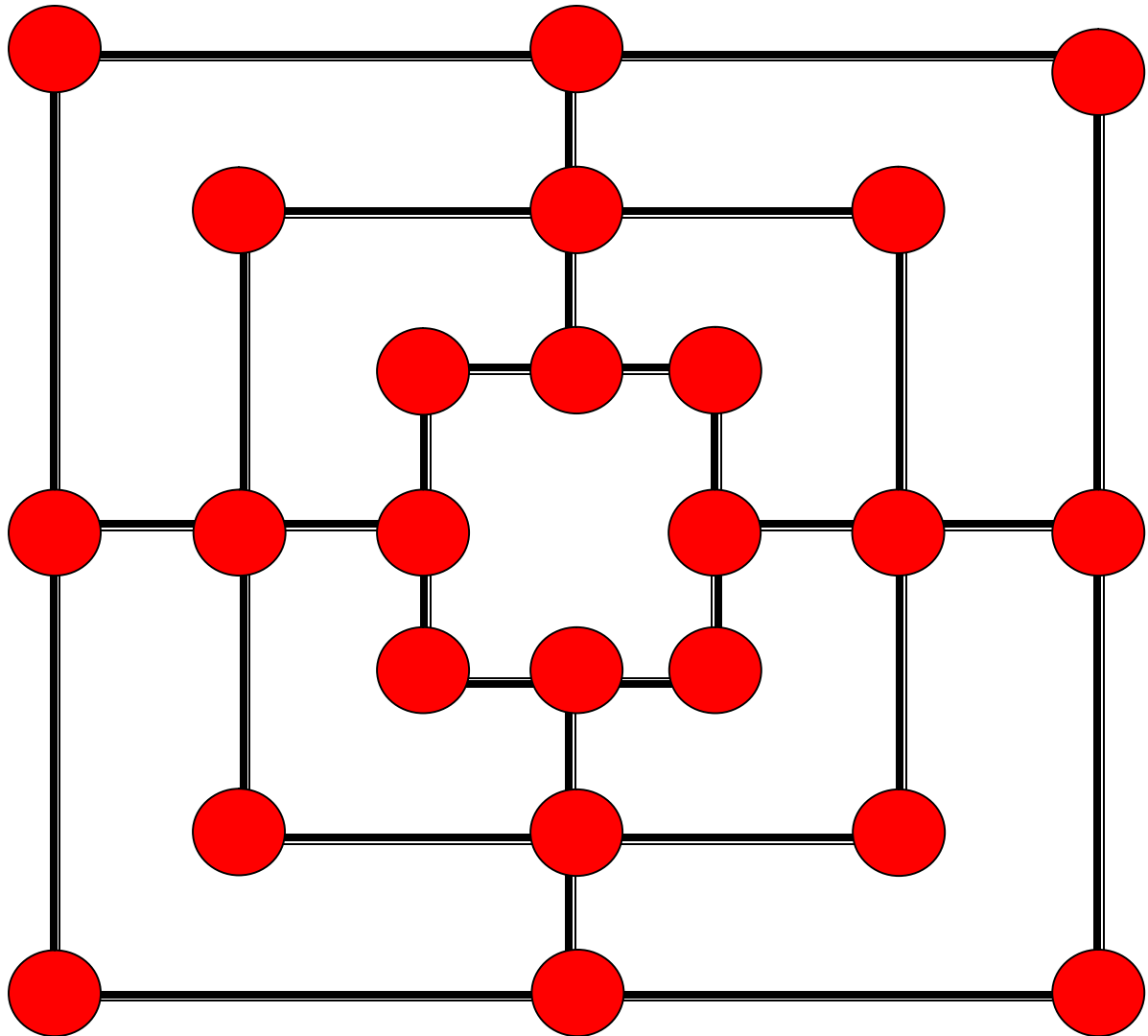


Nine Men's Morris



MATERIALS: Game for two people, played on a board with nine pieces, pegs or counters each.

RULES: Each player has nine pieces which are placed one at a time in turn on any vacant point on the board until both have played all nine. If a mill - a line of three - is made, the player making it removes any one of the opponent's pieces that is not itself part of a mill, unless there are no other pieces to choose from.

Once a piece is removed from the board, it takes no further part in the game. It is important to note that mills can only be made along the horizontal and vertical lines on the board.

The middle stage starts when all the pieces have been used. Play continues alternately with opponents moving one piece to any adjacent point. First, once a mill is formed, it may be opened by moving one piece from the line and closed by returning it to its original position in the next move. Alternatively, to create a **running mill**, opening one mill will close another one so that an opponent's piece is removed on every turn.

A player who is blocked, i.e. is unable to move any piece, loses the game.

The end of the game comes when one player is reduced to less than three pieces.