

Pawn Majorities

Chess

Turning a majority of pawns into a passed pawn.

A three-against-two majority should produce a passed pawn.

1 Identify the candidate

The pawn with no opposing pawn directly ahead.

2 Push it first

Not the pawns beside it. This is the most common error.

3 Support with the others

They advance behind it, not ahead.

4 Do not create a weakness

Advance in a line, keeping the pawns mutually defensible.

WHY ORDER MATTERS

Pushing the wrong pawn first lets the majority be blockaded

The candidate cannot be stopped by a pawn

One tempo decides most of these races

A queenside majority is often more valuable than a kingside one, because it is further from both kings — an outside passer.