

AUSSIE MILLIONS

POKER CHAMPIONSHIP

MEDIA RELEASE

2019 AUSSIE MILLIONS POKER CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE ANNOUNCEMENT

Asia-Pacific's richest and most prestigious poker series will run from Tuesday 15 January to Monday 4 February 2019 at Crown Melbourne, Australia. 'Main Event' begins Sunday 27 January 2019



Monday 23 July 2018. MELBOURNE, Australia. Crown Melbourne has today announced the 2019 Aussie Millions Poker Championship will run from Tuesday 15 January to Monday 4 February.

Hosted by Crown Melbourne, one of the world's leading integrated entertainment resorts, the Aussie Millions transforms Crown into a mecca of the poker world during the peak of the Australian Summer. The action-packed schedule will include the official gold bracelet event, satellites and cash games, along with daily tournaments running for 21 consecutive days.

With a reputation that ranks alongside the world's elite, the Crown's Aussie Millions is the marquee event on the Asia-Pacific poker calendar. Since its inception in 1998, the Aussie Millions has grown into a major stop on the international poker circuit and is attended by the majority of the world's greatest players.

Crown Melbourne's Tournament Director Joel Williams said "The 2018 Aussie Millions saw the Main Event break through the magical 800-player barrier for the first time in its long history and we can't wait to see what the 2019 Series will bring. The poker stage has never been brighter and the team at Crown have been hard at work to make next year's event even better than the last."

Every year in excess of **7,500 players** from all across the world descend on Melbourne for the three week poker festival - all with hopes of taking home part of the estimated **AUD\$21 million total prize pool** that's generated each year.

Nearly 100 poker tables will be set up across the award-winning Crown complex to accommodate the thousands of players from over 35 countries who visit Crown during January to compete for a share of a total estimated prize pool of over AUD\$21 million. The current slate of individual events offered during the 2019 Aussie Millions, features with 27 official gold Championship ring events expected, with buy-ins **ranging from AUD\$1,150 to AUD\$100,000**, and a broad range of other poker variations at both entry-level and championship level.

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The winner of the Aussie Millions 'Main Event' will not only walk away with an **estimated AUD\$1.8 million first prize**, but also the coveted 'Main Event' Champion bracelet valued at over AUD\$25,000.

The Aussie Millions has always been known for its prestigious events and huge prize pools. It was the first Championship in the world to introduce a six figure buy-in, and the first again to raise the stakes to AUD\$250,000. Numerous High Stakes events return in 2019, with the AUD\$25,000, AUD\$50,000 and AUD\$100,000 Challenges assuring the world's best (and richest) players will make the journey Down Under. Also, Event 24 AUD\$25K Pot Limit Omaha enters the Aussie Millions arena for the first time and provides another platform for the world's best to compete.

The Asia-Pacific's longest-running poker tournament, reaches its pinnacle with the commencement of the highly anticipated AUD\$10,600 buy-in Aussie Millions 'Main Event'. This coveted Main Event is slated to run over eight days from **Sunday, January 27** until **Sunday, February 3** with over 800 entrants expected and an estimated total prize pool of AUD\$8 million. The Main Event will once again feature three starting days with qualifiers already exceeding expectations having begun back in March this year.

The expected prize-pools provide a substantial incentive to attend and, in addition, **each winner will receive a 'Championship Ring'**. While the entry fees may sit outside the budget of some players, countless satellite opportunities exist throughout the year and during the event itself, offering players the chance to win a seat in the Aussie Millions 'Main Event' for a fraction of the AUD\$10,600 entry fee.

The prestigious Aussie Millions 'Main Event' prize pool is comparable with some of Australia's major sporting events including the Melbourne Cup, Australian Open and the AFL Grand Final.

