

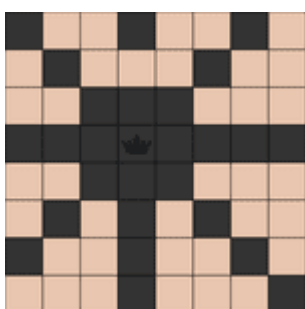
Empress

2013, Neal M, <https://boardgamegeek.com/thread/982827>

Empress is played on an 8x8 board between two players - Black and White. The players each have eight Queens and one Empress. The objective of the game is to capture all eight of the opponent's Queens.

The Empress's Field of View

The Empress oversees and protects her own-colored Queens through her Field of View, illustrated in the following diagram:



Within the Field of View, no Queen (of the same color) may be attacked. Furthermore, no Queen may cross into or through the Field of View of the opposing Empress.

The Field of View is blocked by any piece within it, so that the Field does not extend beyond the blocking piece. This is illustrated in the following diagram:



Note that, as shown in the above graphic, the field extends only as far as the closest piece (of either color); in this case, the Field does not extend to the right edge or the bottom-right corner. Also note that, in this example, the Black Queen is protected within the Field of the Black Empress; as such, the former cannot be attacked by the White Queen. On the other hand, the White Queen can be attacked by the Black Queen because the (Black) Field offers no protection to the White Queen.

A square at the intersection of two opposing fields is neutralized, as shown in the

following diagram:



In this case, the Black and White Fields are neutralized at squares where they intersect. Queens at these squares are not protected.

Gameplay

At the beginning of play, the players - beginning with White - alternate placing Queens on the board. Once each side has placed three Queens, White (followed by Black) places their Empress.

Queens behave as Queens in Chess; if unimpeded, a Queen can be moved any number of unoccupied squares in a straight line orthogonally or diagonally. Queens are impeded by other pieces and the Field of View of the rival Empress. Queens may attack and capture other Queens if the attacking Queen is not impeded in reaching the other Queen and the other Queen is not protected by its own Empress.

Each Empress may also be moved as a Queen with the exceptions that it is unimpeded by the Field of View of the opposing Empress and cannot capture other pieces (opposing Queens or the rival Empress). Neither Empress may be attacked or captured.

On the turn of each player, they may choose one of three actions:

- Move one of their own Queens (including attacking)
- Move their Empress
- Introduce a new Queen from their side onto the board

Once a Queen is captured, it is detained by the attacking player and cannot be reused by the player playing its color.