

King & Pawn vs King

Chess

The fundamental endgame, and the rule that decides it.

The position every other pawn endgame reduces to.

1

King in front of the pawn

Not beside it. The king must lead.

2

Gain the opposition

Kings facing on the same file with one square between.

3

Advance the king first

The pawn follows behind, not ahead.

4

Reach the 6th rank

King on the 6th with the pawn behind wins, whoever moves.

5

Then push

Only once the king has secured the queening square.

EXCEPTIONS

Rook pawns (a and h) are often drawn

The defending king reaching the corner draws

Wrong-coloured bishop with a rook pawn is also drawn

Rook pawns are the exception to everything. The defending king in the corner cannot be driven out.