

DRAUGHTS · VARIANT 10 OF 20

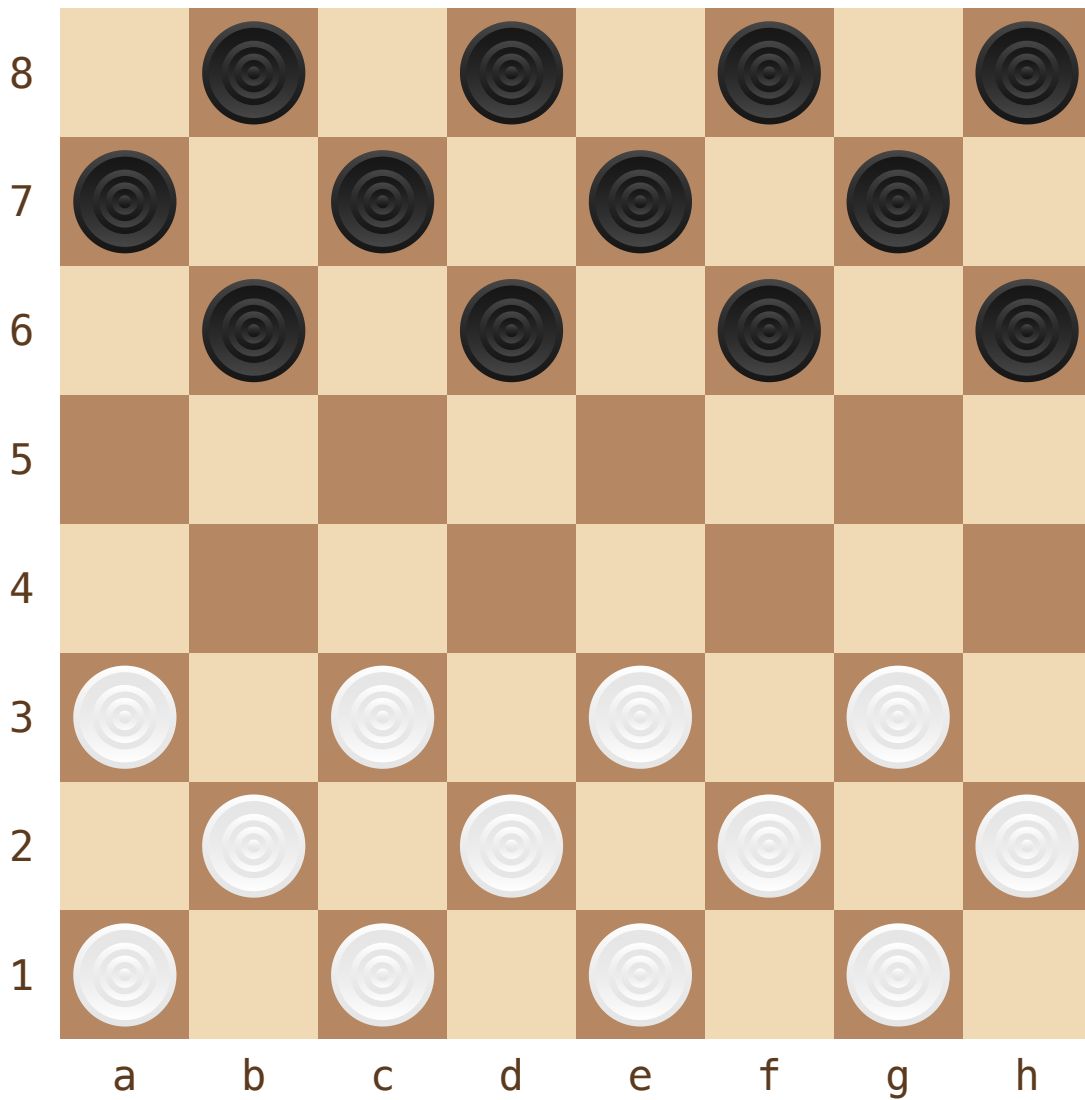
Pool Checkers

8×8
BOARD

2
PLAYERS

POOL CHECKERS

The American tournament variant, governed by the American Pool Checkers Association since 1966. Combines backward captures for men, flying kings, and mid-jump promotion with free choice between captures (no majority rule). More aggressive than English Draughts due to backward capture, more forgiving than International due to free choice.



Pool Checkers — starting position

<https://engine.moddable.games/play/?game=draughts&variant=pool>

SETUP

Board: 8×8 checkered board, dark squares only. Same layout as English Draughts.

Pieces: 12 men per player on dark squares of the three nearest rows.

First move: Black moves first (note: opposite convention to most variants).

RULES

- ♦ **Men movement:** Men move diagonally forward only, one square at a time.
- ♦ **Men capture:** Men capture diagonally by jumping over an adjacent opponent piece. Men can capture both forwards AND backwards.
- ♦ **Mandatory capture:** Captures are compulsory.
- ♦ **Free choice:** When multiple capture sequences exist, the player may freely choose. No majority rule.
- ♦ **Mid-jump promotion:** If a man reaches the back row during a multi-jump sequence, it is promoted to a king immediately and continues capturing as a king in the same turn.
- ♦ **Immediate removal:** Captured pieces are removed from the board immediately after being jumped.

KING PROMOTION

- ♦ **Flying kings:** Kings move any number of unoccupied squares diagonally in any direction.
- ♦ **King capture:** Kings capture by jumping over a single opponent piece at any distance along a diagonal, landing on any open square beyond.

WINNING

A player wins when their opponent has no legal move: all pieces captured or all pieces blocked.

DRAWS

The game is a draw when:

- ♦ Both players agree.
- ♦ The same position repeats.
- ♦ Neither player can force a win.

STRATEGY

Backward captures for men make every piece a threat in both directions, reducing the safety of the back row. Mid-jump promotion combined with free choice allows creative sacrifice sequences: you can choose a shorter capture that promotes to a king mid-jump rather than a longer but purely pedestrian sequence.

ATTRIBUTION

Traditional variant. Public domain. Governed by the American Pool Checkers Association (est. 1966). Source: Wikipedia (CC-BY-SA).