

= Bingo America =

Bingo America is an American game show broadcast by Game Show Network . The series follows two contestants as they try to compete to win up to \$ 100 @, @ 000 . Additionally , the series lets at @-@ home viewers print bingo cards online that allow them to play along with the show to win small amounts of money for themselves .

Created and produced by Andrew Glassman , the show was originally hosted by Patrick Duffy and Crystal Wallasch . When its second season premiered on October 6 , 2008 , they were replaced by Richard Karn and Diane Mizota , respectively .

= = Gameplay = =

= = = Main game = = =

Two contestants compete on each episode . On each turn , a Bingo ball comes out of the hopper and a question is asked . Each ball has a number from 1 to 75 and a letter in the word " BINGO " printed on it . If the question is answered correctly , the player earns the letter from that ball and the number on the ball is added in dollars to the bank , which starts at \$ 500 (e.g. , if G @-@ 50 comes out , the bank increases by \$ 50) . If the letter is a duplicate already earned by the player , no extra letters are earned . The first player that spells out BINGO from the earned letters wins the game . A Free @-@ Space Ball with a sponsor 's logo acts as a wild card in the game . The player who answers a question correctly when that ball is rolled out can choose any letter , and \$ 100 is added to the bank . Two regular games are played . Contestants who win both games win the match and receive all the money in the bank . If each contestant wins one game , a five @-@ question tie @-@ breaker game is played . The first question 's answer begins with a B , the second question 's answer starts with I , and so on . The first to answer three questions correctly wins the money in the bank and goes on to play the Bingo Bonus Board for a chance at \$ 100 @, @ 000 .

If time runs short during a game , the show goes to a 50 / 50 round . In the 50 / 50 round the remaining questions of that game are asked in a multiple @-@ choice fashion , with two possible answers given . Contestants who answer incorrectly at this point have credit for the question (and the given letter , if applicable) automatically given to their opponent ; however , no money is added to the bank for that question .

= = = Bonus round = = =

The winner of the main game plays the Bingo Bonus Board , which used two different formats . In the first season of the show , each number on the Bingo Bonus Board represented a cash amount or another prize , up to a grand prize of \$ 100 @, @ 000 cash . Every prize was repeated at least twice on the board . The contestant chose one number at a time , and won the first prize to be revealed twice .

In the second season , 55 of the 75 spaces concealed cash values , while 20 hid " wrecking balls . " Contestants started with the " B " row (the only row without wrecking balls) and selected a number in that row . After each selection , the contestants could leave the game with the money already won or risk their winnings and continue with a selection in the next row . Contestants who chose wrecking balls lost the money they had accumulated in the bonus round . Contestants who made five successful picks kept all of their accumulated bonus money and activated the Bingo Sphere one more time for the Superball . If the contestants ' five chosen bonus numbers matched the one on the Superball , their bonus round winnings were augmented to \$ 100 @, @ 000 .

Marine John Stefan was the first contestant to win \$ 100 @, @ 000 , doing so under the first format in April 2008 . John Hanlin was the only player to win the top prize under the second format , doing so in October 2008 .

== Home viewer interaction ==

At @-@ home viewers are also allowed to play along with the show downloading bingo cards available at GSN 's website . Once the taping of the show is complete and all of the randomly drawn numbers have been recorded , a computer generates bingo cards that viewers can then download and print for the broadcast of the show a few weeks later . A home player who earns a " Bingo " is directed to GSN 's website to claim a \$ 50 prize .

== Production ==

The series , created by veteran television producer Andrew Glassman , was first announced as green @-@ lit on January 30 , 2008 . The first season contained 40 episodes , which began airing on March 31 , 2008 . A second season of the series , consisting of 65 episodes , debuted on October 6 , 2008 , with Karn and Mizota joining the show . When asked to explain the host change , GSN argued that while Duffy was a " terrific " host and the network " loved working with him , " Karn was " a perfect fit for all the exciting changes [in the second season] . "

== Reception ==

Bingo America received mixed critical reception . David Hinckley of the New York Daily News argued that the series only got " partly there " in attempting to bring bingo to television , and " doesn 't quite capture what the game is about . " Additionally , Ed Bark , a former television critic at The Dallas Morning News , argued that the show , " moves along briskly enough and it won 't hurt anybody , " and added that it had potential to raise the level of GSN 's " miniscule " audience .

== Merchandise ==

In 2008 , GSN announced plans to launch a new website featuring multiple variations of game show @-@ themed merchandise ; the now @-@ defunct website was launched September 30 of that year . Among the items featured in the online store was an interactive DVD game by Imagination Entertainment based on the series ' format , which was released at the time the second season premiered . The game plays similarly to the show , beginning with a " Bingo Draw " round . During this round , players attempt to be the first to earn a " Bingo " while accumulating points by correctly answering trivia questions . Once a player earns a " Bingo " the " Bingo Bonus Board " round is played . The winner of the previous round tries to add more points to their score by matching two hidden numbers ; the round ends once the player finds a match . Opposing players can also earn points by guessing which numbers the other player chooses in this round . Whoever earns the most points during the game is the winner .