

3 Man Chess Official Rules:

If you are not familiar with traditional Chess, you should first read pages 3, 4, & 5 which go more in depth, then come back here and re-read the official rules.

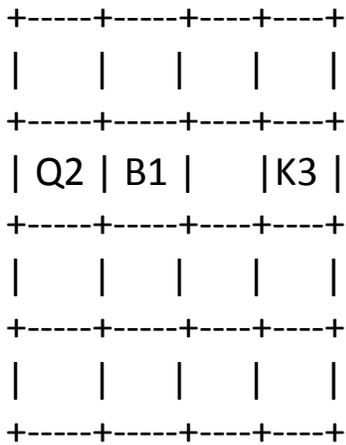
All rules for conventional Chess are applicable. There is however some protocol that must be applied for maneuvering 3 bordering teams on a round board.

0. Set all Kings on white. White goes first, then clockwise to gray, then black.
1. The center of the board may be passed through, but has no square to be occupied.
 - a. Adjoining vertical squares, through the center, maintain the same color.
 - i. Queen, King, Rook, or Pawn, advancing 1 square through center, retains same color.
 - ii. Knight also will retain same color.
 - iii. This phenomenon is necessary to maintain 'round board' integrity. As players should be aware of this, conventional Chess strategy is not compromised.
2. DIAGONAL MOVES (Queen, King, Bishop, or Pawn capturing)
 - a. Follow 1 of the 2 trajectory lines out from the square it rest on.
 - b. May rotate through the center.
 - c. Can not 'turn the corner' at the outer rank, in 1 move.
3. VERTICAL MOVES (Queen, King, Rook, Pawn)
 - a. Follows straight, (and if necessary, through the center), along the checkerboard file.
4. HORIZONTAL MOVES (Queen, King, Rook)
 - a. Rotate about the center on the same row (rank).
5. KNIGHT MOVES
 - a. 2 squares vertically then 1 square horizontally, or
 - b. 1 square vertically then 2 horizontally.
 - c. Use 1 of the 2 methods above (i.e., do not follow a trajectory line through the center). Also, these 2 methods are necessary for BORDER CONTROL described below.
6. BORDER CONTROL
 - a. MOATS
 - i. Thick green lines 'MOATS' have been dug into the outer rank, bordering the teams. No piece may traverse across a MOAT (horizontally OR diagonally across the corner) until it has become open, i.e., 'BRIDGED'. (see below).
 - ii. MOAT BRIDGING
 - (1) If the conditions exist allowing a MOAT to become BRIDGED (see below), it is considered BRIDGED only to pieces crossing the MOAT that do not end THAT move in the capturing of a piece or initiating a CHECK. Also no piece can CHECK through an open or closed MOAT - ever.
 - (2) A MOAT can become permanently Bridged for HORIZONTAL or DIAGONAL traversing if:
 - (a) A team has been eliminated. Therefore both of its bordering MOATS are Bridged.
 - (b) An active team vacates its outer rank of ALL pieces. Note: Re-populating its outer rank will not re-close the bordering MOATS.
 - iii. KNIGHTS must observe the 2 & 1 rule of travel, mentioned above.
 - (a) If either configuration of a KNIGHT'S move would carry it Horizontally across a Moat, then that move is illegal (unless that Moat is Bridged).
 - b. CREEKS
 - i. CREEKS run 2 squares off the MOATS, denoted by thin green lines.
 - (1) They are observed only by PAWNS that haven't crossed through the center yet.
 - (2) PAWNS are not considered strong enough to capture across a creek. They must advance to the square beyond the end of the CREEK first. (4th rank from the outside)
 - (a) Once across the center, they no longer observe CREEKS.

7. CHECKMATE

- a. A team's CHECKMATE status is not finalized until it is their turn, unless their King is captured.
 - i. If a King's position is so unfortunate whereas the next team's move creates a CHECK to it by the following team, then that following team may capture that King if it wishes. Now, they are considered CHECKMATED. See example #1 below.
 - ii. If the extremely unusual circumstance occurs whereas a team could not make a legal move (as in a Stalemate), and 3 teams are still in, that team would be out of the game. If there were only 2 teams left at the time, the game is a draw.
- b. When/if a team becomes CHECKMATED, that player is out. ALL remaining pieces remain on the board dormant. They lie as dead fossils, without even a descent burial from the useless government they once supported. The square that one of these corpses consumes may be captured by another team's piece if it wishes to occupy that square.
- c. The game is continued between the other two players until only one remains. The ultimate goal would be for one team to CHECKMATE the other two teams at the same time!

