

Chaturaji

Players 4

Length 10–180 minutes

Equipment one standard piecepack

Version 2.0 (2019-05-18)

Description

Chaturaji (aka Chaturanga for four players aka Choupat) is an old four-person chess variant. The diceless version is playable with a single standard piecepack, the version with dice either needs an additional two dice (preferably four-sided) or alternatively 2-4 extra game pieces (i.e. pawn saucers) to free up two piecepack dice from game piece duty.

Setup

Chaturaji is played on an 8-by-8 board made with the backs of 16 tiles. Each player needs 8 game pieces of the same suit: 1 king (piecepack pawn), 1 horse (ace-valued coin), 1 boat (2-valued coin), 1 rook (3-valued piecepack die or pawn saucer), and 4 pawns (remaining 4 coins face down). Ownership of horses and boats are distinguished by orientation. Figure 1 shows the recommended setup.

External Links

- www.ludism.org/ppwiki/Chaturaji
- boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/18011
- www.chessvariants.com/historic.dir/chaturang4.html
- www.cynningstan.com/game/124
- en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chaturaji

Credits

Game design: Traditional, adapted by Trevor L. Davis

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Figure 1: Chaturaji starting diagram