## Mancala Rules for Fun at Home

| Round and Round  | All the Way Round   | Capture (Kallah)   | Sungka   | Traditional Ayoayo  |
|--|---|--|--|---|
| 4 stones in each hole.   | Same as Round and Round, but go CLOCKWISE. Your goal is still                         | 4 stones in each hole.   | 6 stones in each hole (you might want to use smaller stones)   | 4 stones in each hole.  |
| Pick up all stones from any hole                                   | to your right   | Pick up all stones from any hole   | ,  | Pick up all stones from any hole  |
| on your side.  | OR Your goal is on your left, go<br>Counter Clockwise.                                | on your side.  | FIRST TURN: Both players start at the same time. Pick up all the   | on your side.   |
| Drop the stones 1 at a time  |   | Drop the stones 1 at a time  | stones from any hole on your   | Drop the stones 1 at a time   |
| counter clockwise around the board.                                | 4 stones in each hole.  | counter clockwise around the board.  | side. The player who ends this opening turn first takes the next   | counter clockwise around the board.   |
|  | Pick up all stones from any hole  |  | turn. Players continue taking  |   |
| Your goal is on the right hand end of your side of the board.      | on your side.   | Your goal is on the right hand<br>end of your side of the board.   | turns.   | Your goal is on the right hand<br>end of your side of the board.  |
| Drop one stone in your goal as<br>you go past.                     | Drop the stones 1 at a time<br>CLOCKWISE around the board.                            | Drop one stone in your goal as you go past.  | Drop the stones 1 at a time<br>counter clockwise around the  | SKIP the goal. You only get stones when you capture.  |
| If you drop your last stone in a                                   | Your goal is on the right hand  | If you drop your last stone in   | board.   | If you drop your last stone in a  |
| hole with stones in it, pick them<br>all up and keep going.        | end of your side of the board.<br>Drop one stone in your goal as                      | your goal, take another turn.  | Your goal is on the right hand side of the board. Drop one   | hole with stones in it, pick them<br>all up and keep going.   |
|  | you go past.  | If you drop your last stone in a   | stone in your hole as you go   |   |
| If you drop your last stone in<br>your goal, take another turn.    | If you drop your last stone in a  | hole with stones in it, your turn is over.   | past.  | If you drop your last stone in an empty hole On YOUR SIDE, and  |
|  | hole with stones in it, pick them   |  | If you drop your last stone in a   | there are stones across the   |
| If you drop your last stone in an empty hole your turn is over.    | all up and keep going.  | If you drop your last stone in an empty hole on YOUR SIDE, and   | hole with stones in it, pick them all up and keep going.   | board from it, CAPTURE them<br>BUT NOT the stone you  |
|  | If you drop your last stone in  | there are stones across the  |  | dropped. Put your captured  |
| Play to the last stone: Once your side is empty of stones, you can | your goal, take another turn.   | board from it, CAPTURE them<br>and the stone you dropped. Put  | If you drop your last stone in your goal, take another turn.   | stones in your goal.  |
| pick up and move stones on   | If you drop your last stone in an   | them all in your goal.   |  | If a hole has 12 stones, skip it as   |
| your opponents side until there are stones on your side or all     | empty hole your turn is over.   | If you drop your last stone in an  | If you drop your last stone in an empty hole your turn is over.  | you go past.  |
| stones are gone.   | Play to the last stone: Once your   | empty hole and there aren't  |  | Spread the stones: If one player  |
|  | side is empty of stones, you can<br>pick up and move stones on                        | stones across the board from it,<br>your turn is over.   | Play at least 2 rounds.  | has stones on their side of the<br>board and the other player   |
|  | your opponents side until there<br>are stones on your side or all<br>stones are gone. | As soon as one side of the board<br>is empty, the player on the<br>other side gets to keep the<br>remaining stones on that side. | "Burn the House!" when all the<br>stones are in goals, refill each<br>player's side of the board. If a<br>player has extra stones, they<br>keep them in their goal. The<br>player who runs out of stones<br>before they filled every hole<br>(house) has to empty the holes<br>they can't fill. That is a "burned<br>house" and if you drop a stone<br>in it, the other player gets to | doesn't, the player with extra<br>stones MUST make a play that<br>spreads the stones to the other<br>player's side. If that is<br>impossible, they capture all the<br>stones on their side and the<br>game is over. |

