BACKGAMMON.LEARNTOPLAY.IM

Blots and the bar

A single man can be sent back. The official names for that misfortune are older than any app.

Hoyle and the 1911 article say “men.” Captured Britannica says “stones.” The captured WBGF page says “checkers.” Each official noun stays with its page.

The official detail	Official wording
Making a point	Hoyle: two men on a point “make” it. A man may only be played to a vacant point, a point already occupied by the player’s men, or a point with a single opposing man.
A blot	Hoyle and 1911: “a single man on a given point.” Captured Britannica: a single “stone.” If it is hit, it is taken up and placed on the bar.
Beginning again	Hoyle: however far advanced, the hit man “has to begin its journey anew from the inner table of the adversary.” Until he re-enters, “the play of his other men is suspended.” 1911: “A player is not allowed to move any other man while he has one to enter.”
Bearing off	Begins when all of a player’s men are in the home table. If, after bearing has begun, a player is hit, the 1911 article says that man must be brought home again before bearing can continue.

A short quiz

1. How many men make a point?
2. Where does a hit blot go?
3. May you move other men while you have one to enter?

Answers. Two. To the bar. No — not in the official 1909 and 1911 wording.

Wording from Hoyle’s Games Modernized (1909) and the 1911 Encyclopaedia Britannica, re-checked 18 November 2026, with captured Britannica and WBGF nouns noted but not mixed. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.