

Lucky 1 Second Beginner Games

It's true; we don't have many official rules in this community. There have been attempts at writing a set of rules for Minesweeper (for example the IMC) but most of the rules have been added one at a time over several years. Basically it is clear what rules we need and have now in 2010: You have to use a clone, need to have video evidence of your scores and thanks to the usage of a clone any kind of cheating is already prevented. We have also introduced 3BV limits of 2, 30 and 100. There are many different and legitimate opinions on those limits, how and why they were set to 2, 30 and 100 and how they could be improved. But the reason for the 3BV limit for Beginner has always been clear to me: The reason is to ban 1 3BV games, which could lead to so-called instant wins. As those instant wins require no skill at all it makes sense to not allow them on our rankings and it seems that to get a valid 1s game a sweeper would need to do at least 1 intended click on a 2 3BV board; the first 3BV being solved with the click that starts the timer and the other being solved on purpose after rapidly analyzing the board.

However there are also 1s games that were achieved by only randomly clicking around without any fully intended clicks (fully intended as the sweeper intended to click on exactly that square). Not only do those games lead to insanely high 3BV/s scores in some cases but they also give an in my opinion unfair advantage on the rankings, which since relatively recently consider decimals and no longer only integer records (which is a good thing, just to be clear). While most sweepers have a beginner time record in the range from 0.6 to 1.5 seconds there are roughly 30 to 40 games that have been finished in less than 0.6 seconds. Here's an example of what a difference such an entirely lucky beginner record can make: Damien is 0.12s ahead of me – with a lucky 0.51s record I would overtake him. In the higher positions on the world ranking 0.05s can already mean that you are ranked over 30 positions better or worse.

The in my opinion big inconsistency in our current rules is that although we banned instant wins (1 3BV boards) we still allow almost the same to happen, just with one click more being done. The only difference between an instant win and a 0.1s win is that one is currently allowed while the other isn't.









It can't be denied that there would be no proper rules based on which one could simply decide whether a beginner record falls in the category "similar to an instant win" or "real pattern solving" without watching the actual video replay. But since by following the current rules we request video evidence for any high score that is claimed, we would be able to watch said video and could make a decision. And this decision, in all honesty, would in almost every case be very easy to make. Most cases are clear after watching the video the first time - on average I needed about 1 minute to download, load, watch and decide on a video when going through the top 100 players 1s records.

Another reason to consider taking action is that it is incredibly easy to get a fake 0.4s or better beginner record without having to fear that one would get caught, simply because it is so easy to make valid-looking video. Since I don't feel comfortable about my cheating-method being widely available the following explanation is not to be published yet. Maybe after some discussing. So how did I cheat? **[NOTE: Explanation removed before publishing on request.]**

Therefore I suggest to from now on no longer allow such lucky beginner wins, based on the to-be-established rule that any valid minesweeper record has to contain at least 1 fully intended (left-) click. Although this would mean that from then on we needed someone to

decide on 1s beginner records I already pointed out that this wouldn't take much time and could be done for example by Damien or a couple of other sweepers in who the community trusts. Alternatives would be to re-allow instant wins, get rid off beginner level or count instant and lucky wins as 1.00s RT. All are not very favourable options.

The following is a list of all beginner records of 1s games I was able to watch. The fastest game I consider non-lucky is 0.31s, the slowest lucky 1s game is 0.95s. 17 of 76 watched games were lucky. 15 of them are among the fastest 17 games. Another 12 games as fast as or faster than 0.50s I could not watch but the list below suggests that most of them should be lucky as well.

0.10		Tam Minh Bui	(2006-05-03)	USA, AZ
2 clicks on 2 adjacent squares – lucky				
0.13		Alexey Chernikov	(2005-00-00)	Russia, Central
2 initial clicks – lucky				
0.15		Grigoriy Efimov	(2005-09-12)	Russia, Urals
2 initial clicks – lucky				
0.15		Arsen Balishyan	(2004-01-01)	Russia, Central
2 initial clicks - lucky				
0.16		Aryeh Draeger	(2005-11-04)	USA, CT
2 initial clicks – lucky				
0.19		Robert Farnik	(2006-01-16)	Czech Republic
2 initial clicks – lucky				
0.26		Oleg Zaytsev	(2009-10-19)	Ukraine
2 initial clicks – lucky				
0.26		Kamil Muranski	(2009-03-26)	Poland

Difficult to judge, because player is known to be fast. Since in total 4 clicks are done, game is very likely to be lucky.

0.31		Mai Wei Jian	(2007-03-15)	China, Guangdong
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Non-lucky as 2nd and 3rd 3BV are in a mine-dense area and cursor is moved there on purpose.