Example #1:



This is very unusual, but must be addressed. After much discussion, there seems to be no better way to logically satisfy the situation:

King (player 3) moves in the above space. Next, Bishop(1) moves out, leaving King(3) in Check by Queen(2).

This type of event, where the King is put in Check and can not answer (because it isn't that King's turn yet) would provide the ONLY means whereas that King could be captured by Queen(2) (in the above example). Once this King is captured, the team is Checkmated.

3 Man Chess: Variant in the Round

3 Man Chess: An In-Depth Overview

Setup

3 Man Chess is set up in much the same way as regular chess; players position their pieces in the 8 square wide sections between moats with all three players' queens starting on the black squares and their kings on the white. White always moves first, followed by gray and then black in a clockwise direction.

The Center

No pieces may occupy the center circle, but they may pass through it with any of their normal legal moves. For example, a rook may pass over the center from a white square to the white square on the other side, a bishop initially on the first rank may travel following the diagonal trajectory lines through the center and end up where it began, and a knight may capture any piece by moving one square vertically across the center and then two horizontally alongside the center.

Moats

Moats are dug on the first rank of the board as a divider between players and cannot be crossed by any piece under normal circumstances. Pieces may not move diagonally across the corner of non-bridged moats and if either of a knight's 2 legal moves to a particular square takes it over a non-bridged moat, it may not proceed to that square.

Moat Bridging

Bridged moats are passable by any piece; however the piece's move may not end in the capture of a piece or in putting another player in check (or checkmate).

Moats become bridged when a player is eliminated and when a player's first rank is completely empty. In either case, the two moats that touch his or her starting position become bridged for the duration of the game. A bridged moat cannot become non-bridged, even if the first rank has pieces on it later in the game.

Creeks

Creeks extend two squares beyond the moats (on ranks 2 and 3) and are only observed by pawns. Pawns may not capture across the creeks until they are on or beyond the fourth rank, at which point they may ignore the creek rules and capture across them unobstructed.

Checkmate

Just like in traditional chess, players are in checkmate when they have no legal moves remaining on their turn and, specific to 3 Man Chess, when their king is captured. Upon being in checkmate, the player's remaining pieces (including the king, if applicable) remain on the board as inactive "corpses" which cannot attack or move, but may be captured freely by other players for positioning needs. Checkmate is not reversible, even if an otherwise legal move presents itself later in the game.

3MC Notation

3 Man Chess Notation, as proposed by C.S. Graves, is similar to Forsyth-Edwards Notation (FEN) with some additions to include the third player.

The board ranks (horizontal rings) are noted from 1 (outermost/first rank, the closest rank to each player) to 6 (the rank closest to the center).

The files (vertical columns) are noted a-h, per player section, starting at the king-side rook and ending on the queen-side rook.

Sections are noted according to the color of the player in each third of the board (section 1 has white, to the left is gray followed by black). These sections are noted with WH, GR, and BL.

Piece color is noted by the pieces' first letter capitalized (W for white, G for gray, and B for black).

Piece type is noted by the piece's first letter in lowercase (p for pawn, r for rook, n for knight, b for bishop, k for king, and q for queen).

For example, WHWpe4 is a white pawn in the 4th rank, column "e" of the White third of the board and WHBpd5 is the black pawn that started at BLh2 who will be captured by WHWpe4 on white's next move.

3 Man Chess: Variant in the Round

In-Depth: Standard Chess Rules as Applied to 3 Man Chess (Page 1)

Overview

Objective

The objective of chess is to put your opponents in checkmate - to leave them with no remaining valid moves, or capture their king.

You each start with the same pieces: 1 king, 1 queen, 2 bishops, 2 knights, 2 rooks, and 8 pawns; a total of 16 pieces. Each type of piece has its own method of movement and capture, which is explained in further sections.

Setup

3 Man Chess is set up in the same manner as traditional chess; in the first rank, each player's pieces are arranged (from the left) rook, knight, bishop, king, queen, bishop, knight, and rook. In 3 Man Chess, the queens always start on a black square and the kings always start on white. In the second rank, each player places his or her 8 pawns, one on each square.

Check / Checkmate

A player is considered in "check" if his or her king is immediately threatened by an opponent's piece. This is a warning that if you do not move your king out of the way, or do not otherwise block the opponent's attack on your king, you will be in "checkmate" and will lose the game. Checkmate is finalized at the start of your turn when there is no legal move for you to make, or after your king has been captured. Your king may not move into check in any circumstance, so if on your turn you have only your king remaining and he is surrounded by positions which place him in check, you are in checkmate.

