

CHESS · VARIANT 123 OF 153

Shafran's Hexagonal Chess

70 hexes (9 files a-i)

BOARD

2

PLAYERS

SHAFRAN'S HEXAGONAL CHESS

Invented by Boris Shafran. Played on a smaller 70-hex board with 9 files (a through i). Castling is permitted and the pawn initial step varies by file.

SETUP

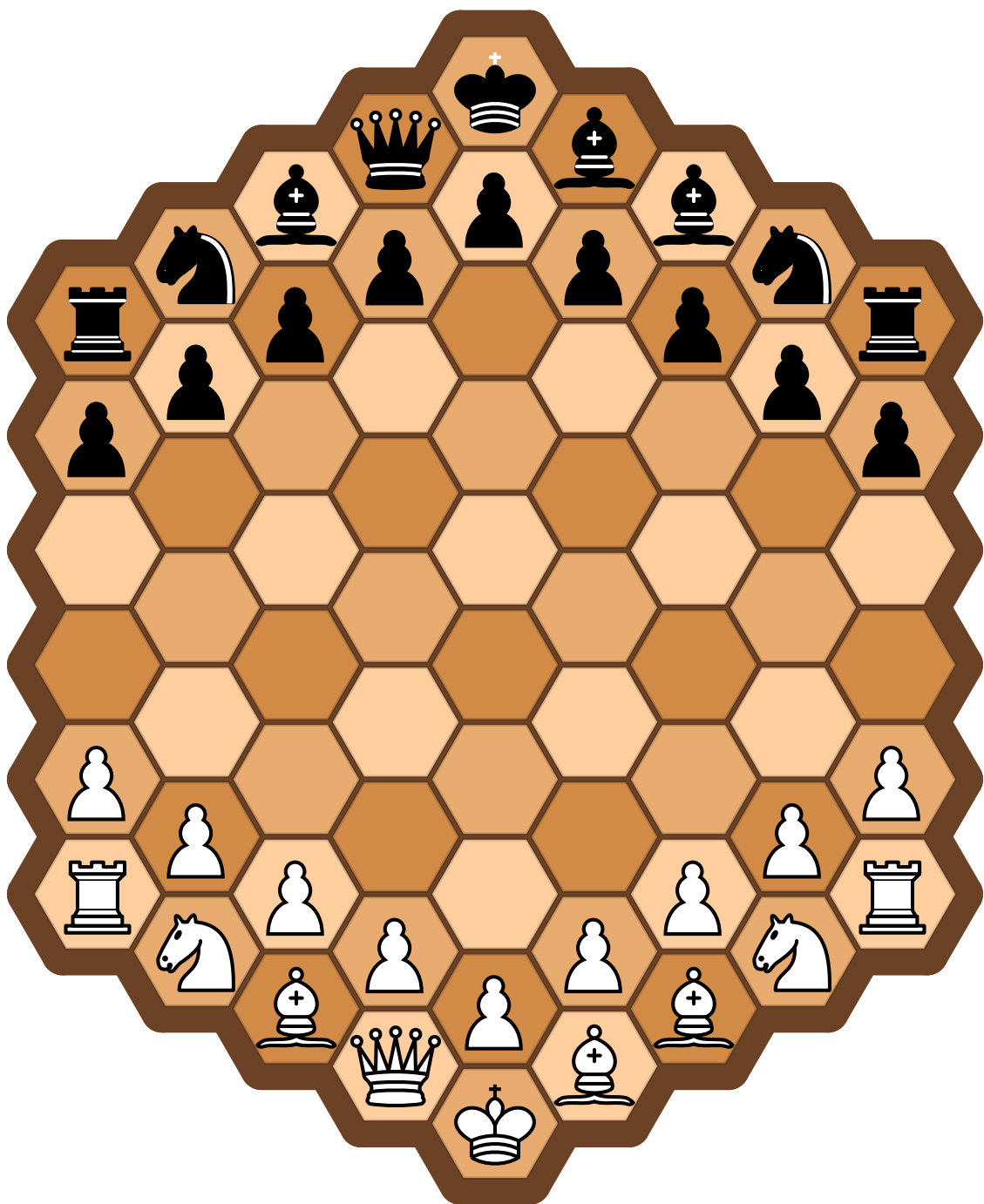
Board: 70-hex irregular hexagonal grid, 9 files (a-i), 10 ranks. File lengths: a(6), b(7), c(8), d(9), e(10), f(9), g(8), h(7), i(6). Files a-e share the bottom edge; files e-i share the top edge.

White pieces (back rank, bottom edge):

- ♦ King on e1
- ♦ Queen on d1
- ♦ Bishops on c1, f2, h4 (one per colour)
- ♦ Knights on b1, g3
- ♦ Rooks on a1, i5
- ♦ Pawns on a2, b2, c2, d2, e2, f3, g4, h5, i6 (9 pawns)

Black pieces (back rank, top edge – 180° rotation):

- ♦ King on e10
- ♦ Queen on f10
- ♦ Bishops on g10, d9, b7 (one per colour)
- ♦ Knights on h10, c8
- ♦ Rooks on i10, a6
- ♦ Pawns on i9, h9, g9, f9, e9, d8, c7, b6, a5 (9 pawns)



Shafran's Hexagonal Chess – starting position

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

PAWNS

Pawns capture diagonally (bishop direction, through shared corners). The initial step from the starting rank depends on the pawn's file:

FILES	INITIAL STEP
d, e, f	1, 2, or 3 cells forward
b, c, g, h	1 or 2 cells forward
a, i	1 cell only

CASTLING

Castling is permitted on both the Queen-side and King-side. The King moves two cells toward the Rook; the Rook moves to the other side of the King.

RULES

Identical to standard chess adapted for the hex grid except as noted. Stalemate is a draw.

WIN CONDITION

Checkmate.

ATTRIBUTION

Boris Shafran. Public domain rules.