0.32		Thomas White	(2009-09-03)	UK, England
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4 initial clicks. Can be concluded from mouse path – lucky

8 lucky, 1 non-lucky, 1 very likely to be lucky

0.34		Pierre-Louis Cuny	(2006-07-17)	France, île-de-France
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3 initial clicks and round mouse path – lucky

0.34		Stephan Bechtel	(2004-00-00)	Germany, Bayern
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Only initial clicks – lucky

0.40		Lars Mohrmann	(2007-02-01)	Germany, Nordrhein-Westfalen
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Round mousepath plus 3 initial clicks – lucky

0.56 🌸 **Maksim Bashov** (2008-04-16) **Russia, Central**

Clear reaction after 2 initial clicks – non-lucky

0.56 🤨 **Vincenzo Tione** (2008-03-03) **Italy**

5 initial clicks of which the last 2 hit the openings – lucky

0.56 🌸 **Richard Beckerman** (2007-12-09) **USA, NY**

Only initial clicks – lucky

0.58 🤨 **Aristeidis Kokkidis** (2009-03-21) **Greece**

Last of 4 clicks hits the opening, although location of each click is intended none of them are based on pattern-recognition – lucky

0.59 🌸 **Victor Suglobov** (2010-07-22) **Russia**

First 3 are initial clicks, but mouse path shows a small loop before the 4th click – non-lucky

0.59 🌸 **Vladimir Orlov** (2005-03-06) **Russia, Volga**

Player reacts to pattern – non-lucky

0.60 🤨 **Ian Fraser** (2006-10-29) **UK, England**

Player reacts to pattern – non-lucky

6 lucky, 4 non-lucky

0.60 🌸 **Daniel Brim** (2006-04-14) **USA, CA**

Player reacts to pattern – non-lucky

0.61 🌸 **Dayan Marchezi** (2009-12-06) **Brazil**

2 bends in mouse path -> player reacts to patterns – non-lucky

0.62 🌸 **Ryan Pratt** (2006-07-10) **USA, UT**

2 bends in mouse path -> player reacts to patterns – non-lucky

0.62 🤨 **Dmitriy Sukhomlynov** (2006-03-06) **Ukraine**

Last 2 clicks are left clicks on 2 adjacent squares; wouldn't be possible to do if it were initial clicks – non-lucky

0.64 🤨 **Fritz Löhr** (2008-10-26) **Germany, Bayern**

5 random clicks, very easy to see – lucky

0.67 🌸 **Damien Moore** (2005-04-01) **Canada, BC**

Mousepath reveals game to be non-lucky

0.68 🌸 **Jon Simonsen** (2008-12-06) **Norway**

Clear reaction after initial mouse movements – non-lucky

0.68 🌸 **Edouard Cornet** (2004-11-21) **France**

Player moves straightforward to last square – non-lucky

0.70 🌸 **Nicolas Senger** (2005-03-26) **France**

Mousepath reveals game to be non-lucky

0.71 🌸 **Gabriel de Tarragon** (2004-10-19) **France**

Could be lucky but would be very unlikely. Player has enough time to react to pattern and mouse seemed to be under control – non-lucky

1 lucky, 9 non-lucky

0.73 🌸 **Alexander Evstigneev** (2005-12-13) **Russia, Central**

Mouse path – non-lucky

0.75 🌸 **Alex Niswander** (2008-08-10) **USA, IL**

Reaction to pattern – non-lucky

0.76 🤖 Tomi Saleva (2010-06-16) Finland
2 squares are open after 0.2s. mousepath suggests non-lucky. Whole video looks a bit weird.

0.78 🤖 Jan Parucka (2008-10-12) Czech Republic
Reaction to pattern – non-lucky

0.78 🌿 Kyle Barry (2007-07-06) USA, CT
Reaction to pattern – non-lucky

0.78 🌿 Greg McKay (2006-05-00) UK, England
Reaction to pattern – non-lucky

0.78 🌿 Nicolas Durussel (2005-06-12) Switzerland
Reaction to pattern – non-lucky

0.78 🌿 Florent Calosso (2004-12-12) France, Midi-Pyrénées
Reaction to pattern – non-lucky

0.79 🌿 Audun Sektnan (2007-06-21) Norway
Actually must recognize pattern to solve – non-lucky

0.80 🌿 Ramil Gafiyatov (2009-11-13) Russia, Volga
Solves pattern – non-lucky

10 non-lucky

0.81 🤖 Arvo Leinsoo (2010-12-16) Russia, Central
Mousepath – non-lucky

0.81 🤖 Pavel Mishin (2010-05-28) Russia, Central
Solves pattern – non-lucky

0.83 🤖 Daniel Steinmeyer (2007-09-30) Germany, Niedersachsen
Solves pattern – non-lucky

0.84 🇲🇽 Elmar Zimmermann (2009-08-12) Germany, Niedersachsen
Reacts to pattern – non-lucky

0.85 🌿 Dennis Meng (2009-09-02) USA, PA
Mousepath – non-lucky

0.85 🇸🇮 Marko Lejnak (2006-01-20) Croatia
Reacts to pattern – non-lucky

0.85 🌿 Jan Dubois (2004-11-02) Switzerland
Solves pattern – non-lucky

0.86 🌿 Kyle Frederic (2007-05-26) USA, LA
Last click is made on purpose – non-lucky

0.86 🌿 Rodrigo Camargo (2004-12-06) Brazil
Last click is made on purpose – non-lucky

0.87 🌿 Himanshu Jain (2008-02-08) India, Delhi
It's actually alain rousseau's video! Either Damien uploaded the wrong video or we have a cheater here!