Glossary

King-Side refers to the 4 files (columns) of a player's section on which the king initially is placed. In 3 Man Chess, this is always the left half of the section.

Queen-Side refers to the 4 files (columns) of a player's section on which the queen initially is placed. In 3 Man Chess, this is always the right half of the section.

King

Movement

The king moves in any direction (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) a maximum of one square per turn.

Capturing

It may capture any piece that is on one of those 8 squares.

Placement

The king is initially placed in the first rank, 4 squares in from the player's left-hand moat, which in 3 Man Chess is always a white square.

Castling

Castling is a special move involving the king and either one of the player's two rooks. In castling, the player chooses one of his or her rooks and moves the king 2 squares towards it, followed by moving the rook 2 (king side of the board), or 3 squares (queen side) towards the king. The pieces effectively cross over each other, leaving them directly adjacent to each other but on the opposite side of each other from when they started. Castling may only occur if neither of the involved pieces have previously moved, there are no pieces between the chosen rook's and king's starting positions, the king is not presently in check, does not end up in check, and does not pass through a square where it would be in check.

Queen

Movement

The queen moves in any direction (horizontally, vertically, or diagonally) any number of unoccupied squares per turn.

Capturing

It may capture any piece occupying a square in any valid direction of movement, so long as the path to that square is unoccupied.

Placement

The queen is initially placed in the first rank, 4 squares in from the right, a black square, immediately to the right of the king.

3 Man Chess: Variant in the Round

In-Depth: Standard Chess Rules as Applied to 3 Man Chess (Page 2)

Bishops

Movement

The bishops move diagonally any number of squares, following the 3 Man Chess board's diagonal lines. A bishop starting on the outer rank with an unobstructed path may effectively follow the diagonal lines through the center and back where it started, however, bishops may not (in one move) "turn the corner" on the outer rank and effectively be travelling diagonally in a new direction.

Capturing

They may capture any piece occupying a square in any valid direction of movement, so long as the path to that square is unoccupied.

Placement

The bishops are initially placed immediately next to the king and queen in the first rank, on the 3rd column from the left and right of the moats.

Knights

Movement

The knights move either 2 squares horizontally and 1 vertically, or 2 squares vertically and one horizontally in an "L" shape, effectively "jumping" any pieces in between the start and end positions, however, they may not "jump" over a non-bridged moat and do not observe the diagonal movement lines on the 3 Man Chess board.

Capturing

They may capture any piece which resides on the square they land on.

Placement

They are placed immediately on the outside of the bishops, on the first rank, 2nd column from the right and left of the moats.

Rooks

Movement

The rooks move horizontally and vertically any number of unoccupied squares per turn.

Capturing

They may capture any piece occupying a square in any valid direction of movement, so long as the path to that square is unoccupied.

Placement

The rooks are initially placed in the first column, first rank, immediately to the right (king-side) and left (queen-side) of the moats.

Pawns

Movement

Pawns generally move one vertical square forward; however, on their first move (and only their first move) they may advance 2 vertical squares forward. Regardless of whether a pawn initially advances one square or two, all of its following moves must only advance one square, without exception.

Capturing

Pawns may capture pieces that are one diagonal square to either their front left or front right. Across the center void of the 3 Man Chess board this appears to be a two square leap, however given the nature of diagonal movements on a round board it is viewed as only one square.

Placement

Pawns are initially placed in all 8 squares of the second rank.

Pawn Promotion

Once a pawn proceeds through the center and reaches the first rank again, it must be promoted into a queen (often called "queening"), a rook, a knight, or a bishop ("under promotion") of the player's color. If the piece that the player chooses to promote the pawn into is already in use, a substitute piece may be used (an upside down rook to represent the player's second queen, for example).

En Passant

En Passant is a unique capture technique that only pawns may observe. When a player moves a pawn forward 2 squares in one move and an opponent's pawn is directly adjacent horizontally to the destination square, the opponent's pawn may immediately capture the player's pawn as if the player's pawn had only moved one square forward. The opponent still advances diagonally forward, leaving it where the player's pawn would have been had it only moved one square initially. This is the only legal chess move where a capturing piece does not end up where the captured piece was. En passant must occur as the move immediately following the player's 2 square advance or the ability to do so is lost.