

BACKGAMMON · VARIANT 6 OF 8

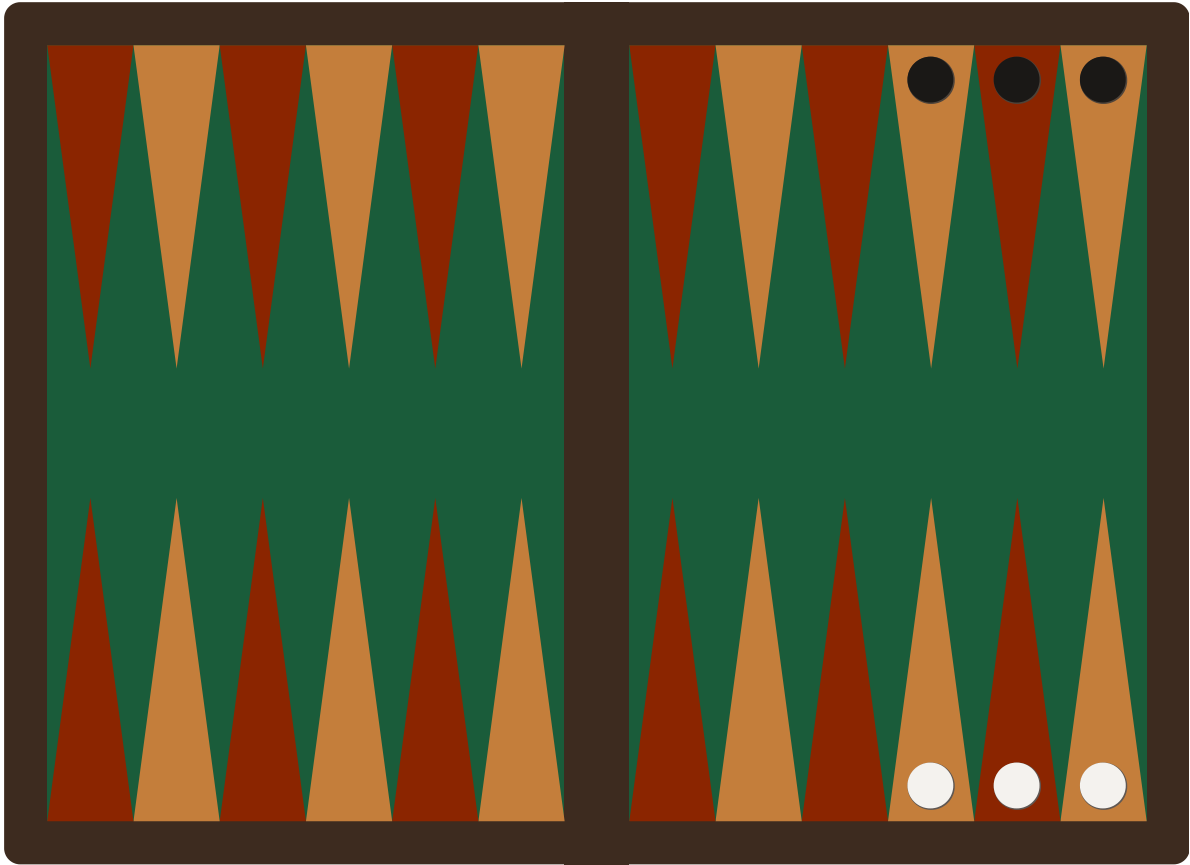
Hypergammon

24-point board
BOARD

2
PLAYERS

HYPERGAMMON

A short-form Backgammon variant using only 3 pieces per side, placed on the last three points of the home board. Games are dramatically faster than standard Backgammon — often finishing in under 15 minutes — while retaining the full rules including hitting, the bar, and bearing off. Hypergammon is fully solved computationally: perfect play has been calculated for all positions. Used in speed tournaments and for teaching probability concepts.



Hypergammon — starting position

<https://engine.moddable.games/play/?game=backgammon&variant=hypergammon>

ITEM	QTY	NOTES
Board	1	24-point board
Checkers	6	3 per player
Dice	4	2 per player
Doubling cube	1	Optional

SETUP

Each player places 3 checkers on their final three home board points:

- ♦ 1 checker on the 1-point
- ♦ 1 checker on the 2-point
- ♦ 1 checker on the 3-point

These pieces are already in the home board but must be borne off in the usual way — they cannot simply be removed immediately; each die must allow the bear-off.

RULES

All standard Backgammon rules apply:

- ♦ Roll two dice each turn and move pieces forward.
- ♦ Hitting a blot sends it to the bar; must re-enter in opponent's home board before any other move.
- ♦ Doubles give four moves.
- ♦ Doubling cube may be used (optional in casual play).

BEARING OFF

Since all pieces start in the home board, bearing off begins immediately. Roll and remove a piece from the matching point. If no piece is on the rolled point, move a piece from a higher point toward a lower point, or bear off from the highest occupied point when a higher number is rolled.

STRATEGIC NOTE

With only 3 pieces, single games are heavily influenced by dice, but across a match the skill gap is significant. The key decision points are when to hit, when to run, and when to double.

WINNING

First player to bear off all 3 pieces wins. Gammon and backgammon scores apply as in standard play.

ATTRIBUTION

Hypergammon. Modern tournament variant, origin unknown (popularised in the 1990s). Public domain rules. Source: Wikipedia (CC-BY-SA).