

More Ways to Play

False Colors: four endings, and the options a table may agree before play

AGREE ONE BEFORE SETUP

The Four Endings

Each ending plays by the classic rules except where it says otherwise. Points are kept in all four: at a round limit the most points wins among the sides still on the board, with the classic tiebreaks.

Classic. Most points after 24 rounds wins. The game ends at once when one side has captured every enemy Admiral, and that side wins whatever the points. With two captains it also ends, on points, once neither can capture the other's Admiral: she is gone, or no ship that can attack is left.

Last Admiral afloat. A captain whose Admiral is gone, captured or lost, leaves the board at the end of that round with the whole fleet. The last side with an Admiral afloat wins. If the last sides all go out in the same round, the one with the most points among them wins. At the round limit (24 rounds, unless the table plays without one), the most points wins among the sides still on the board.

Capture the flag. The first side to capture an enemy Admiral wins at once; if two sides do it in the same round, the one with more points. A captain whose Admiral is lost any other way leaves the board with the fleet. There are no harbor or Capital points, and the storm holds off: no ring closes until after round 30, then one every four rounds until only the Capital is left, so a chase cannot run forever. The game also ends when no captain left on the board can capture; then, as at the limit of 60 rounds, the most points wins among the sides still on the board. A table may keep the classic storm and harbor points instead.

Hold the Capital. A side whose ships hold most of the Capital at the end of two rounds running wins: three of its four squares on the square chart, four of its seven hexes on hex. With only two sides (two captains, or two teams) it must hold all of it. A side that captures every enemy Admiral still wins at once. At the round limit the most points wins.

IN TEAM GAMES

Sides and Partners

A side is a captain, or a team of partners. Partners hold the Capital together, a capture by either counts for both, and a side stays on the board while any of its captains does. A captain who leaves the board keeps every point won.

THE FOUR ENDINGS

At a Glance

Ending	Won at once by	Out of the game	Rounds
Classic	capturing every enemy Admiral	no one	24
Last Admiral afloat	the last side with an Admiral	a captain whose Admiral is gone	24 or no limit
Capture the flag	the first capture of an Admiral	a captain whose Admiral is lost uncaptured	60
Hold the Capital	holding it two rounds running, or capturing every enemy Admiral	no one	24 or no limit

AGREED BEFORE PLAY

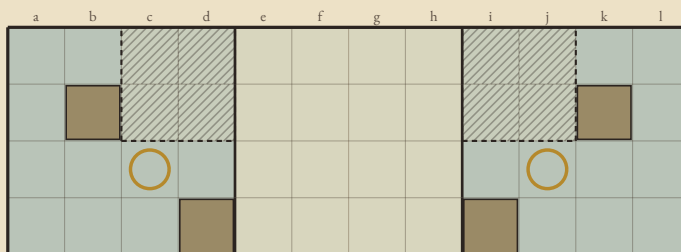
Options

Each option changes one thing, and a table may take any mix of them. Agree them before setup, with the ending.

Wings	Square chart only. A fleet may also set up in the 2 x 2 of open water each side of its anchorage, along the back two rows: 24 squares for 14 ships. The anchorage itself does not change.
Flag orders	One more order each round while your Admiral is afloat: four instead of three. This is already the classic rule; a table may play without it.
Command	Of a fight that would sink both ships, the one lying beside her own Admiral wins. If both are, or neither, both sink.
Admiral's spyglass	The Admiral may spyglass an enemy beside her instead of moving, as a Cutter does.
Random islands	The islands are dealt anew for each game: as many as the chart has, laid the same way around every anchorage, never on a starting square, a harbor, the Capital or the outer ring, and never cutting off any water.
Scaled Orders	Team games. Partners do not see each other's ships or orders, only what the team learns in fights and by spyglass.
Closing storm	Last Admiral afloat and Hold the Capital, played without a round limit (60 rounds at most). After the last scheduled ring, another closes every four rounds until only the Capital is left: after round 30 on the square chart, 38 on hex, 26 on the duel chart.
Sunk Admiral gone	Classic and Hold the Capital. For the early win, an enemy Admiral lost to the storm, or sunk any way but by capture, counts as gone. The side must still have captured at least one.

SQUARE CHART

The Wings



The top edge of the square chart. Inside the solid line: the anchorage, 16 squares for 14 ships, where the classic game sets up. Dashed and hatched: the wings, which make it 24.



Pirates!



