon and online gaming please visit our web site:

<http://www.net-planet.org>

Online Backgammon

By Adel Awwad

Backgammon has a very long history nevertheless, learning how to play backgammon is simple. It is a game of skill and one that, unfortunately, many younger people today are not all that familiar with. Still, familiarizing oneself with how to play backgammon doesn't take very long. Thanks to the rise of the Internet, learning how to play backgammon is easier than ever before and the game of backgammon is enjoying a resurgence of popularity. You can play online, download backgammon games from the Internet, and play with other people or against the computer.

Most people are familiar with the games set up' two players, one backgammon board, and each player

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gets 15 chips apiece. When learning how to play backgammon, you will find that the object of game is to move the chips from the board into your home board and finally into your winning pile. The first person to successfully clear the board of all their chips wins the game. The backgammon board is divided into four parts. When looking at the board from either one of the player's sides, the quadrant of the backgammon board closest to you is your home board, moving clockwise, you will pass over the bar and see the other half of the backgammon board, which is referred to as the outer board. Moving clockwise again to the remaining quadrant of the board is your opponent's home board. You will notice that each quadrant has 6 points. These are the spaces that you move onto. Although the spaces are alternating colors, each chip can move onto any colored points, the color of the chip and the color of the points do not have to correspond.

The game starts with the chips in the proper place. Each player has five pieces in the first point in their home board, the one closest to the bar. They moving clockwise again, each player gets three pieces on their side of the outer board. These are placed in the point not directly next to the line, but one away from it. On the other side of the outer board, on the point furthest away from the center line, each player puts five more pieces. Moving rightwards across the board, each player puts two pieces in the opposite player's home board nearest to their "out" position."

Each roll of the dice shows how many points a player is allowed to move their chips. For example, if you roll a five and a four, you can move your chips a grand total of nine points. You can move one chip four spaces and the other chip 5 spaces. You must use both of the rolls if it is legally possible for you to use them. The only caveat is that you cannot move a chip onto a space that is already occupied. If a player rolls doubles, they get double the moves, for example, if you get double 6's, you can move 4 pieces 6 points instead of two pieces 6 points. If you have a single chip on a space and a chip from your opposing player lands on it, your piece gets sent back to the center bar and from there it has to start the journey from the other side of the board. The first person to get all their chips through the board and into the safe position wins.

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