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If only king is left in chess

When you play a chess game, several pieces are being exchanged. And in the end, it happens that you or both of you and your opponent are only left with the kings. But do you know, what happens in chess when only the king is left?A player who has only the king left, can't win the game because one king can't directly checkmate another king. The player either loses, or the game ends in a draw. However, when only the kings are left, the game immediately ends in a draw due to insufficient mating material.In simple words, insufficient mating material means not having enough chess pieces to checkmate the king. Not just with king vs king, it also occurs with the following combination:King and One Knight Vs KingKing And One Bishop Vs KingRemember that, one king can't directly check or checkmate another king. Hence, as soon as you are left with only a king, forget the dream of winning the game. There will be only two outcomes, either you lose or the game ends in a draw.If you want to know why one king can't checkmate another king directly, read my in-depth article: Can A King Kill A King In Chess? (Solved)Now you may ask, what happens if the opponent makes illegal moves or runs out of time in this condition? Then also the game ends in a draw and here's why.As per the standard rules, if your opponent makes two illegal moves then he or she will lose the game. But if you cannot checkmate your opponent by any series of legal moves (and that is what known as having insufficient mating material), then the game is drawn.Read Related: Illegal Moves In Chess: Everything You Need To KnowMoreover, if your opponent runs out of time, then technically, he or she should lose the game. But if you have insufficient mating material, then again, the game will end in a draw.To Know More Read: What Happens When Chess Clock Runs Out of Time? (With Rules)So as you can see in whatever case you mention, it is impossible to win in chess with just a king.On top of that, if both you and your opponent have the king as the last chess piece, then the game is drawn just because of the same reason.Now, lets discuss how many moves are left when king is alone.How Many Moves In Chess When Only The King Is Left?As per the 50 move rule, if no pawn movement and capture has been made within the last 50 moves, then the game can end in a draw. So in chess, a player has 50 moves to checkmate a lone king from the last pawn movement or the last piece capture. The player can claim a draw after 50 moves but if forgets, then after the 75 moves the game is drawn automatically by the 75 move rule.These two rules are known as the 50 move rule and 75 move rule. Apart from these there are two other rules known as threefold repetition and five fold repetition that you should know related to this topic. Ahead I am going to explain all these rules in an easy to understand way so keep reading.What Is The 50 Move Rule?All the standard chess rules are mentioned in the FIDE Laws of Chess. (FIDE is the international chess governing body). Now in that the article 9.3.1 and 9.3.2 describes this rule. According to that,A player having the move can claim a draw, if he/she first writes his moves on the scoresheet and then declares to the arbiter that making the move will result in the last 50 moves with no pawn movement and piece capture or this condition has already resulted.This means that whenever there is a pawn movement or piece capture, the counting of 50 moves starts again. The main purpose of the 50 move rule is to prevent a player from playing indefinitely when he/she can't win.You may have also noticed that the player has to write down the moves on the scoresheet in order to make the claim. You can read this article: Why Do Chess Players Write Down Their Moves? To know more.Most of all the basic checkmates can be achieved within the 50 moves. However if you play wrong moves in basic checkmating patterns and make any mistakes then you might not be able to complete it within the 50 moves.One thing to note is that the game doesn't end in a draw automatically by this rule. The player has to claim for it. If the payer forgets then the game can continue beyond that. Now you will ask me what will happen if none of the players claimed a draw by 50 move rule, will the game continue forever? The straight answer is no and that brings us to our next topic of 75 move rule.What Is The 75 Move Rule?As per the FIDE article 9.6.2, if no pawn movement and capture has been made within the last 75 moves then the game is drawn. But if the last move resulted in a checkmate then that is given more priority.Under the new 75 rule a game is drawn automatically by the arbiter even if both players forget to claim for a draw by the 50 move rule. Hence the chess game can't go on forever.Also Read: Difference Between Stalemate And Draw [Simplified]What Is The Threefold Repetition Rule?As per the FIDE article 9.2, A player having the move can claim a draw if the same position is about to appear for the third time and the player has written this down in his/her scoresheet and declared the arbiter about this or if the same position has already repeated for the three times.Here the positions are considered the same provided the same pieces occupy the same square, possible moves of both the players are same, same player has the move, castling rights are same and possibility of en passant is also the same.Now just like the 50 move rule, under the threefold