

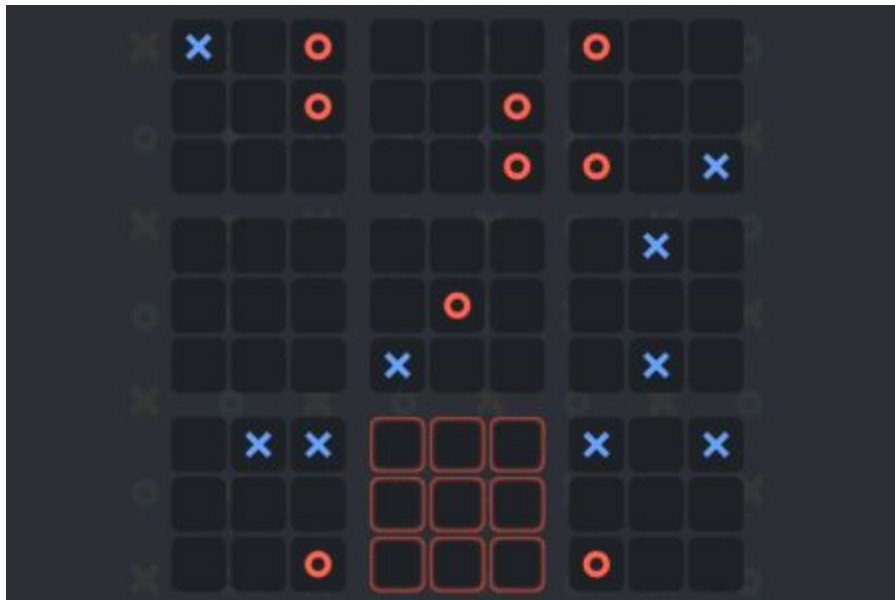
ULTIMATE TIC TAC TOE

RULES:

Game basics:

You probably know the original Tic Tac Toe game. If not: it's a simple game where one player is the **X** and the other player is the **O**, playing on a field of 3x3 squares. The players take turns picking one of the squares that is not occupied. When one of the players gets three squares in a row, horizontal, vertical, or diagonal, that player wins.

Ultimate Tic Tac Toe is quite similar. Each square in the field is actually a small game of Tic Tac Toe. Winning a small game, earns you the square for the big game. The goal again is to get three (big) squares in a row. Further rules will be explained below. This game requires quite a bit of strategy because you can influence which of the big squares your opponent has to play in.



Additional rules:

As explained above, you need to acquire three big squares in a row. However, there is a catch. The most important rule of Ultimate Tic Tac Toe is the following: whichever small square your opponent picks, is the next big square you must play in. So if your opponent moves first and picks the middle small square in the top-right big square, you must pick a small square of the

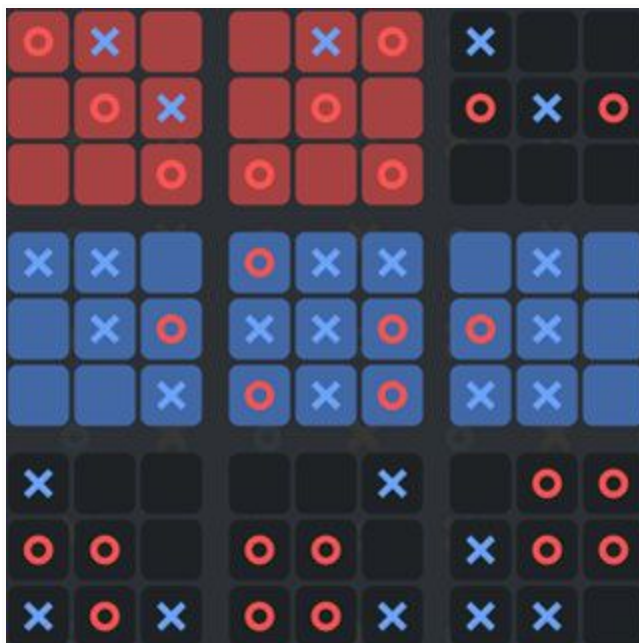
middle big square. This might be a bit confusing so an example is shown in [Figure 1](#). Blue just placed an X and red is up next.

So what happens if your opponent sends you to a big square that is already won (or a draw)? Then you are in luck! You may place your next move on any available empty square on the entire board. So always keep this in mind when choosing your own moves.

The final rule for this game is about what happens when one of the small games ends in a draw. If this is the case, the big square is not owned by any of the players.

Winning the game

As explained in Game basics, the game is won when 3 small Tic Tac Toe games are won in a row, either horizontal, vertical, or diagonal. To clarify this, an example of a game won by the blue player is shown



It's possible that the Ultimate Tic Tac Toe game ends in a draw. If there are no three big squares in a row that are owned by the same player, it's a draw.

