

The Three Special Moves

Chess

Castling, en passant and promotion — the rules people get wrong.

The three rules that are not in basic piece movement.

1

Castling

King two squares toward a rook; the rook jumps to the other side.

2

Castling conditions

Neither piece moved; squares between empty; king not in, through, or into check.

3

En passant

A pawn moving two squares past an enemy pawn can be captured as if it moved one.

4

En passant timing

Only on the very next move. The right expires immediately.

5

Promotion

A pawn reaching the last rank becomes any piece except a king.

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS

The rook may be attacked — that is allowed

The rook may have moved through an attacked square

Promotion is not limited to a queen — under-promotion is legal

Under-promotion to a knight is occasionally the only winning move, usually when it gives check or a fork.