| Oware/Warri   | Jiao Ti Tuong  | Jiao Ti Tuong (Cont.)              | Challenges:   | NOTATION:                           |
|---|--|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| 4 stones in each hole.                                    | Set-up: 5 holes on each side,                                | EASY RULE: You can move            | Play to Tie:  | How to keep track of your           |
|   | two big holes on either end, 5                               | stones in the big holes as if they | Using the Round and Round                                       | moves in a game:                    |
| Pick up all stones from any hole                          | stones in each small hole, 1                                 | were regular holes. You just       | Rule Set, (or any rule set you                                  |                                     |
| on your side.   | large/special stone in each goal.                            | can't START from the goals.        | like!!!), the object of this game                               | Draw a line down the middle of      |
|   |  |                                    | is for both players end the game                                | a piece of paper, write each        |
| Drop the stones 1 at a time                               | Pick up all stones from any hole                             | CHALLENGE RULE: Big holes          | with the same score.  | player's name on a column at        |
| counter clockwise around the                              | on your side.  | (goals) are jackpots and you can   | Chartwith 1 stores in each and                                  | the top. Write which rule set       |
| board.  | Drop the stopes 1 at a time                                  | only get the stones in either end  | Start with 1 stone in each, and with each success, add a stone. | you are playing by.                 |
| DO NOT drop a stone in your                               | Drop the stones 1 at a time<br>EITHER clockwise OR counter   | by capturing them.                 | How many stones can you get                                     | When it's your turn:                |
| goal as you go past!                                      | clockwise around the board.                                  |                                    | to?   | 1. <b>Look</b> at the board         |
| goal as you go past:                                      | Drop stones into EACH goal as                                | Note: you can play this with a     |   | 2. Think about what you want        |
| If you drop your last stone in a                          | you go around.   | regular mancala board and 4        | Play to the last stone OR                                       | to do                               |
| hole with stones in it, pick them                         | you go around.   | stones in each OR you can          | according to how each game                                      | 3. <b>WRITE</b> which spot you pick |
| all up and keep going.                                    | When you drop your last stone                                | modify the board by putting a      | ends.   | from (use the diagram               |
| an ap and neep 80   | in a hole and there are stones in                            | sticky note in the two holes on    |   | below, "A" is closest to your       |
| If you drop your last stone in a                          | the hole next to it, pick up those                           | the end to make it a 5X2 board.    | Use notation to keep track of                                   | goal, "a" is closest to your        |
| hole and the total stones equals                          | stones and continue in the same                              | You can also draw the board on     | your moves! Is there more than                                  | opponent's goal)                    |
| 2 or 3, capture those stones and                          | direction you were going. (this is                           | paper or sidewalk like our friend  | one way to win with 1, 2, 3, 4,                                 | 4. Make your <b>move</b> .          |
| put them in your goal. Your turn                          | different than how we move in                                | who taught us this game.           | stones?   | 5. If you get an extra turn         |
| is over.  | Round and Round and Sungka!)                                 |                                    |   | write your next move on             |
|   |  |                                    | Ultimate First Turn:  | the SAME LINE. Only write           |
| IF the total of the stones in the                         | IF you drop your last stone and                              |                                    | Using notation, discover the                                    | when you make a <u>new</u>          |
| holes immediately before                                  | the hole next to it is empty,                                |                                    | BEST possible first turn for your                               | decision, not every time you        |
| where you've captured ALSO                                | CAPTURE the stones in the hole                               |                                    | favorite rule set. Is it possible to                            | pick up stones.                     |
| equal 2 or 3, capture the stones                          | after the empty one and your                                 |                                    | win with this rule set on your                                  | 6. When you finish your turn        |
| in those holes as well.                                   | turn is over. If two holes in a                              |                                    | first turn?   | write the total number of           |
|   | row are empty your turn is over.                             |                                    |   | stones in your goal.                |
| (for example, your last stone                             | Put your captured stones in a                                |                                    | (Hint: In Round and Round there                                 | 7. Write your opponent's            |
| landed in c on your opponent's                            | pile off of the board.                                       |                                    | are several strategies to give the                              | moves on the other side of          |
| side and that equals 2, and d                             | The second is succeeded at the is                            |                                    | first player an instant win! This                               | the piece of paper.                 |
| equals 3 and e equals 4, capture from c and d but not e.) | The game is over when 1 side is empty. Leave the rest of the |                                    | is why we play 2 rounds with                                    |                                     |
| from c and d but not e.)                                  | stones on the board.   |                                    | each player getting to go first.)                               | Adjust this notation strategy for   |
| If one player's side is empty, and                        | stones on the board.   |                                    |   | questions you might have. Can       |
| the other player can move                                 | Each regular stone is worth 1                                |                                    |   | you find a way to save a game       |
| stones to their side on their turn                        | point, the large/special stones                              |                                    |   | mid-way through to finish later?    |
| they MUST do so.  | are worth 10 points. Count your                              |                                    |   |                                     |
|   | total at the end of the game.                                |                                    |   |                                     |
| If one player's side is empty and                         | The winner is the player with                                |                                    |   | Player 2                            |
| the other player can't move                               | the most points.   |                                    |   |                                     |
| stones to their side, the game is                         | -  |                                    |   | F E D C B A                         |
| over. The player with the most                            |  |                                    |   |                                     |
| stones wins.  |  |                                    |   |                                     |

Some notes on these rule sets:

There are hundreds of variations on mancala rule sets and the rule sets presented here come from a range of different sources, including individuals who have come to our mancala clubs and shared them with us. Here are the sources for each of the rule sets:

**Round and Round & All the Way Round**: Variations on these rule sets are commonly played by children in Seattle Public Schools. Round and Round was the first rule set that John learned and was taught to him by a friend down in San Diego back in 1993, and he saw it played by children in his student teaching placement in Oakland CA in 1998. All the Way Round was the rule set one of our Mancala Club members in our 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the club taught us. This is the way she played with her family and friends, and we had seen a few other children play by this rule variation. Play to the last stone is a rule variation that children in John's after school program taught him.

**Capture/Kallah:** This is the rule set that typically comes printed with commercial mancala boards and often goes by the name "Mancala." It is also common on cell phone app stores under the name "mancala" or "Kallah"

**Sungka:** We include this version as it was taught to our mancala club by a grandmother of one of our students. She brought her board and cowrie stones and taught us these rules. We note that there is a difference between these rules and the rules as they're published online and in books like Russ's Complete Mancala Games Book. The capture mechanic in published versions of Sungka was not in the version our student's grandmother taught us. If you add this mechanic to the game, it becomes very similar to Ayoayo except for the burned house rule and the ability to score as you pass your goal. Try playing it each way! How does it change your strategy?

**Ayoayo**: This rule set is published online here <u>https://mancala.fandom.com/wiki/Ayoayo</u> As well as in Larry Russ' The Complete Mancala Games Book.

Warri: This rule set comes from The Oware Society, and is identical to the rules of Oware