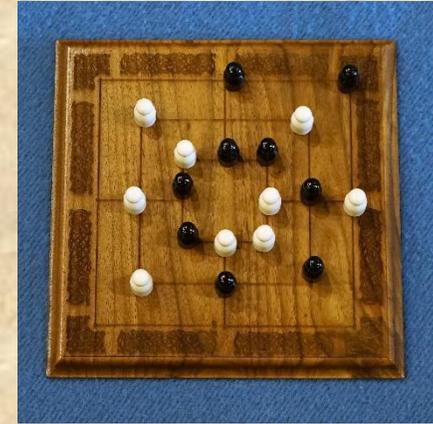


Nine Men's Morris



Background

Nine men's Morris is a strategy game played by two on a specially designed board. It dates to the Roman Empire and was very popular in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Board and Pieces

The board is made of three squares, one large one on the edge of the board, one mid-sized inside and centered on the large one, and a third small square in the center inside the mid-sized one. All three squares connected with one vertical and one horizontal line connecting the three squares in the middle. This forms a grid like board. There are a total of 24 points marked at each corner of the squares and at each intersection of the lines. Each player has 9 pieces which can be colored stones, marbles, or wooden pieces. One player's pieces are colored differently than the other player's. Usually, one player has black pieces while the other player has black.

Phase One - Placing the Pieces

The game begins with an empty board. One player goes first then the other, as in chess or checkers. Each player takes turns and places one piece on an empty point. If a player places three pieces in a row, either vertically or horizontally, that player has formed a mill and removes one of the other player's pieces from the board. This is called pounding your opponent. However, any piece that is part of a mill is protected and can't be removed unless all other pieces are already gone. After all the pieces have been placed, the next phase begins.

Phase Two – Moving the Pieces

Continuing to alternate moves, each player moves one piece to an adjacent point. A piece may not jump another piece. Players continue to try to form mills and remove their opponent's pieces. It is allowed to move a piece out of a mill and on the next turn, move it back to the same point, making a mill again and removing an opponent's piece. When one of the players has only three pieces left, the third phase begins.

Phase Three – Flying the Pieces

In this phase the player who only has three pieces may jump other pieces and move one piece to any open point on the board. This is called flying a piece. Some sources indicate that the phase may be a 19th century addition while others believe that is correct for the earlier versions.

Winning

When one player only has two remaining pieces, he/she loses and the game is over.

**Nine Men's
Morris Board**