9 non-lucky, 1 VERY WEIRD INCIDENT

0.87 🌿 Alexander Gopin (2007-06-10) Russia, Central
Mousepath – non-lucky

0.87 🌸 **Andreas Fuchs** (2006-06-21) **Switzerland**
 Mousepath – non-lucky

0.87 🌸 **Alain Rousseau** (2005-03-27) **France**
 Last click is made in the hope to get an opening right there, intends to click there – non-lucky

0.87 🌸 **Roman Gammel** (2004-06-09) **Russia, Central**
 Last 2 clicks were made on purpose – non-lucky

0.88 😬 **Stanislovas Vinicenka** (2009-10-15) **Lithuania**
 Last click is made on purpose – non-lucky

0.88 😬 **Derik Pearson** (2008-10-13) **USA, MN**
 Uses 1 flag and chording – non-lucky

0.88 🌸 **Stefan Lowe** (2007-04-00) **USA, FL**
 Last click is made on purpose – non-lucky

0.88 🌸 **Fernando Cobacho** (2005-03-28) **Spain**
 Pause after 1st click to look for other squares to solve – non-lucky

0.90 😬 **Manuel Heider** (2009-12-04) **Germany, Baden-Württemberg**
 Solves pattern – non-lucky

0.90 🌸 **Evgeniy Semyonushkin** (2006-09-15) **Russia, Northwestern**
 Slows down before last click – non-lucky

10 non-lucky

0.90 🌸 **Philippe Roux** (2004-12-12) **France**
 Searches for last square – non-lucky

0.91 🌸 **Konstantin Forofontov** (2009-09-03) **Russia, Central**
 Mousepath – non-lucky

0.92 🌸 **Reid Sinclair** (2008-12-28) **USA, FL**
 Mousepath – non-lucky

0.92 🌸 **Grégoire Duffez** (2004-12-05) **France**
 Mousepath – non-lucky

0.93 MX **Gonçalo Dos Santos** (2009-01-23) **Portugal**
 Solves last square on purpose – non-lucky

0.93 😬 **Ko Yeong-Ju** (2008-11-04) **Korea (South)**
 Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky

0.93 🌸 **Oliver Scheer** (2007-08-13) **Germany, Berlin**
 Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky

0.93 🌸 **Gero Wälz** (2004-12-15) **Germany, Bayern**
 Mousepath – non-lucky

0.93 🌸 **Lukasz Malinowski** (2004-07-23) **Poland**
 Mousepath – non-lucky

0.94 😬 **Alexander Brown** (2010-10-21) **UK, England**
 Solves last square on purpose – non-lucky

10 non-lucky

0.94		Robert Royals	(2009-12-07)	UK
Solves last square on purpose – non-lucky				
0.95		Jonathan Ho	(2010-07-20)	Australia
Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky				
0.95		Eerik Swann	(2007-12-06)	USA, FL
Solves last square on purpose – non-lucky				
0.95		Tibor Perpent	(2007-10-20)	Italy
Uses flag – non-lucky				
0.95		Nikita Nikiforov	(2006-07-31)	Russia, Urals
Makes many clicks but mousepath doesn't any reaction to board – lucky				
0.95		Louis Nadeau	(2005-09-17)	Canada, Que
Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky				
0.95		Chad Gilbert	(2005-07-08)	Canada, NS
Solves last square on purpose – non-lucky				
0.96		Peter Asalkhanov	(2009-12-06)	Russia, Siberian
Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky				
0.96		Bertie Seyffert	(2009-04-26)	South Africa
Searches for last square – non-lucky				
0.96		Ronny De Winter	(2009-04-05)	Netherlands
Several fully intended clicks – non-lucky				
1 lucky, 9 non-lucky				
0.96		Eirik Albrigtsen	(2006-11-27)	Norway
Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky				
0.97		Janis Millers	(2009-09-20)	Sweden
Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky				
0.98		Vadim Muntyan	(2010-03-19)	Ukraine
Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky				
0.98		Andrew McCauley	(2007-02-06)	Australia, SA
Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky				
0.98		Charles Jacquet	(2005-03-27)	France
Solves last square on purpose – non-lucky				
0.99		Nakagiri Yuuki	(2009-10-19)	Japan
Makes last click on purpose – non-lucky				
0.99		Roland Seibt	(2004-06-03)	Germany, Hessen
Solves last 2 squares on purpose – non-lucky				
7 non-lucky				
In total:				
Lucky 17				
Non-lucky 69				
Weird incident 1				

Fritz Löhr
25 Dec 2010