

# “Blokus” Quick Start

## Object:

Each player has to fit as many of his/her 21 pieces on the board as possible.

## Set-up:

Each player chooses a color and places that set of 21 pieces in front of his/her side of the board.

## How to Play:

- 1) The order of play is as follows: Blue, Yellow, Red, Green.
- 2) The first piece played by each player must cover a corner square
- 3) Each new piece must touch at least one other piece of the same color, but only at the corners. Pieces of the same color cannot be in contact along an edge.
- 4) There are no restrictions on how many pieces of different colors may be in contact with each other.
- 5) Once a piece has been placed on the board it cannot be moved during subsequent turns.

## Winning the Game

- The game ends when all players are blocked from laying down any more of their pieces. This also includes any players who may have placed all of their pieces on the board. Scores are tallied, and the player with the highest score is the winner.
- **Scoring:** Each player counts the number of unit squares in his/her remaining pieces (1 unit square = negative 1 point). A player earns **+15 points** if all his/her pieces have been placed on the board plus **5 additional bonus** points if the last piece placed on the board was the smallest piece (one square).

## **Strategy Tips:**

1. At the beginning of the game, move towards the center of the board in order to take up a maximum amount of space. If you remain confined to the corner you start in, you will not be able to put down many pieces.
2. Try to place the largest pieces on the board at the beginning of the game. If you save them for the end of the game, there may not be space for them. Keep an eye on the corners of our pieces – make sure you have options for your next move.
3. Take advantage of the characteristics of your pieces. Their shapes give them different offensive or defensive potential, so learn to use them accordingly.
4. Throughout the game, keep one or more means of escape on each side of the area containing your color (or colors).
5. Block your opponent by covering his or her most advanced corners to prevent him or her from moving forward. Note: Be patient – it is sometimes better to hang back slightly from the opponent's pieces and let your opponent expose him or herself so that you can then block him or her more effectively.
6. Take note of the squares where no other player can play and keep these spaces (and their corresponding pieces) in reserve while you play in a more exposed area. You can always come back to the protected spaces later.
7. When playing, keep in mind not only your remaining pieces, but also your opponent's remaining pieces. Your opponent may not be able to exploit an empty space area if he or she doesn't have the correct pieces.