TaskMasters Connect Four

User Guide

Version 1.0.0
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Introduction

Welcome to TaskMasters Connect Four, an engaging digital adaptation of the classic Connect Four game with enhanced features and customization options. This app brings the familiar gameplay to your device with modern twists, including customizable board sizes, player statistics, match history, and replays.

Connect Four is a two-player connection game where players take turns dropping colored discs from the top into a vertically suspended grid. The objective is to be the first to form a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line of four discs of your color.

Installation and Setup

System Requirements

- iOS 15.0 or later
- Compatible with iPhone and iPad
- Approximately 50MB of free space

Installation Steps

1. **Download the App**
   - Open the App Store on your iOS device
   - Search for "TaskMasters Connect Four"
   - Tap "Get" to download and install the app
2. **First Launch**
   - Tap the app icon to open after installation
   - The app will request permission for sound - we recommend allowing this for the full experience
   - No account creation is needed - you can start playing immediately
3. **Updates**
   - Enable automatic updates in your App Store settings to ensure you always have the latest version
   - Check the "What's New" section in the App Store for information about updates

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Main Menu

The main menu serves as your hub for accessing all the features of the game.

Menu Options

- **New Game**: Start a fresh game with current settings
- **Game Settings**: Customize board size and starting player
- **Match History**: View and replay previous games
- **Leaderboard**: Check player statistics and rankings
- **Resume Game**: Appears when you have a paused game in progress

Current Settings Display

At the bottom of the main menu, you'll see information about your current game settings:

- Board size configuration (e.g., "Standard Board (7×6)")
- Starting player setting (e.g., "Red First Player" or "Random First Player")

Game Settings

Customize your gameplay experience through the Game Settings menu.

Board Type Options

- **Standard (7×6)**: The classic Connect Four board size with 7 columns and 6 rows
- **Random Size**: Let the app generate a random board size between 5-10 columns and 4-8 rows
- **Custom Size**: Manually select your preferred board dimensions
  - Columns: Choose between 5-10 columns
  - Rows: Choose between 4-10 rows

Starting Player Options

- **Fixed Start**: Red player always goes first (default)
- **Random First Player**: Toggle on to randomize which player goes first in each new game

Playing the Game

Game Screen Overview

The game screen includes:

- Player name inputs at the top
- Board size and current player indicator
- The game board with colored circles
- A draggable token for the current player
- Game control buttons at the bottom

Player Setup

1. Enter names for each player in the text fields at the top of the screen
2. The default names are "Red" and "Yellow" if none are provided

Making Moves

You can make a move in two ways:

1. **Tap Method**: Simply tap on the column where you want to drop your disc
2. **Drag and Drop Method**: Drag the colored token at the bottom of the screen to the desired column

The disc will drop to the lowest available position in the selected column.

Winning the Game

A player wins by connecting four discs of their color in a row - horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. When a win occurs:

- A victory message displays the winner
- Navigation buttons appear for Match History and Leaderboard
- The game automatically saves the match to history

If all positions on the board are filled without a winner, the game ends in a draw.

Game Controls

During gameplay, you have several control options at the bottom of the screen.

In-Game Controls

- **Pause/Resume**: Temporarily stop the game and resume when ready
- **Restart**: Reset the current game with the same settings
- **New Board**: Open a menu with board options:
  - Standard Board: Reset to the classic 7×6 board
  - Random Board Size: Generate a new random-sized board
  - Custom Board Size: Open settings to create a specific board size

Custom Board Options

When selecting "Custom Board Size":

1. Use the steppers to adjust the number of columns and rows
2. Toggle "Random First Player" if desired
3. Tap "Start New Game" to apply settings
4. Or tap "Cancel" to return without changes

Back Button

The back button in the top-left corner allows you to return to the main menu. You'll receive a confirmation prompt to prevent accidental game abandonment.

Leaderboard System

The leaderboard tracks player performance across all games.

Leaderboard Features

- Player names are automatically added after their first game
- Statistics tracked per player:
  - Total wins
  - Total games played
  - Win rate (percentage)
- Players are sorted by win rate, with the highest percentages at the top

Managing the Leaderboard

- **Clear Scores**: Use the button at the bottom to clear all leaderboard data
  - This action requires confirmation and cannot be undone
  - All player statistics will be reset to zero

Match History

Review your past games and access the replay feature.

Match Record Details

Each match record shows:

- Player names with colored tokens (🔴/🟡)
- Board size used for the game
- Date and time the match was played
- Number of moves made during the game

Accessing Match History

- From the main menu: Tap "Match History"
- After a game ends: Tap "Match History" from the results screen

If no games have been played yet, a message will indicate that the match history is empty.

Replay Feature

Relive your past games move by move with the replay feature.

Starting a Replay

1. Navigate to Match History
2. Tap on any match record
3. The game board will appear with the same dimensions as the original match
4. Moves will automatically play in sequence with a short delay between each

During Replay

- The replay will show each player's moves in order
- Player names will be displayed as they were during the original game
- The replay will conclude by showing the winning move

When the replay finishes, you can:

- Return to Match History to select another replay
- Navigate to other sections of the app

Troubleshooting

Common Issues and Solutions

Issue: Game freezes during play

- Solution: Force close the app and reopen it. Your game progress may be lost, but the app should function normally again.

Issue: Sound not working

- Solution: Check that your device is not in silent mode and that app permissions for audio are enabled in your device settings.

Issue: Leaderboard or Match History not updating

- Solution: Ensure you complete games properly. Abandoning games by force-closing the app may not save match data.

Issue: Disc dropping in wrong column when using drag and drop

- Solution: Try to center your drag over the desired column and wait for a visual cue before releasing.

Support and Contact

Getting Help

If you experience issues not covered in this guide:

- **Email Support**: support@taskmasters.com
- **Website**: www.taskmasters.com/support
- **In-App Feedback**: Coming in a future update

Version Information

You can find the current version number of the app in your device's Settings > Apps > TaskMasters Connect Four.

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