

FourTrack Mainline

A play by e-mail 18xx game service.
Guidance for Players / House Rules - Last updated 22 August 2011

SUBMITTING ORDERS

Just send them to me by e-mail. Include them as part of the message and not as an attachment.

Don't send in HTML format. Plain text is best for me to receive.

Don't use attachments, except by prior agreement.

I will attempt to acknowledge receipt of orders, but can not guarantee to do so.

Deadlines will normally be 4 weeks apart.

If you are going to be away on holiday, tell me and I will do my best to work around your dates, putting a game on hold if necessary.

Do remember that a deadline is the time & date that I must have your orders by, I do have some tolerance, but the more frequently you need reminding after the deadline, the less tolerant I will become in all respects of your actions and inactions.

I will normally try to send a gentle general reminder that the deadline is approaching, but can not guarantee to do so, this will not affect my tolerance level of your actions and inactions.

Any order that you submit can be conditional on anything that has or has not happened earlier in the round or can be determined by logical process.

The use of subjective words such as "best" or "worst" should be avoided unless you specify what you want them to mean.

THINGS TO INCLUDE

The name of the game you are playing in, e.g. 1830 X11

Your name.

The deadline that you are submitting orders for.

The rounds that you are submitting orders for.

If you are including orders for more than one game in the e-mail please leave at least three blank lines between the sets of orders and ensure your name and other details mentioned above is on all sets.

OPERATING ROUNDS

The company that you are submitting orders for.

The tile number, hex reference and the orientation of the tile you wish to lay. If a list of possible tile lays is provided then I will read across the line and apply the first legal one, unless I am told otherwise.

There is no need to prefix a tile lay order with a phrase such as "if green tiles are available then lay ..." the order to lay a tile is quite acceptable, if the tile isn't available then I'll just go onto the next in the list.

Note that pdf files of all the tile orientations are available to download from the Tiles section of each game.

The routes you wish the trains to operate.

If you wish to pay a dividend or retain in the company treasury.

If you wish to buy any new trains for the company, and if so where from. If buying from another company include how much you are paying. In the event of a discrepancy between what you offer and what the selling company wants, your offer will be treated as a maximum you are prepared to pay and the demand from the selling company is the minimum they will accept.

In the event that the maximum offered is greater than the minimum required then a sale price at the mid point of the two sums, rounded down to the nearest legal amount for the game, will be used.

If you may have to sell shares to fund a train, then indicate which ones.

If you are prepared to sell a train to another company you must specify which company and the price you want for the train.

If the transaction is between two companies you own then the instruction should be in both the selling and buying companies.

All instructions you wish me use, do remember to check that they are unambiguous.

SHAREDEALING ROUNDS

State whether you wish to buy New or Old shares if both are likely to be available, the use of the phrase "cheaper of old or new if given a choice" is quite acceptable to me, but do remember to include what to do if the Old and New price are the same.

If a list is provided the first available share on it will always be bought, unless instructed otherwise.

State if you are prepared to sell any shares, and if so which, to meet your desires.

If you may at some time have too many shares indicate what you will sell.

If you are intending to float a new company then include the par price, if applicable. Phraseology such as "Par, maximum that will enable me to buy x shares" is quite acceptable.

How I will handle situations which are not covered

I will not invent orders on your behalf. If doing nothing is a valid and legal option then that is what will be done. - Remember you are playing the game not me.

I will not unbalance the game, disadvantage another player or company, but I will not operate Trains you don't order.

I will look and see what the best routes for your trains are if requested, but I do expect you to give likely routes. In general the later a company is operating in the round the more accommodating I am. If your company operates first I am unlikely to spend much energy looking for a route for you and certainly won't entertain any demands/requests for a larger payout if I haven't found the optimum.

Do remember that if you leave it to me I'm unlikely to agree to accept an upward revision of the income if you spot something later on.

A company will pay a dividend if you don't specify Pay or Retain.

The phrase "Buy Train." where no type or source is defined will be taken as the cheapest train in the Bank.

If the Bank has sold out of the type of train that is specified and the company already has a train then no purchase will be made.

If a company is obliged to buy a train and no purchase is specified or the type specified is sold out, then the cheapest train in the Bank will be bought.

If a company is obliged to buy a train and no purchase is specified and it does not have sufficient resources then the company will take a loan and if still unable to afford the purchase it will ask the President for help, which he will give selling shares as required, unless the game rules require an alternative order of actions or exclude one or other of the options.

If you order to buy a Presidency/Directorship and do not include the par value or an unambiguous means for me to determine it, if required, no share will be bought.

If you order to buy a share and don't specify new or old a new share will be bought.

If I have to sell shares for any reason and you haven't provided a sell list, then shares in companies of which you are not

President/Director will be sold first and in decreasing order of price, if there is a choice, alphabetical order of full company name will be used to resolve any ties.

Other Matters concerning the games

Even if the game rules state to the contrary the following information will be publicly available:-

Player Cash.

Player stock holding.

Company Cash.

The amount paid for a train from another Company.

Even if the game rules state to the contrary the following will apply.

There is no restriction on communication between players.

Players may make agreements within the context of a game. All such agreements between players are considered, by me, as verbal and as such are only worth the paper they aren't written on. I will not intervene to enforce any such agreement. There is no requirement to inform me of the agreement.

And finally, I will listen to your point of view, and correct any genuine errors I have made, but remember I am judge and jury.