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SHOGI®







Game set contains:

40 wooden pieces game board manual

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PREPARING THE GAME

Looking from your side, set up the pieces as follows:

First row:

 lance | knight | silver general | gold general | king | gold general | silver general | knight | lance

Second row:

- · second file from the left: bishop
- second file from the right: rook

Third row:

pawns are placed in the full row

For the placement of the pieces on the game board, see page 6, image A.

RULES OF THE GAME

In practice, **furigoma** is tossed. One of the players takes 5 pawns, shakes and tosses them on the board as dice. If the number of promoted pawns facing up is higher than unpromoted pawns, the other player opens the game.

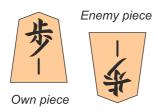
If players are equally strong, then players decide who throws furigoma.

Then, both players alternately make a move during each turn.

For each turn, a player may either move or drop just one piece.

A player may not give up his turn, also known as passing.

Players are not obligated to move a piece already touched. One may even pick up a piece from the game board and see what is on the other side of the piece. However, when the move is completed and a hand leaves the piece, the move can no longer be retracted.





Furigoma

OBJECT OF THE GAME

The object of the game is to **checkmate to your opponent** = attacking the opposing king which cannot be adequately parried or defended or which results in removing the opposing king from the game board.

Or one of the players resigns, or the opponents agree on a stalemate (draw).

Check: If a king is endangered and is threatened to be captured in the next move, this danger must be averted, if possible. The player giving check does not have to announce the check. (It means the king can be taken on the next turn and the player who lost the king loses the game.)

Checkmate (in Japanese, one says "Tsumi"): If a player cannot avert a danger and will be taken anyway on the next turn, this is checkmate and that player loses the game.

In professional and serious amateur games, a player who makes an illegal move immediately loses the game.

Repetition: the game ends if the same game position occurs four times consecutively - the game is considered a draw. However, if an eternal check originated from this situation, the player giving check and causing such a situation loses the game.

The game reaches a **jishogi** if both kings have advanced into their respective promotion zones and neither player can hope to mate the other or to gain any further material. If this happens, the winner is decided as follows: all promoted pieces are canceled and points for individual pieces (including those captured) are summed up. Each rook and bishop scores 5 points and all other pieces except kings score 1 point each. A player scoring less than 24 points loses, otherwise the game is considered a draw.

MOVEMENT OF PIECES

Pieces can move as shown by arrows on the respective pieces. No piece other than the knight can move over one's own or enemy piece which stands in the way of its potential move.

For more details about different movements of the pieces and their values, see page 5.

PROMOTION OF PIECES

The last 3 rows on the game board are called the "promotion zone". When a piece is moved and part of a pieces's path lies within the promotion zone (that is, if the piece moves into, out or wholly within the zone), then **such piece can be** promoted at the end of the turn (the piece is turned over revealing the red character).

Promotion is an option. However, promotion is mandatory for pawns and lances in the last row and for knights in the last two rows.

A piece is always promoted at the end of its move (it is a part of the turn). A piece loses its previous skills and moves in the next turn as indicated on it after it is turned. A promoted piece cannot be unpromoted or demoted (turned back) while still in play on the board. Pieces become demoted when they are captured.

A small character in the lower right-hand corner is an aid only for the players to see what piece has been promoted.

For identifying the promotion zone, see page 6, image B.

CAPTURING PIECES

Pieces are captured as follows: the attacking piece takes the place of the captured enemy piece (capturing by placement). Captured pieces are removed from the game board A player who captured the piece acquires the piece and places it aside to be seen, next to the game board on his side, and and always shown as an unpromoted piece.

Capturing pieces is optional. It is not mandatory to capture an enemy piece, it is always up to the player to decide if and when to capture an opponent's piece.

DROPS

On any turn, a player may either move a piece on the board **or** drop a captured piece onto the board.

A player may drop a captured piece **on any empty square** on the board as his own (that's why the pieces are differentiated only by their oriented tips, not by colors).

By dropping a piece, a check can be given (endangering of the king does not have to be announced), or even a checkmate can be given (except by a pawn).

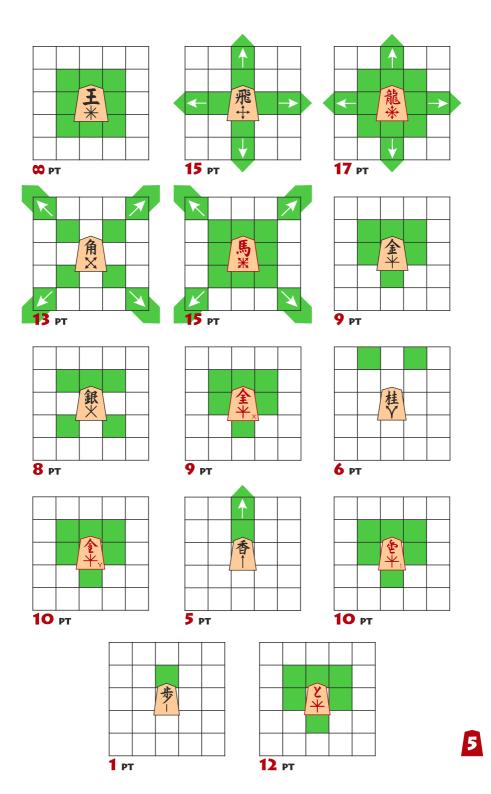
A piece can be dropped in the path of danger and to cancel a check.

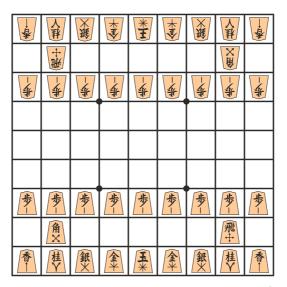
A piece **is always dropped unpromoted side up**, even if dropped into the promotion zone.

A piece should be dropped on a field where it is still possible to move such a piece for at least one more move. Pawns and lances cannot be dropped onto the last row while knights cannot be dropped on the last two rows.

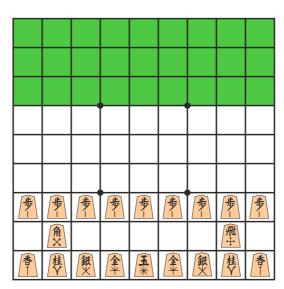
A pawn cannot be dropped in a **column containing another unpromoted pawn of the same player** (promoted pawns do not count).

A pawn cannot be dropped to give an immediate checkmate (although other pieces can); however, pawns may give checkmate on any subsequent move after the pawn was dropped.





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