The Black Flag mode: one pirate against an alliance of navies, for 3 to 6 captains

ONE AGAINST ALL

The Sides

One captain is the pirate and sails the Buccaneers, the black fleet: 14 ships, the classic roster. The other captains are navies, and the navies are one alliance: they win or lose together. On the square chart 4 captains play, 3 navies against the pirate; on hex 3 to 6 captains, 2 to 5 navies against her (read hex for square). The table agrees who is the pirate before setup, and every fleet sets up in its own anchorage.

Allies never fight: they pass and hold as partners do. Each navy sees only its own fleet, but every navy learns what any navy sees of the pirate in a fight or by spyglass. Every score is open.

Orders. The pirate gives four orders a round, five while her Admiral is afloat; a navy three, or four, as in the classic game.

PRIZES, NOT WRECKS

Boarding

When a pirate ship attacks a navy ship and wins, she boards her instead of sinking her: the loser strikes her colors and becomes the pirate's prize. A ship attacks when she sails onto a ship that stays, or comes first in order of entry when two moving ships meet. An Admiral is captured as usual, for 8 plunder, and a Fireship burns her attacker or falls to a Boarding Party as usual. A pirate ship that is attacked and wins sinks her attacker. The Privateer's trick holds: a pirate 1 that attacks a 7 takes her as a prize.

- **The prize changes sides.** She becomes one of the pirate's ships and keeps her rank, which everyone now sees.
- **Where she goes.** The winner sails into the square as any winner does, and the prize is sailed into the square the winner came from. If another ship is there, or entering it in the same step, there is no room: the prize sinks, and no one scores.
- **Her crew.** A prize may not be given an order in the round after she is taken; then she sails as one of the pirate's ships.
- **The prize limit.** The pirate holds at most four prizes at a time. While she holds four, a ship she beats sinks instead, and no one scores.

PLUNDER

Ransom

A prize that ends a round on a harbor or a Capital square is sold: she leaves the chart, and the pirate's plunder rises by her rating. A prize sailed onto a harbor as she is taken, because the winner attacked from it, is sold that same round.

THE NAVIES' ANSWER

Retakes and the Bounty

A navy ship that attacks a prize and wins retakes her: she returns to her own fleet, rank still shown, and is sailed into the square the winner came from (or sinks, with no room). The winner scores the bounty, half her rating rounded down, as for sinking any pirate ship. The pirate scores nothing for a ship she sinks.

ONCE A GAME

The Captain's Escape

Once a game, when a navy ship captures the pirate's Admiral, she slips away in a gig to the open square beside her furthest from the square her attacker came from: never that square or the one they fought on, nor one the storm takes that round or another ship is in or entering. Ties go to the square nearer row 12, then column a (on hex, the lower q, then r). She is then known to all. With no such square she is taken.

PLUNDER AGAINST THE ALLIANCE

Scoring

	The pirate	Each navy
A harbor held at round end		1
Most ships in the Capital		2
A prize sold	her rating	
A pirate ship sunk or prize retaken		half her rating
An enemy Admiral captured	8	8
A prize still held at the end	half her rating	
Own Admiral afloat at the end	4	4
Own Admiral lost uncaptured	minus 8	minus 8

Half a rating rounds down. The pirate scores no harbor, Capital or kill points.

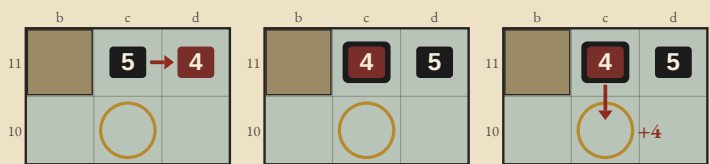
THREE WAYS

Ending the Game

- **Plunder.** The pirate wins at once when her plunder reaches 12 on the square chart, 9 on hex.
- **The captain.** The alliance wins at once when the pirate's Admiral is gone: captured with her escape spent, or lost to the storm. If both endings come in one round, the alliance wins.
- **The round limit.** After 24 rounds the higher score wins: plunder against the navies' average score, with the classic tiebreaks. In practice a long game is the alliance's: the pirate must make her target.

SQUARE CHART

A Boarding, Worked



Round 4: the Frigate attacks After round 4: a prize on c11 Round 6: sold on the harbor

In round 4 a Buccaneer Frigate (5) on c11 sails east onto a Square-Rigger Sloop (4) holding d11 and wins. She takes d11; the Sloop, now a prize shown to all as a 4, is sailed into c11, where the Frigate came from. Round 5 is her crew's round. In round 6 she sails onto the harbor at c10 and is sold: 4 plunder.