

MANCALA

THE RULES

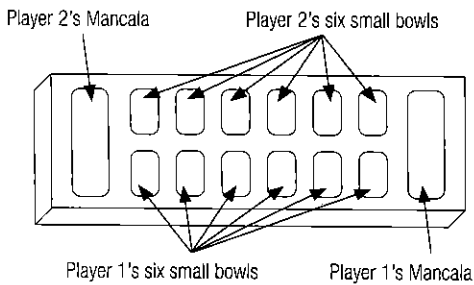
OBJECT

Collect the most beads in your Mancala (Mancalas are the large bowls at the end of the board).

SETUP

Place 4 beads in each small bowl. Do not place beads in the Mancalas. Set aside any extra beads (you will not use these). Place the board between the players, with the Mancalas on the left and right. To play, use the general rules plus one of the other sets of rules.

Diagram 1.



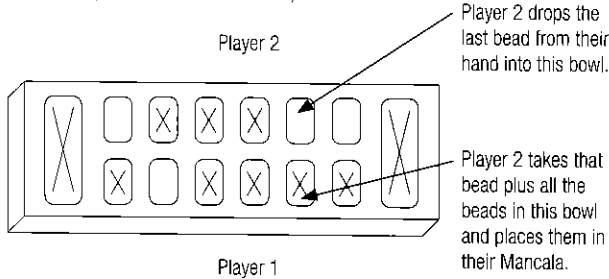
GENERAL RULES

Each player 'owns' the Mancala on their right and the six small bowls closest to them (see Diagram 1). Player 1 starts by scooping up all the beads from one of their small bowls (players must never start from a Mancala or from one of your opponent's six bowls). Player 1 drops one bead into the next bowl on the right, one bead into the second bowl on the right, continuing around the board (counter clockwise) until they have no more beads in their hand. If Player 1 reaches their own Mancala, they drop a bead into it. Players do not drop beads into their opponents' Mancalas, they skip them and continue dropping beads, one at a time, from their hand until they run out of beads. Players take turns moving beads. At the end of the game, players count the beads in their Mancalas — the player with the most beads wins.

EGYPTIAN RULES

Use all general Rules. If a player drops the last bead from their hand into their Mancala, they get to move again. If a player drops the last bead into one of the empty bowls on their side of the board, they take that bead, plus all the beads in their opponent's bowl directly across from their bowl and places them in their Mancala (see diagram 2). The game ends when one player no longer has beads in their small bowls. The other player (who still has beads on their side) places all remaining beads into their own Mancala (it is not necessarily an advantage to be the first player to empty the six bowls).

Diagram 2. (X = Bowl has beads in it)



ETHIOPIAN RULES

Use all General Rules, and all Egyptian Rules. Player may choose to move either to the right or to the left on each turn. Players may never start from a bowl with only one bead.

NIGERIAN RULES

Use all General Rules, except that players must drop a bead into opponent's Mancalas when passing. When a player drops the last bead from their hand into a bowl on either side of the board that is not empty and does not now (after dropping) have 4 beads, that player picks up all the beads from the last bowl a bead was dropped into and continues to play. A player's turn is over when they drop the last bead from their hand into: 1. a Mancala; 2. an empty bowl; or 3. a bowl that now (after dropping the bead) has 4 beads. Any time during a move that a bowl has 4 beads, regardless of who dropped the fourth bead into the bowl, the player who owns that bowl puts these beads into their own Mancala (in 3. above, the player puts these beads into their own Mancala before ending their turn). For example, while Player 1 is dropping beads into the small bowls on Player 2's side, they drop a bead into a bowl that already has 3 beads. Player 2 picks up the 4 beads and puts them into his own Mancala. The game ends when one player cannot move (no beads remain in that player's six bowls). The remaining beads on the other player's side are not placed in a Mancala, and are not counted in determining a winner.



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