

Backgammon Opening Replies, compiled by Nack Ballard

(plays as of Sep 2009 per Stick's bgonline.org)

1st Roll	11	21	31	41	51	61	22	32	42	52	62	33	43	53	63	44	54	64	55	65	66	Reply
21\$	N	\$S	H	U	S	P	e	S	S	S	ZNS	C	US	P	R	B	SR	K	P	R	B	21\$
21S	e	US	P	K	S	P	N	S	P	S	S	B	XZ	PS	SR	B	S	H	A	R	B	21S
31P	eN	S	P	S	S	P	E	ZS	P	S	S	B	S	P	S	P	D	R	P	R	B	31P
41\$	HN	\$	H	U	\$	P	e	S	S	S	H	CE	U	H	RS	4	S	R	P	R	B	41\$
41S	e	S	P	K	S	P	EN	ZS	P	S	H	B	X	H	SR	K	XSR	P	A	R	B	41S
51\$	N	\$	H	U	\$	P	e	\$	S	\$S	R	C	S	P	R	B	S	R	P	R	B	51\$
51S	e	\$U	P	K	S	P	N	DS	P	S	R	B	UDSX	P	R	B	S	P	A	R	B	51S
61P	N	\$	P	S	S	P	N	ZS	P	S	R	B	UZ	P	R	B	RS	R	P	D	O	61P
32D	N	\$	P	\$	\$S	P	EUN	ZD	P	S	S	C	D	P	H	B	H	H	P	R	B	32D
32S	P	X	P	X	S	P	N	H	P	H	HX	B	H	P	H	C	H	H	A	R	B	32S
32Z	e	HS	P	USH	SR	P	N	KXH	P	SK	S	A	XH	P	H	B	H	H	A	RS	B	32Z
42P	N	S	P	S	S	P	E	S	P	S	S	A	SD	P	SR	B	S	PR	P	R	B	42P
52D	N	\$	P	\$	\$	P	N	D	P	D	S	A	D	P	SR	B	D	H	P	R	B	52D
52S	e	SH	P	D	S	P	N	H	P	DS	SR	A	H	P	R	B	S	H	A	R	B	52S
62R	eN	U	H	X	S	P	4	US	DX	S	\$Z	A	XD	P	Z	BP	D	X	A	R	B	62R
62\$	N	\$	H	U	\$S	P	e	\$D	S	\$	\$S	AC	S	P	\$	B	S	R	P	R	B	62\$
62S	N	H	P	H	H	P	N	WSU	H	X	X	P	ZU	P	X	B	X	H	A	K	B	62S
43D	N	\$	P	\$	\$	P	E	ZD	P	S	H	C	D	H	H	B	H	RS	P	R	B	43D
43S	e	H	P	HX	H	X	N	H	P	S	H	A	XH	H	H	P	H	P	A	R	B	43S
43Z	P	X	P	X	SX	P	N	HX	P	H	H	B	HX	H	H	K	H	R	A	R	B	43Z
43U	P	K	P	K	H	H	N	K	P	H	H	A	X	H	4	K	HS	P	P	S	B	43U
53P	N	\$S	P	S	S	P	N	S	P	D	\$S	B	DZ	P	S	B	SD	P	P	R	B	53P
63R	eN	H	X	\$S	\$S	P	N	X	P	S	\$S	N	XD	D	X	B	SX	S	A	R	B	63R
63S	N	H	P	HX	H	P	N	WZSU	H	XS	X	P	Z	P	H	B	H	X	A	K	B	63S
54D	N	\$	P	\$	\$	P	E	D	P	D	H	EB	D	H	RS	D	DR	R	P	R	B	54D
54S	e	H	P	H	H	P	N	H	P	S	H	A	H	H	H	P	S	P	A	R	B	54S
64P	N	\$	P	\$	\$	P	EN	DZ	P	SD	\$S	BA	D	P	S	B	D	P	P	R	B	64P
64R	N	X	P	\$	\$	P	N	XD	X	D	X	A	S	P	S	B	S	SP	A	R	B	64R
64S	N	XH	PX	XH	H	P	H	S	H	X	H	P	Z	H	X	RD	X	X	A	K	B	64S
65R	N	\$	P	\$S	\$S	P	N	S	P	D	S	B	Z	P	S	B	S	PS	A	R	B	65R
	11	21	31	41	51	61	22	32	42	52	62	33	43	53	63	44	54	64	55	65	66	

Nactation Key:

D = Down (from the midpoint).

H = Hit on highest point. If half the roll hits, other half is down (e.g., for 32S-43, H = 13/10 8/4*). **K = Kill:** hit twice.

P = Point on head if possible, or make the strongest offensive point available.

R = Run (to the outfield). For 64S-44, R = 24/16(2).

\$ = Slot. One checker down and use it or another checker to slot 5pt or 4pt (unstack 6pt if poss.). **S = Split** the back checkers and bring one checker down. S sometimes hits incidentally.

Z = reverse split. When more than one splitting play is possible, Z splits with the small number and comes down with the large number.

U = Up with back checker(s). With a roll of 21, bring up one checker (i.e., 24/21).

W = Wild. Split with the large number and slot the 5pt or 4pt with the small number.

X = Hit and Split.

4 = make the 4pt, or (in the case of 43U-63) hit on the 4pt.

Doublets:

A = Attack. Make two inside points. Example: for 41S-55, A means 8/3(2) 6/1*(2)).

B = Both. Move up *and* down, making an anchor and an outer point. Example: for 32D-44, B means 24/20(2) 13/9(2).

C = Cross. Cross the bar — making an offensive point and an anchor. Example: for 51\$-33, C means 24/21(2) 8/5(2).

E = Each. Make a point in each inner board; e.g., for 54D-22, E means 24/22(2) 6/4(2). **e = each** (variant). Split and make inside point. Example: For 21S-11, "e" means 24/22 6/5(2).

N = Near. Move half the roll to/within each near-side quadrant (inner board, outer board). Example: for 62S-11, N means 8/7*(2) 6/5(2).

O = Outer. Half of play into the outer board and half out of the outer board. Example: for 61P-66, O means 13/7(2) 8/2(2).

Notes: Hits and obvious parts of a move are occasionally assumed; e.g., for 41\$-44, "4" = hit twice and make 4pt. (For more on Nactation, go to <http://www.nackbg.com/nactation.pdf>.)