



**The Sacramento Backgammon Club** is recognized by the USBGF as an affiliated Club. Therefore, we adopt the guidelines set forth by the USBGF, including the Standards of Ethical Practice. These standards are established to provide a positive playing experience for everyone. It is with great confidence that we know every player at The Sacramento Backgammon expects the same and will recognize these standards with us.

## **USBGF Standards of Ethical Practice**

Updated: 9/2019

The USBGF has formed a Rules and Ethics Committee dedicated to helping the backgammon community achieve the highest possible levels of fair play, good sportsmanship, and appropriate behavior.

We have two goals in seeking to maintain these higher ideals:

- 1) to assure that participation in organized backgammon play at all levels will be a fair and enjoyable experience.
- 2) to promote the game of backgammon in the most positive manner.

**FAIR PLAY** The overriding principle that applies to any backgammon competition is that to the best of the organizer's ability, everyone participating shall have a fair and equal chance to win any prizes, rating points, or recognition that may be offered. While organizers are free to use their judgment in many areas not specifically covered by the USBGF Rules or Standards, they are expected to demonstrate to all that providing a level playing field and ensuring fair play are the most important considerations in all decisions. Application of the rules and decisions relative to the draw, seeding, format, assignment to divisions, and awarding of prizes must all be done in the most transparent fashion possible to ensure that all may see and know the process by which these decisions are made. Special accommodations for handicapped or disabled people should be provided if possible; participants are expected to be supportive of such accommodation

**ETHICAL BEHAVIOR** The USBGF requires all members and supported programs to maintain high standards of ethics and good sportsmanship. Backgammon is a skill game open to the general public and to people of all kinds. Inappropriate language, attire, or offensive behavior will not be tolerated.

Illegal activities are, of course, specifically banned including but not limited to such things as cheating, fraud, violence or the threat of violence, slander and libel, and general disruptive behavior. Cheating shall be presumed from the mere possession of equipment designed or configured to provide the capability for cheating, regardless of whether that equipment was observed to be used.

Good sportsmanship and friendly competition are required to be maintained by all USBGF members and supported programs and events. Because backgammon is generally played without an official or referee, the players, themselves, are required to be fair and demonstrate good sportsmanship at all times.

False or misleading statements and actions specifically designed to cause rule infractions by opponents, or to mislead directors or opponents with regard to facts (including identity masking or withholding information about previous experience), are in violation of these Standards.

Tournament Directors and event organizers have a responsibility to encourage, monitor, and enforce principles of fair play and good sportsmanship and are empowered and expected to take action as necessary to maintain these principles.

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOR** USBGF members and the organizers of supported programs and events are expected to act in a manner that promotes a positive image and atmosphere for the game of backgammon, both in the actual events and outside of the events. Players who have grievances or complaints are free to express their views in a polite, appropriate manner, bringing any questions or complaints directly and privately to the attention of the event organizer or the USBGF Rules and Ethics Committee. Public berating or harassment of tournament directors, players, or officials is not conducive to promoting a positive image for the game of backgammon or the USBGF, nor is it the best approach to influence positive change, and therefore is not in keeping with these Standards.