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The starting arrangement

Hoyle's 1909 plate still tells you where every man stands, and which table is home.

This is a dated official account, not a modern tournament card.

The official detail	Official wording, 1909
Which table is home?	"With the men placed as in Fig. 1, the right hand is the inner or home table, and the left hand consequently the outer table."
White's men	Two on the ace point in Black's inner table; five on the six point in Black's outer table; three on the deuce point in White's outer table; five on the six point in White's inner table.
Black's men	"Placed in like manner on the points immediately facing these."
Who throws first?	Each player throws a single die; the higher throw begins; a tie is thrown again. "The thrower of the higher number may either adopt the points shown by the two dice as his own throw, or throw again." Later throws are with both dice.

A short quiz

1. In Fig. 1, which table is home?
2. How many of White's men start on Black's ace point?
3. May the higher thrower use the two dice already thrown?

Answers. The right-hand table. Two. Yes — or throw again.

Wording from Hoyle's Games Modernized (1909), "Backgammon," re-checked 18 November 2026. backgammon.learntoplay.im is independent of the book's authors. Typographic sheet: no photographs inside.