

18IrePL

Rules differences with 18Ireland

Galatolol

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1 Introduction

This is my take on Ian Scrivins' 18Ireland. I wanted to make it more focused on mergers and to cut some chrome that felt to me unnecessary. The biggest changes are:

- no secondary rail network
- trains are one-sided and they are directly removed from the game upon rusting
- 10-share companies cannot be started directly, they must form as a result of a merger

The game is set in modern-day Poland. Historically it is completely inaccurate. All companies are imaginary, however major companies are named after real railroad connections and companies.

This document covers the rules differences between the two games.

2 Definitions

Minor company 5-share company. There is 16 of them.

Major company 10-share company. There is 7 of them.

3 Setup

Players	Starting capital	Cert. limit
3	360	16
4	270	12
5	216	10
6	180	8
Bank size: 4000		

3.1 Offboard connections

Randomly choose two offboard connections (red tiles) and place them in corresponding hexes. The rest of the offboard connections won't be used in the game. No rail can point towards an empty offboard connection slot.

Minor A and Minor B start on the chosen red tiles. To determine which is which, start at Germany and go counter-clockwise: the first red tile you meet is where Minor A starts whilst Minor B starts on the second.

***Example:** Germany—A, Slovakia—B; Ukraine—A, Russia B.*

3.2 Minor companies

Set aside the company charter of the Minor 8. Shuffle the remaining minor company charters face down. Randomly remove from the game two of them. The remaining charters are placed face up in a pile. Players may consult their order at any time.

3.3 Private companies

Prepare a waterfall auction: lay all private companies in order of their costs.

3.4 +10 tokens

Put a +10 marker on marked hexes. Cities located in those hexes have their value increased by 10. The markers aren't removed when a hex is upgraded.

Concerned hexes: D10, D14, F4, G17, H18

4 Stock round

4.1 Starting minor companies

In yellow phase only yellow par values are available. In green phase green par values are also available. In brown phase brown par values are also available.

Example: Bid of 280. In yellow phase the par value would be 100, whilst in green and brown phase it would be 122.

4.2 Starting major companies

Major companies may only be formed as a result of a merger. They cannot be started directly in a stock round.

5 Operating round

5.1 Track laying

Companies may lay or upgrade only one tile per Operating Round. Minor 6 and Minor 10 are exception to this rule: they may lay up to two yellow tiles on their first Operating Round (however they cannot combine tile upgrade and additional track lay).

5.2 Trains

Trains are “classic” N-trains. They can reach up to N stops. A stop constitutes of city, town, offboard connection, or port.

4D-train reaches up to 4 stops and doubles their value.

Trains are one-sided. Once they rust, they are immediately removed from the game.

6 Game end

In most cases the last Merger Round is replaced with a third Operating Round.

In case of more than one end game conditions being active, the one that ends the game faster is in effect.

6.1 A company reaches 260 value

Finish the current Operating Round.

6.2 Bank runs out of money

Finish the current set of Stock Round + Operating Rounds **plus one additional Operating Round** (so 3 Operating rounds in total).

6.3 First 4D-train purchased

Finish the current set of Operating Rounds, then play Stock Round and **three Operating Rounds**.

6.4 Bankruptcy

If a player goes bankrupt, they are removed from the game. All their companies close. Minority shareholders receive the final value (if any) of their shares from the bank.

Play continues until the end of the current set of Operating Rounds **plus one additional Operating Round** (so 3 Operating rounds in total).

More than one player may go bankrupt. At any time, if only one player is left in the game, that player wins immediately.

6.5 Obvious winner

At any time, if all players agree which one of them has already won the game, that player wins immediately.

7 Private companies

7.1 Wrocław-Oława Railroad

No special power.

7.2 Industrialisation of Łódź

Owning company may place a +20 token in Łódź (G13). For all companies the value of the city is increased by 20. The marker isn't removed when *Industrialisation of Łódź* closes or when the hex is upgraded.

7.3 Local Railroad

Owning company may upgrade a town using the IPL1 tile. No other company has access to this tile. This upgrade action is in addition to normal tile placement (lay or upgrade). It is possible to lay a tile and immediately upgrade it using this power.

The power is still available after *Local Railroad* closes.

Note: *There is only one IPL1 tile, so the power can be executed only once.*

7.4 Bridge Company

Owning company ignores all terrain costs (water and mountain).

7.5 Baltic Shipping

Owning company may place a \$40 token in one of the ports (B4, E1, G3). This forms a stop that only trains of the owning company may access. The token isn't removed when *Baltic Shipping* closes.

7.6 Warsaw-Radom Railroad

Owning player immediately takes the presidency of Minor 8, places its home station (I11), and puts

the winning bid into its treasury. Par price is the highest yellow par value that is not more than half the bid. Then Minor 8 buys a train. *Warsaw-Radom Railroad* closes immediately.

8 Acknowledgements

The game belongs to 18xx games family started by Francis Tresham's 1829. The game is based on Ian Scrivins' 18Ireland.

I made the game files using Christopher Giroir's excellent tool for prototyping 18xx games, JC Lawrence's xpapers, GIMP, and Latex.

Cover image (railroad bridge in Tczew): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/8/88/Weichselbr%C3%BCcke_Dirschau.JPG

Stock market image (main station in Gdańsk): https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/7/79/Estaci%C3%B3n_de_FFCC%2C_Gdańsk%2C_Polonia%2C_2013-05-20%2C_DD_01.jpg