

CHESS · VARIANT 19 OF 153

Berolina Chess

8×8

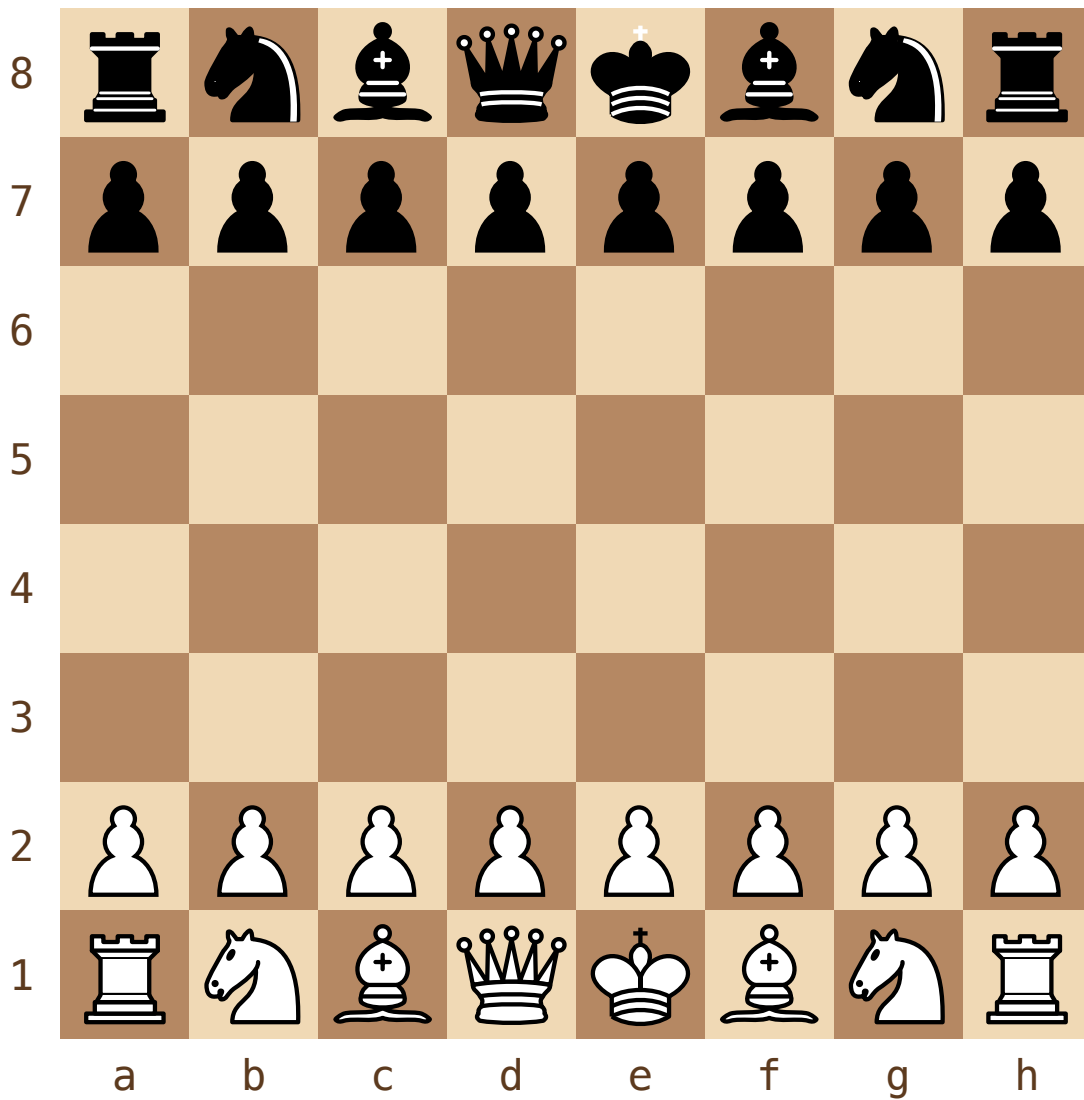
BOARD

2

PLAYERS

BEROLINA CHESS

Pawns are inverted: they advance diagonally and capture straight ahead. Named after Berlin, where it was invented in 1926.



Berolina Chess – starting position

<https://engine.moddable.games/play/?game=chess&variant=berolina-chess>

SETUP

Board: Standard 8×8.

Setup: Standard chess setup (pawns use Berolina movement rules).

FEN: rnbqkbnr/pppppppp/8/8/8/8/PPPPPPPP/RNBQKBNR w KQkq - 0 1

RULES

- ♦ Pawns move one or two squares diagonally forward (instead of straight forward).
- ♦ Pawns capture one square straight forward (instead of diagonally).
- ♦ En passant applies to Berolina pawn double-moves.
- ♦ Promotion occurs on the 8th rank as normal.
- ♦ All other pieces move and capture as standard chess.

WIN CONDITION

Checkmate the opponent's King.

STRATEGY

Berolina pawns control different squares than normal pawns. A pawn on e2 can advance to d3 or f3 (and double-move to c4 or g4), but captures on e3. This makes pawn chains behave very differently — adjacent pawns no longer protect each other. Bishops become relatively weaker since pawns compete for diagonal space.

ATTRIBUTION

Invented by Edmund Hebermann in Berlin, 1926. Public domain.