repetition rule the game is not drawn automatically. The player has to claim for it. So what happens if the player forgets to claim by this rule and that brings to our next topic, fivefold repetition rule.What Is The Fivefold Repetition Rule?As per the FIDE article 9.6.1, a game is drawn automatically if the same position occurs for at least three times. Here the definition of 'same position' is the same as we discussed in the threefold repetition rule.Under the fivefold repetition rule, none of the players has to claim a draw. The arbiter can declare the game as a draw as soon as this rule comes into effect.Also Read: 3 Actual Reasons Why Chess Players Offer DrawsQuick SummaryHere's a quick summary of whatever we discussed so far:As per the standard chess rules, when only the king is left, a player has only 50 moves from the last pawn movement or the piece capture to checkmate the opponent's king. However, if the player forgets to claim a draw by the 50 move rule then the game immediately ends in a draw by the 75 move rule. The 50 move rule means a player can claim a draw after 50 moves if no pawn movement or capture occurs within the last 50 moves.The 75 move rule is the extension of the 50 move rule and if the player forgets to claim the draw by 50 move rule then as per this rule the game is drawn automatically by the arbiter.The threefold repetition rule states that if the same position is repeated for the three times then the player having the move can claim for a draw.The fivefold repetition rule is the extension of the threefold repetition rule and if the player forgets to claim using the threefold repetition rule, then as per this rule the arbiter can declare the game as a draw. Suggested Read: How To Get Better At Chess? (Complete Roadmap) Final WordsSo that's it! Hope you liked reading this article and understood everything. If you found this helpful then please do share with others. Till then Thanks and Good Luck!Related Questions:How many moves can a king make before stalemate?There is no such limit of moves before a stalemate in chess. However, as per the 50 move rule, a player can claim a draw if no pawn movement or capture has been made within the last 50 moves. If the player forgets then by the 75 move rule the game automatically ends in a draw.Is there a 16 move rule in chess?There is no 16 move rule in chess. There is only 50 move rule and 75 move rule as per the standard FIDE (international chess governing body) laws of chess.How to win chess with only a king?A player can't win chess with only a king because a single king can't checkmate another king. The player will either lose, or the game will end in a draw. Hi! I'm Pritam and I'm a huge chess enthusiast! I know the actual problems that chess players face. I created this site to make chess easy to understand for newcomers, and also to help players of all levels of ability to improve their chess-playing skills. Read more about me here. If you have only a king and the opponent has only a king left as well then it is a draw because of insufficient mating material. If you have a king only and your opponent has a king and more than one pawn, then resign because you will lose. You can't fight against two or more pawns. If your opponent has a pawn, which is not an edge pawn, and a bishop or any other piece, then resign. Because he will promote the pawn into a queen with the help of his bishop or other piece and then checkmate you. You only have a chance, if the pawn is an edge pawn and the bishop has the opposite colour of the corner square to where the pawn will get promoted into a queen. See below. White makes draw What happens if only King is left in Chess 1. Black has an edge pawn. 2. Black bishop has the wrong color, this means he has the opposite color of the corner square. The white king stays near the corner square all the time and Black's bishop and king are not able to chase the white king away from the corner, to be able to promote the pawn. This position will end in a stalemate eventually which is a draw. If Black would have a white-running bishop or a knight, he would win. Home Science Math and Arithmetic History Literature and Language Technology Health ⚖️ Law & Legal Issues Business & Finance All Topics Random Leaderboard Related Topics Board Games Checkers Math and Arithmetic Famous People Do you mean "what is the minimum necessary number of moves?" or "what is the maximum allowable?" Tony has already answered the second question - it could legally be thousands of moves depending on the position. As long as the same position is not reached more than twice and there is no 50 move stretch without a pawn move or capture, the game can go on until there are no pieces left. Theoretically, if you have lost all your pieces and he has lost none of his, he could jockey pieces around (making sure not to allow the same position three times) while every 50 moves moving a pawn or forcing you to capture a piece. The game could go on for over 3000 moves before it must end ((48 pawn moves + 14 captures) * 50 moves = 3100 moves). However, this scenario is extremely improbable, as a quicker mate would certainly be preferred. As to the first question, if you only have a king, and your opponent has sufficient material to force mate, the minimum necessary number of moves in all positions would be 33 - in the case of King, Bishop, and Knight against King. In other cases, mate could be forced sooner. See Wikipedia again for a table: a queen takes at most 10 moves to mate