

Kachuful

2-8 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Long

Win exactly the number of tricks you bid each round.

SETUP

- 2-8 players each play individually.
- Deal a changing number of cards per round.
- Flip a card to determine the trump suit.

SCORING

- Exact bid earns 10 points plus the bid value.
- Missed bids lose points equal to the difference.

Tip: Bid based on your trump cards and high cards, not optimism.

ON YOUR TURN

- Follow suit if possible, or play any card.
- Highest trump or highest led-suit card takes the trick.
- Continue until all cards in the round are played.

Kachuful is a popular South Asian variant of Oh Hell, widely played in India, Nepal, and surrounding regions. Players bid on exactly how many tricks they will win each round, earning points for precision and losing them for missed bids.

Objective

Accurately predict the exact number of tricks you will win each round. Points are awarded for correct bids and deducted for incorrect ones.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 8 players, each playing individually.
2. **Deck:** A standard 52-card deck. For larger groups, two decks may be combined.
3. **Deal:** The number of cards dealt changes each round, starting high, decreasing to one, and then increasing again.

Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** Cards are dealt and the top card of the remaining deck is turned face up to determine the trump suit.
2. **Step 2:** Starting from the player to the dealer's left, each player bids the exact number of tricks they expect to win.
3. **Step 3:** The player to the dealer's left leads the first trick. Players must follow suit if possible.
4. **Step 4:** The highest trump wins the trick, or the highest card of the led suit if no trumps were played. Play continues until all tricks are completed.

Scoring

- A player who wins exactly the number of tricks they bid earns 10 points plus the bid amount.
- A player who misses their bid (over or under) loses points equal to the difference between their bid and tricks won.

Variations

- **Blind Kachuful:** Players must bid before looking at their cards, doubling the reward for a correct blind bid.
- **No-Trump Rounds:** Certain rounds are played without a trump suit, testing pure card-play skill.

Tips and Strategies

- Bid conservatively in early rounds while learning opponents' playing styles.
- High cards in the trump suit are nearly guaranteed tricks, so factor them into your bid.
- In later rounds with fewer cards, a single trump card can dominate the entire hand.

Tips & Strategy

Count your sure tricks carefully before bidding and account for trump interference from opponents. Flexibility in mid-round play helps adjust to unexpected outcomes.

Reading opponents' bids gives clues about their hands. If total bids exceed available tricks, someone will fail, so play aggressively against overbidders.