



## AUSTRALIA NEW ZEALAND BACKGAMMON FEDERATION

### **Eva Bitel Tournament 2022 – Detailed information**

The Australia New Zealand Backgammon Federation Inc (ANZBGF) is proud to announce the third running of the Eva Bitel Tournament. This event is in remembrance of our friend Eva and all that she did to promote backgammon in Australia – I'm sure she would have embraced our recent expansion to include New Zealand.

We want to encourage participation from all level of backgammon players – from novices to high rollers – the only requirement is that you are a member of ANZBGF.

With that in mind, there will be a separate tournament for newcomers and entry is only AUD \$5 with Trophies for the Winner and Runner-Up (but no prize money). A newcomer must genuinely new to the game of backgammon and have less than 400 experience points in the ANZBGF ratings system. ANZBGF reserves the right to deem a player not to be a “newcomer” if a known, experienced player requests entry.

For the more experienced player, there is a AUD \$50 tournament where you compete for prizes plus Trophies. For those that want even higher stakes in the experienced pool, there is a separate AUD \$100 side pool that will go to the highest placed player (that is AUD \$150 total entry).

You will have three weeks to play your round robin matches. The STRONG preference, and the default if there is no agreement, is Backgammon Studio Heroes (<https://heroes.backgammonstudio.com/>) – a separate tournament room has been set up (search for ANZBGF Eva Bitel in External Tournaments) with default settings including clock timer set to 8 second delay and 2 minutes per point, no pip count, no PR analysis and no luck meter for the players. These results and match files will automatically be reported. However, you can play your matches where you and your opponent agree; these results should be notified to [results@anzbgf.org](mailto:results@anzbgf.org).

Entries will close on Friday 19 August 2022. You must be a member to enter. The form for membership of ANZBGF can be found at <https://anzbgf.org/membership/>.

To enter simply send an email to [treasurer@anzbgf.org](mailto:treasurer@anzbgf.org) clearly stating your name, player nickname, email address and phone number, newcomer or experienced tournament, whether you want to go into the side pool and paying the required ANZBGF membership fee if not already a member. Deposit the appropriate amount to the account of: Australia New Zealand Backgammon Federation Inc BSB 082 048 Account 839 626 033 for Australian entrants or BSB 06 0594 Account 0078912 00 for NZ entrants (add 10% to cover exchange rates).

We will confirm your entry to the tournament once email and payment have been received. Play will commence on Sunday 28 August 2022.

The formats for both competitions will be finalised after the close of entries, but for the experienced players, if there is full field of 64 entrants you can expect that there will be 8 round robin groups, each playing 11-point matches. These groups will be adjusted down and byes awarded randomly if there are fewer than 64 entrants. The newcomers pool will be limited to 32 players, playing 9-point matches. Prize money will be allocated so that there is a full return of entry fees - 60% for the winner, 30% to the runner-up, and 5% each for the losing semi-finalists plus trophies for the winner and runner up. NZ players will have 10% added to prize money, paid in NZD

For the experienced players, each round robin group will be allocated as follows – entrants will be divided into quartiles according to their ANZBGF National Ranking as of 30 July – each round robin pool will have two players drawn randomly from each quartile group. Where a player does not have a national rating they will be assigned a rating of 1500. Where required, byes will be added to the lower quartile pool so that they are randomly distributed amongst the round robin groups. Byes will be counted as a 11-0 walkover. Side pool entrants will be allocated to pools based on the above, and there may be an uneven distribution across the pools. Draws will be conducted live online at a time and location to be advised.

After the round robins, the top two will be seeded into four 4-person knockout groups, with a cross over between round robin groups so that you will not meet a round robin opponent (at this stage). The two round winners will be determined firstly based on wins. If there are ties involving two or more players, these will be resolved based on results between the tied players where possible, then points for and then points against. If a tie cannot be resolved, there will be a play-off. There will be a separate knockout stage for the newcomers, with the size dictated by the number of entrants. The players going through to the knockouts will be confirmed by an independent panel.

The winners of each of the four knockout groups will then play a best of three semi-final and finals series. All matches will be entered into the ANZBGF Ratings system.

Diagrammatically, the finals format looks like this:



The Tournament Director will be Greg Ash, who will not enter the competition unless there are vacant spots after the close of entries that would otherwise result in a bye being allocated.

Dr Greg Ash  
 President  
 Australia New Zealand Backgammon Federation Inc