

Mancala Rules

HOW TO PLAY THE WORLD'S OLDEST BOARD GAME

OBJECTIVE

To have the most tokens in your mancala at the end of the game

SET-UP

Each player sits opposite each other, with the long sides of the board facing them. Four tokens are placed in each of the twelve small wells in the center of the board, leaving the two large wells at the ends, known as mancalas, empty. The six small wells closest to each player and the mancala on their right side belong to them.

GAME PLAY

On each turn, a player will take all the tokens from their cup. Moving counter-clockwise, place one token in each well until you run out. This includes placing one in your own mancala, but not your opponent's mancala. Capture any of your opponent's tokens you can (see next step). Now your turn is complete. Play continues with alternating turns.

CAPTURING YOUR OPPONENT'S TOKENS

If you place the last token of your turn in an empty well on your side of the board, you capture all of the tokens in your opponent's well directly across from it. Place all the captured tokens and the capturing token into your own mancala. If your last stone lands in your own mancala, you may take another turn.

WINNING THE GAME

As soon as all wells on one side of the game board are empty, the game is over. Any remaining tokens on the other side belong to the player whose side it is. The person with the most tokens in their mancala or remaining on their side of the board wins the game.