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Special "Backgammon Rate":

85 € / night Single, including breakfast buffet and wifi
 95 € / night Double, including breakfast buffet and wifi

Please book **before 30th June 2016**,
mentioning "Backgammon",
 per phone: +49-(0)2203-561131 or
 per email: reservations.koeln@leonardo-hotels.com.



14-17 JULY



KÖLN OPEN & MASTERS

2016




**QUALIFY FOR GRAND FINALE
 GERMAN MASTERS SERIES 2016**



**COUNTS TOWARDS GERMAN
 NATIONAL RANKING
 AND TOWARDS WBA POINT RACE**



Pascha
 KÖLN · MÜNCHEN
 SALZBURG · LINZ · GRAZ

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www.world-backgammon-association.com
 [www.facebook.com / BackgammonWBA](https://www.facebook.com/BackgammonWBA)

Kölle Alaaf ! – Welcome to Cologne !

WBA is proud to welcome you back to the vibrant city of Köln for the second time, from 14th to 17th of July 2016, easy to reach by plane, train and car and only a short drive away from the Netherlands and Belgium. The third stop of the German Masters Series in 2016 will be staged at the wonderfully located Leonardo Royal Am Stadtwald****, surrounded by a park with lakes and fountains. The KÖLN OPEN & MASTERS is part of the prestigious GERMAN MASTERS SERIES 2016 and part of the WBA Circuit 2016. Every match of the OPEN and the MASTERS will count towards the German National Ranking. Additionally, every match of the MASTERS Elite will count towards the WBA Point Race 2016. The KÖLN OPEN, is a free entry tournament in a Single Elimination Format. The KÖLN MASTERS will be available in 2 divisions and features WBA's computerized T-Swiss System (3 lives + Ultimate Fight). Various side events are lined up (Quarter-entries, DMP-Challenge, Doubles, Mini-Jackpots). Prior to the Main Event, a TEAM CHALLENGE will take place on 14th and 15th of June. 10% of the Prize-Pool from the Masters Division will go into the yearly pool, which will be re-distributed at the Grand Finale of the GERMAN MASTERS SERIES. The top 2 players of each stop and the top 8 of the total ranking will qualify for the Grand Finale taking place in Prague in November 2016, prior to the PRAGUE OPEN & MASTERS. All players will be eligible to join the exciting "Pascha Nightclub Party" with free entrance, free drinks and adult entertainment. Make your travel plans right away, visit Köln in the summer, meet your backgammon friends, compete to win the prize-pool, enjoy the party and qualify for the GMS Grand Finale!

Events and Fees:

KÖLN OPEN (limited to 64 players, first come, first served): free entry +25 € registration / 5 point matches, Single Elimination, clock preference, First Prize: 500 €
KÖLN MASTERS:

Elite Group*: 430 € entry + 70 € registration before 30th June 2016 / optional side-pool 150 € (90% return) / 9 points matches, T-Swiss Format, clock mandatory
Leisure Group: 150 € entry + 50 € registration before 30th June 2016 / optional side-pool 50 € (90% return) / 7 points matches, T-Swiss Format, clock preference
*: 10% of the Prize-Pool of the Elite Group will go towards the Grand Finale of the GERMAN MASTERS SERIES 2016. Top 2 players of the Elite Group qualify for the Grand Finale.

Registrations for the KÖLN MASTERS must be made via email (info@worldbackgammon-association.com), before 30th June 2016.

Late registrations (after 30th June) will be subject to an additional 20 € fee.

SIDE-EVENTS:

Team Challenge: 300 € entry + 60 € registration per team of 3 players. Simultaneous 1on1 matches, clocked. 300 € added.

Doubles: 250 € per team (85% return), 7 points, single elimination, clock mandatory
SpeedGammon: 25 € (85% return), re-entries allowed, 5 points, time setting: 2 min. total bank time + 10 sec. per move

Mini-Jackpots (4 players): 25 €, 50 €, 100 € available during all weekend

Tournament Organization: LINX Events, a sub-division of LINX Crossmarketing GmbH, appointed by World Backgammon Association LLC. (WBA)

Tournament Direction: Chiva Tafazzoli (WBA)

General Conditions:

Only cash payments in Euro will be accepted. The WBA tournament rules will apply. This event is by invitation only, thus the tournament committee and directors reserve the right to refuse application or admittance without giving due reason. The usage of official tournament precision dice is mandatory. Clocks are mandatory in Elite Group, Doubles and SpeedGammon matches. Tournament trophies will be presented during the awards ceremony only. Leaving the tournament room without informing the Tournament Director and / or staff might result in penalty points and forfeit. The Tournament Directors reserve the right to change the program during the event. Tournament Director's ruling is final, unless over-ruled by the Ruling Committee.

PROGRAM*:

Thursday, July 14th, 2016

13:00 Playing room opens
14:00 Start TEAM CHALLENGE, Quarter-entries towards Main Event
18:00 Start KÖLN OPEN
20:30 Dinner Break
22:00 KÖLN OPEN continues, Quarter-Entries towards Main Event

Friday, July 15th, 2016

14:00 Playing room opens, Jackpots & side-events, Quarter- & Half-entries
14:30 Final TEAM CHALLENGE
17:30 Registration closes
18:00 Start main event, all divisions, Round 1
20:00 Dinner Break
21:30 Start Round 2
23:30 Start Round 3

Saturday, July 16th, 2016

13:00 Start Round 4
15:00 Start Round 5
17:00 Start Round 6
18:00 Start Doubles (ongoing, for players out of main event)
19:00 Start Round 7
20:30 Dinner Break
22:00 Start Round 8

Sunday, July 17th, 2016

12:00 Start Round 9
14:00 Start Round 10
15:00 Start Ultimate Fight (Last Chance)
16:00 Start Round 11
18:00 Start Round 12
20:00 (Start Round 13 if needed)
21:00 Projected Awards Ceremony
22:30 Pascha-Nightclub Party

* The director reserves the right to change the format and match length of any event. Times will be adhered to as close as possible in the case of changes.

Format:

T-Swiss Format applies in all divisions. Pairings and byes are computerized. A player is out as soon as he loses 3 matches and can still win the tournament with 2 losses. <http://www.ebgt.info/ft-swiss-system.html>

Prize Distribution**:

(based on 30 players, 30-50 players pays 4 prizes, 50+ players pays 5 prizes):
Main event based on <30 players: Winner: 40% / 2nd: 30% / 3rd: 20% / Winner Ultimate Fight: 10%

Main event based on 30-49 players: Winner: 40% / 2nd: 25% / 3rd: 15% / 4th: 10% / Winner Ultimate Fight: 10%

Main event based on 50+ players: Winner: 30% / 2nd: 25% / 3rd: 20% / 4th: 15% / 5th: 10% / No Ultimate Fight

** Prize Distribution is subject to adjustment by the Tournament Director, based on the number of players