

Chess Guidelines

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Piece	Values	Symbol	General rules:
Pawn	1	a-h	Setup White on 1 st , 2 nd ranks, Black on 7 th , 8 th . Queen on her color.
Knight	3	N	Notation: x=capture (exd4), +=check, #=mate, O-O or O-O-O=castle
Bishop	3	B	"e8=Q"=promotion, cxd3 e.p. = en passant.
Rook	5	R	Move, hit clock immediately, write move down (both white and black)
Queen	9	Q	Don't touch your piece until sure. Say "adjust" to center piece on square.
King	Whole game	K	Write number of minutes remaining every 5 th move.

Opening Guidelines: (Guidelines have many exceptions. Never say never, instead say usually...)

1. Control the center of the board.
2. Open with c, d, or e pawns usually, move 2 spaces when white for first move.
3. Get both knights and both bishops developed quickly.
4. Don't move the same piece twice in the opening unless attacked.
5. Don't bring out the queen until all minor pieces are developed unless saving a mate or recapturing.
6. Get castled and keep the shield pawns close in front of the king – avoid holes in front of the king.
7. Lift the queen after castling, connect the rooks, and aim them on the 1st rank.

Middle Game Guidelines:

8. Bring the whole army into the attack. A lone piece rarely creates any danger.
9. Watch for tactics: pins, forks, skewers, decoys, distractions, X Rays, clearing the space, blockades, discovered attacks, damming, intermediate moves, opening lines. Pile up on a pin.
10. Look for pieces and pawns in trouble with more attackers than defenders. Get them out of trouble by moving or defending them, or capturing or blocking an attacker, or counterattacking somewhere else.
11. Avoid doubled or isolated pawns; do create weak pawns in your opponent's side.
12. Move rooks to open files, double your rooks, and penetrate to the 7th rank.
13. If you have the 2 bishops, don't trade for a knight. Open the center – trade off the center pawns.
14. If you have a knight, create an outpost square and place your knight there.
15. Knights on the rim are dim, N on 3rd rank < B, on 4th = B, on 5th > B, on 6th = R.
16. Open up the pawns in front of the enemy king, attack pawn chains at the base.
17. Balance offense and defense – grab the initiative whenever you can.
18. Make a threat – make your opponent react to you - a threat can be stronger than the execution.
19. Be patient – improve your position gradually – make your pieces stronger than his.
20. Figure out your opponent's best follow-up move before you make your move.
21. Look at all forcing moves: every check, capture, and piece attack on every move for both players.
22. En-passant: Could you capture normally if he moved only 1 square?
23. Activate your pieces while restraining his - eliminate his strongest piece.
24. Preventing your opponent's plans is as important as advancing your own.
25. Choose at least 3 candidate moves, then calculate each at least 3 moves deep, then pick best move.
26. If you see a good move, look for a better one.
27. A single advantage is not enough – accumulate many small advantages.
28. Look for multi-purpose moves that attack and defend and develop and improve your position.
29. A weakness is only real if it can be exploited. Don't defend weaknesses that cannot be attacked.
30. Sacrificing material for a better position, for the initiative, or to weaken the king is often worth it.
31. Move slowly, think deeply on complex positions, stop writing when < 5 minutes on either clock.
32. Evaluation is more important than calculation. You need to understand the present position first.
33. When ahead in points - trade down, when behind - avoid trades.

End Game Guidelines:

34. When behind, try for a draw by 3-move repetition, or look for a creative stalemate.
35. Put the king into a box, then squeeze it smaller and smaller, and trap him on the edge.
36. Generate a passed pawn - rooks belong behind passed pawns.
37. Center the king when queens are gone and few pieces are left.
38. Force the king into the corner controlled by your bishop.
39. Use King opposition, step into the square or stay in front of his passed pawn.
40. Analyze your game, find your mistakes, and learn a lesson from every loss.