

# AQUALIN

SCHOOL OR GET SCHOOLED

A TACTICAL PUZZLE GAME FOR 2 PLAYERS, AGES 8 AND UP

## GOAL OF THE GAME

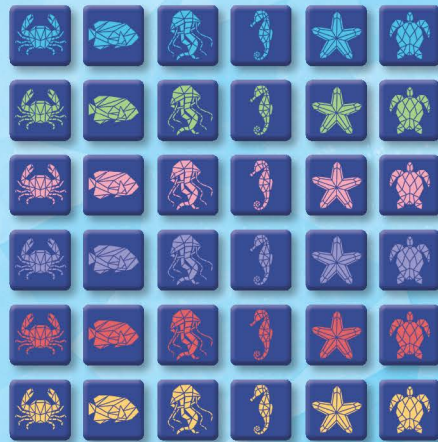
All sorts of colorful sea creatures are swimming around the reef and gathering in schools. As soon as a jellyfish swims away, a starfish lands next to another starfish.

The players try to form the largest possible schools before the reef fills up, with one player forming schools of the same color while the other forms schools of the same animal type. The larger the school, the more points it is worth when points are tallied at the end of the game. The player with the most points is the winner.

## GAME MATERIALS



1 Reef (game board)



36 Sea creatures (acrylic tiles)

## GAME SETUP

Position the game board — the reef — between the two players on the table. Turn all of the tiles so that the sea creatures are face down, mix them up, and place them next to the game board as your **stockpile**.

Take **six tiles at random** from the stockpile and place them **face up** next to the game board. This is your **drafting pool**.

Now decide which player will be gathering schools by color and which will be gathering schools by animal type — in other words, which player will score points at the end of the game for which type of school. A school is a group of contiguous tiles with the same color or the same animal type. Whichever player was most recently in the ocean will be the first player and take the first turn.

Drafting  
pool



Stockpile



## COURSE OF PLAY

A turn consists of three phases:

1. Move a sea creature
2. Place a new sea creature onto the reef
3. Replenish the drafting pool

### 1. Move a sea creature

**Note:** This step is skipped during the first turn, since there are no sea creatures on the reef yet.

Before the active player takes a sea creature from the drafting pool, he or she **may** move one sea creature on the reef. The sea creature may be moved any number of spaces **inside its row or column** up to the point where it meets the next sea creature or the edge of the reef.

### 2. Place a new sea creature onto the reef

The active player chooses one sea creature from the drafting pool and places it on any empty space in the reef. That space may be next to another sea creature, but does not have to be.

**Tip:** To make it easier to get a quick overview, orient sea creatures of the same type in the same direction.

### 3. Replenish the drafting pool



Before the end of his or her turn, the active player takes one sea creature from the stockpile and places it face up in the drafting pool. It is now the other player's turn.

**Note:** If there are no more tiles in the stockpile, you cannot take any from it. In that case, keep playing until the drafting pool is empty.

Both players keep taking turns until the reef is completely filled with all 36 sea creatures. Then perform the school assessment.

#### Example One “Move a sea creature”




Nina is playing with schools of the same animal type. She moves the  yellow crab next to the  purple crab.



#### Example Two “Place a sea creature onto the reef”



To prevent Markus from moving the  yellow crab back to the yellow school, she now positions the  pink crab in between.

## SCHOOL ASSESSMENT

The score for each player is determined by the schools in the reef. During the school assessment, a sea creature can be a member of a school of a given color **and** of a given animal type at the same time. **Schools** are contiguous groups of two or more sea creatures of the same animal type or color. **They have to be side by side** — diagonally adjacent tiles do not count.

For the scoring assessment, leave all the sea creatures on the reef and refer to the overview of sea creatures on page 1 to help you. Start by counting all schools of the same color separately (blue, green, pink, etc.). Then count schools of the same animal type separately (crab, fish, jellyfish, etc.).

This table shows you how many points you will earn for your schools:

Tiles in school	2	3	4	5	6
Points	1	3	6	10	15

**Note:** One tile by itself is not a school and, therefore, not worth any points. In the case of a tie, the winner is the player who went second.



**Author: Marcello Bertocchi** is a long-time game player with a broad interest in games of all types. Following several years in Japan, Marcello brought lots of experiences, new games, and ideas back with him to Italy, where he also met his wife. Most recently he has been studying and collecting strategic two-player games and founded XVgames, a small publisher specializing in two-player games. His FeudaLink game won second place in the 2018 Premio Archimede game creator competition, and now appears as a Kosmos publication under the name Aqualin.

**Example scoring assessment:**

**Markus** is playing with schools of the **same color**.

Assessing his own schools as follows:

■ blue (4 tiles = 6 points, 2 tiles = 1 point),

■ green (1 point),

■ pink (3 points),

■ purple (3 points),

■ red (3 points) and finally

■ yellow (2 x 1 point). This gives him a total of **19 points**.



**Nina** is playing with schools of the same **animal type**. She counts crabs (1 point), fish (6 points), jellyfish (1 point), seahorses (2 x 1 point), starfish (10 points), and turtles (1 point). This gives her **21 points**, making her the winner!

## REMATCH

Do you want to play another round? This time, switch roles so the player who previously played with colors is now playing with animal types and vice versa.

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