with best play, a rook takes at most 16, two bishops 19, and bishop and knight (as mentioned) 33. (These are the only entries in the table with the opposing king as the sole defender.) Any other pieces or pawns added would reduce the necessary number of moves. I know you mainly asked about the 50 move rule, and that has already been answered, but I thought I'd answer the exact question as stated which was "With the king as the last piece, how can you get a draw?" Both players can agree to a draw Opponent Stalemates you (you have no legal moves, but are not in check) You stalemate your opponent (yes you can do this with just a king, but he has to help you by blocking himself with a pawn for example) Your opponent does not have mating material (no pawns and one, Knight or Bishop, or less) 50-move rule. After 50 moves have passed without a capture or a pawn advancing, you can claim a draw. The same position is repeated 3 times and you claim a draw. For the position to be the same it must be the same players turn and the same set of possible legal moves (including castling rights and en passant opportunities). The position need not repeat 3 times back to back, but at any time. Your opponent runs out of time on the clock in a timed game and you claim it. The game is drawn because you do not have mating material. (2) Opponent Stalemates you (you have no legal moves, but are not in check) [fen "8/3kp3/8/8/8/4K3/8 w - - 0 1"] 1. Kd3 Kd6 2. Kd4 e5+ 3. Ke4 Ke6 4. Ke3 Kd5 5. Kd3 e4+ 6. Ke3 Ke5 7. Ke2 Kf4 8. Kf2 e3+ 9. Ke2 Ke4 10. Ke1 Kd3 11. Kd1 e2+ 12. Ke1 Ke3 (3) You stalemate your opponent (yes you can do this with just a king, but he has to help you by blocking himself with a pawn for example) [FEN "8/8/8/7R/3K4/p7/r1k5 w KQkq - 0 1"] 1. Rh1+ Kb2 2. Rxa1 Kxa1 3. Kc2 (4) Your opponent does not have mating material (no pawns and one, Knight or Bishop, or less) [FEN "8/6q1/3k4/2n5/7Q/4K3/8/8 w KQKq - 0 1"] 1. Qd4+ Qxd4+ 2. Kxd4 (5) 50-move rule. After 50 moves have passed without a capture or a pawn advancing, you can claim a draw. [Event "ICC 3 0"] [Site "Internet Chess Club"] [White "Smallville"] [Black "depressnak"] [FEN "+7/3q2k1/3bb2/r1p1p1pP/pPbPpP1/1P1P1P2/R1Q3KN/R7 w - - 6 33"] 1. Kf2 Qe7 2. Kg2 Bd7 3. Kf2 Qe8 4. Kg2 Qb8 5. Nf1 Bc7 6. Nd2 Qe8 7. Qd1 Qc8 8. Kg1 R8a7 9. Kg2 Qa8 10. Kf1 Bb6 11. Kg2 Bc6 12. Kg1 Be8 13. Kg2 Bf7 14. Kf2 Be6 15. Kg2 Qe8 16. Kf2 Bf7 17. Qh1 Qe6 18. Kg2 Be8 19. Qd1 Bd7 20. Kf2 Qe8 21. Kg2 Qe8 22. Kf2 Be6 23. Kg2 Qe8 24. Kf2 Qd7 25. Kg2 Qe8 26. Kf2 Bf7 27. Qh1 R7a6 28. Kg2 Be7 29. Kf2 Qd8 30. Kg2 Qe8 31. Kf2 Be6 32. Kg2 Bd6 33. Kf2 Bd7 34. Qd1 Bc6 35. Kg2 Qa8 36. Kf2 Be8 37. Kg2 Bf7 38. Kf2 Qe8 39. Qh1 Be7 40. Kg2 Be6 41. Kf2 Bf6 42. Kg2 Qe8 43. Qd1 Qc6 44. Kf2 Qe8 45. Kg2 Qd7 46. Kf2 Bf7 47. Kg2 Qc6 48. Kf2 Bd8 49. Kg2 Be7 50. Kf2 Qe8 51. Qh1 (6 The same position is repeated 3 times and you claim a draw. For the position to be the same it must be the same players turn and the same set of possible legal moves (including castling rights and en passant opportunities). The position need not repeat 3 times back to back, but at any time. [White "Fischer"] [Black "Petrosian"] [Date "1971"] [FEN "8/pp3p1k/2p2q1p/3r1P2/5R2/7P/P1P1QP2/7K b KQKq - 0 1"] 1. Qe5 Qh5 2. Qf6 Qe2 3. Re5 Qd3 4. Rd5 Qe2 Home Science Math and Arithmetic History Literature and Language Technology Health ⚖️ Law & Legal Issues Business & Finance All Topics Random Leaderboard Related Topics Board Games Checkers Math and Arithmetic Famous People ANSWERS: 8 yoogilg There is no rule in chess which says 'when a player is left with only king... the game has to be completed in ...x. moves.' But there are other chess rules which affect this situation. No 1. When players make 50 moves without a capture or a pawn move, then it is a draw. (So when a player is left with only king there cannot be any capture. But the opponent can move his pawns to prolong the game. But move of the pawns are in only one direction, so the game will come to an end [in theory]) No 2: If the opponent does not have enough winning material, the player left with only king can claim a draw. (This is sub set of the previous rule, But comes handy when clocks are used and the one of the player dont have enough time on his clock) (Not enough Winning material is one of the following) 1. Knight and King 2. 2 bishops and King 3. 2 Knights and King Note that a bishop+Knight+king can win. Also king+pawn can win. To put it simply, if you have a king and the opponent has no pawn, he has to finish the game in 50 moves. If he has a pawn, you are at his mercy. brad123 chonceiwasawoodenboy Depends on how good her moves are, and whether or not you're interested in her. What does chess have to do with it? TOM 20 moves but from both players Da Azian Boi It depends on what pieces your opponent has, kosamaster I was told that it was 25 moves for the opponent. But I have heard of the 50 move rule, so i can go with that too.. Really both number of moves is plenty of time to checkmate someone in this kind of situation qwerty The rule is if there are 50 moves with no pawn moves or captures, the game is a draw. So your opponent has 50 moves. Basil Fawilty The official rules say that if 50 moves-not 25, not 20-have been played on each side with no captures or pawn moves, either player can claim a draw. K+B+B vs. K is a forced win against any defence. So is K+B+N vs. K. K+N+N vs. K can win, but only if the defender blunders. Against the best defence it's a draw.

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