

Connect Four Game Rules

Game objective **Connect Four** (also known as Captain's Mistress, Four Up, Plot Four, Find Four, Four-play, Four in a Row and Four in a Line) is a two-player connection game in which the players first choose a color and then take turns dropping colored discs from the top into a 7-column, 6-row vertically suspended grid.

The pieces fall straight down, occupying the next available space within the column. The object of the game is to connect four of one's own discs of the same color next to each other vertically, horizontally, or diagonally before your opponent.

Game contents 1 vertically standing playing grid-shaped board with 7 column and 6 rows, 21 yellow discs and 21 red discs.

Preparation Start with an empty board.

The turn order is determined by the player colours, the red player starts, followed by the yellow player.

Move The player whose turn it is *must* enter exactly one disc showing the player's colour. A disc is entered at the top of one of the columns of the board. The disc drops down until it reaches either the bottom, or a disc that has been entered before (independent of the colour of this disc).

Figure 1 shows a possible game situation. Player red has played 9 discs, player yellow has played 8 discs, therefore it is player yellow's turn.

If player yellow enters the disc in column 1¹ or 2, it will drop down until the bottom. If player yellow enters the disc in column 3, 4 or 7, it will drop down until the 3rd row from the top. If player yellow enters the disc in column 5 or 6, it will drop down until the 2nd row from the top.

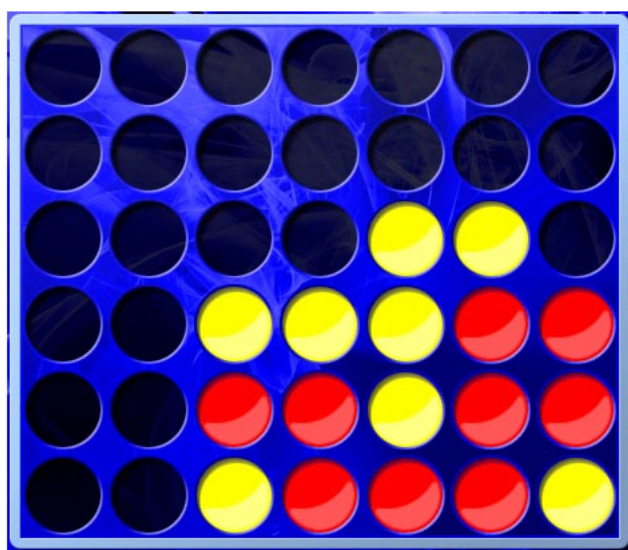


Figure 1: Possible game situation, where it's player yellow's turn.

Now it is the next player's turn. The red player must now make his/her move.

End of game The game ends in the following cases:

- A player manages to have 4 of his/her discs on a row, either horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. This player is the winner of the game.
- Both players have entered all their discs, and no player has succeeded to connect 4 discs. In this case, the game ends in a draw.

¹Counted from the left.