COLORFIELD

by Mark Steere

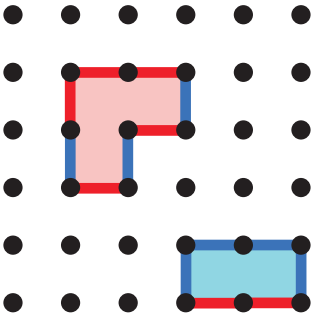

Figure 1
Enclosed regions

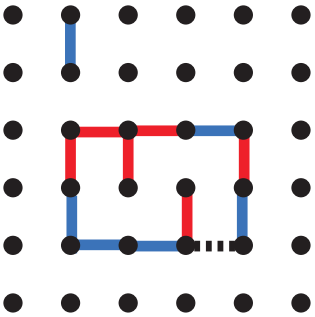

Figure 2
Illegal Red move

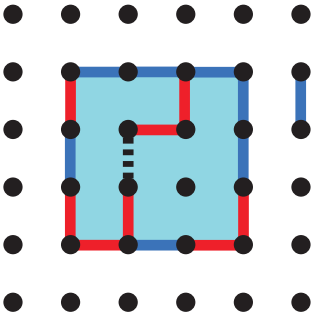

Figure 3
Illegal Red move

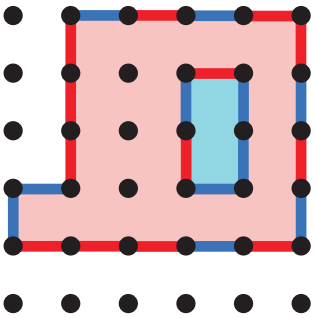

Figure 4
Region enclosing region

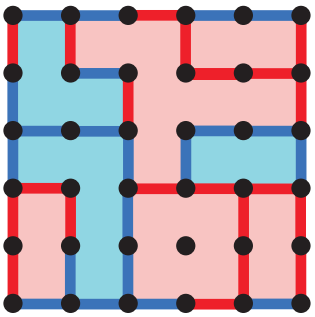

Figure 5
Red has won

INTRODUCTION

Colorfield is played on an even sided, square grid of dots. The dots outline an odd number of unit sized squares. A 6x6 grid is used in the figures, outlining 25 squares. Two players, Red and Blue, take turns drawing unit length **line segments of their own color**, one segment per turn, starting with Red. Passing is not allowed, but if you don't have an available move, your turn is skipped. Colorfield uses the pie rule. Blue, on his first turn, has the option of switching colors and becoming Red, claiming the first segment as his own, instead of drawing a blue segment. Mark Steere designed Colorfield in August 2026.

PLAY

On your turn, draw a segment connecting two orthogonally adjacent dots. If a new enclosure is formed, the enclosed region is owned by whoever has more segments bordering the enclosure. The enclosed region is then colored in the owner's color. **Figure 1** shows colored, enclosed regions. The red region is bordered by 5 red segments and 3 blue segments. The blue region is bordered by 2 red segments and 4 blue segments.

LEGAL MOVES

You must not form an enclosure bordered by an equal number of red and blue segments. In **Figure 2**, Red must not draw a segment on the black, dotted line. This would form an enclosure bordered by 5 red segments and 5 blue segments - an equal number.

Once an enclosure is formed, **the enclosed region cannot then be subdivided**. In **Figure 3**, Red must not draw a segment on the black, dotted line. This would subdivide an enclosed region. Segments can be drawn inside an enclosed region, as long as they don’t subdivide the region.

Once an enclosed region is claimed and colored, it cannot later be reclaimed and recolored. If a newly enclosed region itself encloses a previously enclosed region, the previously enclosed region retains its ownership and its color. In determining the ownership of the outer region, **all** of the segments bordering the outer region are considered - not just the outermost segments. In **Figure 4**, the red region has enclosed the previously enclosed blue region. The red region is bordered by 13 red segments and 11 blue segments. The blue region retains its ownership and color.

OBJECT OF THE GAME

When the entire grid has been partitioned into enclosed regions, whoever owns the most territory wins. In **Figure 5**, Red has won with 16 squares against Blue’s 9 squares.

DESIGN NOTES

I wanted a dot connection and enclosure game with two colors of line segments. Not just one color.

AUTHOR’S NOTE

Feel free to publish this rule sheet and to program the game of Colorfield. No licensing fee or royalties are expected. However, please don’t change the name or the rules, and please attribute the game to me, Mark Steere. My other games can be found at marksteeregames.com.