

KOBUDAI

by Mark Steere

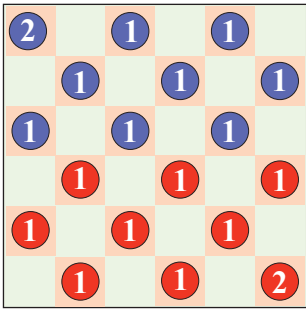


Figure 1 - Initial Setup.

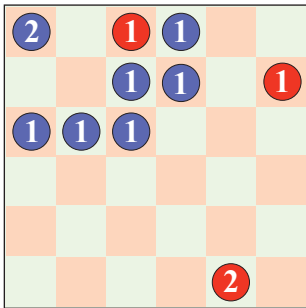


Figure 2 - Don't Do It.
Blue has illegally cordoned off his male with an orthogonally connected path of females.

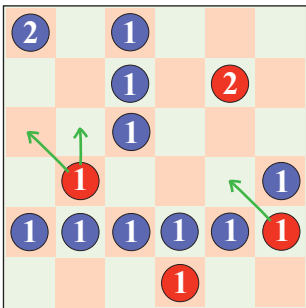


Figure 3 - Moves.
All of Red's available moves are indicated.

INTRODUCTION

Kobudai is a two player game played on a 6x6 (or 8x8...) checkerboard. The starting position is like Checkers except all dark squares are occupied. And the two opposite corner dark squares are occupied by stacks of 2 like colored checkers, the males. All other checkers comprise stacks of height 1, the females. See Figure 1.

Draws cannot occur in Kobudai. Mark Steere designed Kobudai in February, 2021.

PLAY

Your male must never be cordoned off from any enemy stacks by a loop or an edge-to-edge path of orthogonally (i.e., horizontally or vertically) connected friendly females. See Figure 2.

To begin your turn, if all of your stacks are female, you must add a checker to one of them (which is not cordoned off from any enemy stacks by other friendly females), thereby converting it to a male. You conclude your turn by moving one of your females. (Males are stationary.) If you have a move available, you must make one. Otherwise you must sit the game out and wait until you do have a move available.

MOVES

Females move like a Chess king. You can only move a female which has a clear path of unoccupied squares, (which are connected orthogonally, diagonally, or both), to the enemy male. For a given female, you must select the shortest such path and move your female to shorten it. See Figure 3.

CAPTURE BY REPLACEMENT

Females can't be killed. Only males can be killed, by enemy females. Killing is not mandatory (unless it's your only available move).

OBJECT OF THE GAME

Win by annihilating the enemy.

AUTHOR'S NOTE

Feel free to publish this rule sheet and to program the game of Kobudai. No licensing fee or royalties are expected. However, please don't change the name or the rules, and please attribute the game to me, Mark Steere. My other games can be found at marksteeregames.com.