The full event-by-event schedule is below and available on www.aussiemillions.com

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| Event: | Crown's 2019 Aussie Millions Poker Championship |
| Dates: | Tuesday 15 January to Monday 4 February 2019 |
| Locations: | The Crown Poker Room (Level B2, Crown Entertainment Complex) Exhibition Hall (Crown Conference Centre) |
| Media Accreditation: | Register your interest via www.aussiemillions.com/media-accreditation |
| Website: | www.aussiemillions.com www.crownpoker.com.au |
| Facebook: | www.facebook.com/crownpoker |
| Twitter: | www.twitter.com/crownpoker |
| Hashtag: | #crownpoker #aussiemillions #crownmelbourne |

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2019 AUSSIE MILLIONS POKER CHAMPIONSHIP SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

Event 1: AUD\$1,150 – Opening Event - No Limit Holdem The Aussie Millions Poker Championship kicks off on Tuesday 15 January at 6:10pm with the AUD\$1,150 Opening Event. This is one of the most popular events, as it now allows players five opportunities to progress through to Day 2 with an additional Flight now scheduled. Last year's Opening Event was officially regarded as the largest ever tournament held at Crown with a whopping 1,538 total entries. With five flights and an AUD\$1 million prize-pool guarantee, expect another gigantic field!

Event 2: AUD\$2,500 - H.O.R.S.E. This game combines five unique poker disciplines and is aimed at the world's best. Past winners include Australasian Hall of Fame member Jeff Lisandro, James Obst, James Chen and Mel Judah, with local Sal Ribbera taking out the 2018 Event.

Event 3: AUD\$1,150 - No Limit Holdem Shot Clock Shootout This is a twist on the traditional shootout tournaments where players will have just 20 seconds to act. Each table winner will then progress to the next stage.

Event 4: AUD\$1,150 - Pot Limit Omaha This tournament continues to grow year-on-year as players try their hand at this poker variant. In 2016, there were 217 entries followed by 237 entries in 2017 and an enormous field of 284 entrants in 2018. Numbers are expected to continue rising in 2019 as PLO continues to gain popularity.

Event 5: AUD\$1,150 - No Limit Holdem - Mix Max This unique format caters to the short-handed expert. Beginning as full ring, the tournament becomes six-handed when just 36 players remain, culminating in one-on-one handicapped 'heads-up' battles when just eight players remain. A knockout format will then decide our Champion.

Event 6: AUD\$1,150 - No Limit Holdem Six Max Arguably the game's most popular format, this short-handed version of the game is fast and furious. Bring your 'A' game if you want a shot at this title, as you will be competing against the most talented players on the planet. American poker pro Chance Kornuth took out the 2018 title.

Event 7: AUD\$2,500 - 8 Game Mixed Event Rest assured the world's best players will be vying for this coveted and prestigious title. Eight poker variants: 2-7 Triple Draw, Holdem, Omaha, Razz, 7-Card Stud, Stud HiLo, No Limit Holdem and Pot Limit Omaha will decide our 2019 Champion.

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Event 8: AUD\$1,150 - No Limit Holdem Accumulator This is the sixth year this has been part of the Aussie Millions schedule and it continues to grow. Players have three chances to 'accumulate' their chips with all surviving stacks combined on Day 2.

Event 9: AUD\$25,000 Challenge In both 2017 and 2018, this event has hosted arguably some of the greatest fields ever to assemble for a poker tournament and broke records the world over. These illustrious fields have included WSOP Main Event Champions, EPT Champions, WPT Champions, Aussie Millions Champions as well as the all-time money winner! A total of 114 entrants played in this event in 2018 with the eventual prize pool exceeding AUD\$2.7 million. Expect fireworks in this event, which is sure to attract worldwide poker media attention.

Event 10: AUD\$2000 - No Limit Holdem Bounty Event A permanent fixture on the Aussie Millions calendar, the Bounty Event has a unique structure that attracts large fields every year. With one player drawn to each table that carries a AUD\$1,000 'Bounty' on their head once eliminated, the action never eases in this event. In addition, the tournament structure changes from a standard multi-table format to a 'shootout' event when just 32 players remain. All facets of No Limit Holdem are tested in this feature event.

Event 11: AUD\$10,600 - Main Event If the poker world had 'majors' the Aussie Millions 'Main Event' would be one of them. In 2018, 800 players took to the felt and eventually England's Toby Lewis held aloft the Aussie Millions championship bracelet as well as AUD\$1.8 million in cash after beating an all-time record field of 800 players. The structure is regarded as one of the most generous in the world of poker, and players can elect to play any one of three first flights. Played over five days with the 'Final Table' commencing Sunday 3 February.

Event 12: AUD\$50,000 Challenge Returning to the Championship schedule, this two day event is sure to attract the world's best.

