

Castling Help Guide

Diagram 1:

The Black Bishop is attacking our King. When an enemy piece is attacking our King its called Check. You may not castle out of check. You have three ways to get out of check, you may block check, move out of check, or if you can capture the attacking piece that's placing your King in check. In this diagram you need to block the check with a Pawn.

Diagram 2:

If you are ready to castle you need to look and make sure that you King is not moving over a square that is being attacked by another piece. In diagram 2 we see that the Black Bishop is attacking the f1 square, so we cannot castle on our King Side.

Diagram 3:

If you have moved a Rook on either side of the chess board you may not castle on that side. You also may not castle if you have already moved you King. In diagram 3 we see that the Rook that used to be on a1 has now moved to d1. Because the Rook on our Queenside has moved we are forced to castle on our other side.

Diagram 4:

Your King can never move into check so if you castle Queenside your King falls under attack by the Black Bishop on h6. So you may not castle Queenside right now.