

Empire Builder System - Upcoming Rules Change

Darwin's Toys has announced that, with the Empire Builder: Ireland release, there will be a significant change in the turn order rules for all future games.

BUILD FIRST, then MOVE

A simple change that will take a few games to get used to, but after that, playtesting over the past several months has shown there to be many benefits to the change. Some examples:

- Unless you toss your cards, you can spend all your money before you make your first move at the beginning of the game.
- If you toss your cards during the game, you can build new track to allow you to run the new cards without waiting.
- You can hold off on building a floodable bridge until the turn you need it, eliminating the chance of a flood wiping out your bridge on that trip (of course someone could build the bridge right ahead of you). And if you do lose a bridge to a flood, you get to rebuild it **and** use it on the same turn.
- Game play speeds up in several ways. Your turn is over when your movement ends. You rarely need to pause to think during your turn, and you can use the time between your turns to plan your builds and upgrades.

TGA IMPLEMENTATION

This rule change is completely optional for play at this year's TGA cons. All players must agree to play by this rule. The TGA Rules Committee will consider making this a permanent change for all games beginning in 2027.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Since the new rules are not currently in effect, the EBS Overall Semi-Final and Final and the EB: Europe Final will use the current rules (move first, then build)

Darwin's Toys Announcements – Summer 2026

- New rules for future EB games – Build First
- We will continue to modernize the game play by
 - Making the games easier to learn
 - Adding rules and options for faster play
 - Reducing the harshness of events and bad cards
- Maps on sale at Gen Con for \$25 – now \$30 on the website!
- Check out sample larger-sized maps – can be custom ordered for a small upcharge
- Check out the new EB game chip trays. They can be ordered now for pickup at Railcon, or coming soon to the website store
- The larger trays are \$20 each. The smaller trays are \$15 each. A full set of 11 trays(one for each current game edition) is \$150. There may be some customization options, contact Jeff or Trella.
- EB: Europe, Nippon Rails, India Rails, Express and most of the EB flat maps can be ordered now for pickup during Gen Con

Talk to Trella or Jeff