Event 13: AUD\$1,150 - No Limit Holdem Terminator Ever popular, this format rewards the aggressive player with AUD\$500 per knockout. With an enormous 389 players taking their seat in 2018 (up from 347 in 2018), this field is sure to rise again in 2019.

Event 14: AUD\$1,150 – Hyper Turbo No Limit Holdem 10/10/10 In just its' third year as an official Championship event, Crown Poker's very own Hyper Turbo format enters the big stage. With a 10-second shot clock, 10-minute levels and a dedicated structure, our eventual Champion will have to act and think fast! Australian Robert Damelian defeated a 2018 field of 263 entrants to collect the \$64,700 top prize in under eight hours of play!

Event 15: AUD\$1,150 - No Limit Holdem/Pot Limit Omaha (PLO) This format combines the most popular forms of poker into one tournament. New Zealand's Matthew Smith took out the 2018 title for \$45,360

Event 16: AUD\$1,150 - Pot Limit Omaha Hi-Lo Pot Limit Omaha Hi-Lo's global popularity has ensured that PLO Hi-Lo enjoys its rightful place among the annual Aussie Millions events. The 2018 prize pool topped \$100,000 – expect this to continue to rise in 2019.

Event 17: AUD\$2,500 - No Limit Holdem This event features no-frills and full-ring No Limit Holdem. Attracted a 198 entry field in 2017 and 229 in 2018 with last year's Champion (United Kingdom's Jack Sinclair) collecting over AUD\$125,000 for the win.

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Event 18: AUD\$1,150 - The Aussie Millions 'Tournament of Champions' Open to all but recognises and rewards past winners of the Aussie Millions 'Main Event'. 2018 saw Australian Vincent Huang defeat a whopping 276-entry field to scoop the \$67,190 top prize!

Event 19: AUD\$2,500 - Pot Limit Omaha The stakes are raised for the second Pot Limit Omaha Tournament of the series. With the prize pool exceeding AUD\$275,000 in both 2016 and 2017 and then reaching \$315,000 in 2018, this field is sure to continue to rise.

Event 20: AUD\$100,000 Challenge The largest buy in on the 2019 Calendar, this incredible event has been slotted into the business end of the schedule with a view to maximize its' exposure - with the Final Table set to be live streamed on Saturday 2 February.. When the world's best come to play make sure you lock up a front row seat!

Event 21: AUD\$2,500 - Shot Clock No Limit Holdem Six Max The six handed format introduces a 30-second shot clock to the table. This format is the closest to online poker that players will experience in a 'bricks and mortar' Poker Room. Austria's Andreas Klatt took out the 2018 title for \$144,330

Event 22: AUD\$1,500 - No Limit Holdem 'Deep Freeze' This is both a deep stack and freeze-out tournament that is guaranteed to attract another huge field. This generous structure will attract players from all over the globe in their attempt to become only the fifth ever Deep Freeze Champion. One of Australia's most consistent and successful pros, Tam Truong, took out the 2018 Championship Ring for \$118,110

Event 23: AUD\$5,000 - No Limit Holdem Six Max With a mix of both online specialists and proven tournament stars, this event was won by one of Crown Poker's most colorful locals, Michael Tchong. The combination of both a highly-credentialed field and the aggressive nature of six-handed events will ensure that our 2019 Champion will deserve their place among poker's elite.

Event 24: AUD\$25,000 - \$25K Pot Limit Omaha New to the 2019 Schedule, this event is sure to attract some of the world's best PLO players. Yet another high roller offering to the world's elite.

Event 25: AUD\$1,150 - Turbo No Limit Holdem - Shot Clock With 15 minute levels, a 20K start bank and just 20 seconds to act, this event (in only its fourth year at Aussie Millions) grew from 163 in 2017, to an amazing field of 242 in 2018. Fast-paced action with our winner crowned in a single day!

Event 26: AUD\$5,000 – Pot Limit Omaha 2018 saw Australia's Daniel Laidlaw eclipse the field to take out the AUD\$128,285 top prize. Run and won in a single day, this is high limit PLO at its best.

Event 27: AUD\$1,150 - No Limit Holdem Shot Clock Teams Event 27 will see two-person teams combine to try to secure the last Championship rings of the Series. With a 20 second shot clock and just 30 minutes until players change over, expect fast paced action that concludes in a single day.