

# Kaiser

4 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

## First team to 52 points through tricks and special cards.

### SETUP

- 4 players in partnerships, 32 cards.
- Deal 8 each.
- Bid 6-12 for trump.

### SCORING

- 1 point/trick. 5 of Hearts = +5. 3 of Spades = -3.
- Failed bid = lose bid amount.

*Tip: Focus on the 8-point swing between the 5 of Hearts and 3 of Spades.*

### ON YOUR TURN

- Follow suit if possible.
- Highest trump or led-suit card wins.
- Capture special cards.

Kaiser is a Canadian partnership trick-taking game using 32 cards with two special cards: the 5 of Hearts (+5 points) and 3 of Spades (-3 points). Teams bid and play to hit their targets.

## Objective

Win tricks to earn points, capturing the 5 of Hearts for a bonus and avoiding the 3 of Spades penalty. First team to 52 points wins.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 4 players in partnerships.
2. **Deck:** 32 cards (8 cards per suit: 7-A, but replace the 7 of Hearts with the 5 of Hearts, and the 7 of Spades with the 3 of Spades).
3. **Deal:** Deal 8 cards to each player.

## Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** Players bid 6-12 tricks (or pass). The highest bidder names trump. A no-trump bid outranks a suited bid of the same number.
2. **Step 2:** The bidder leads the first trick. Players must follow suit if possible.
3. **Step 3:** Highest trump or highest led-suit card wins. The 5 of Hearts and 3 of Spades score their special values regardless of trump.
4. **Step 4:** After all tricks, teams tally: 1 point per trick won, +5 for the 5 of Hearts, -3 for the 3 of Spades.

## Scoring

- Each trick = 1 point. 5 of Hearts = +5 points. 3 of Spades = -3 points.
- If the bidding team fails, they lose their bid amount. First to 52 wins.

## Variations

- **No-Trump Kaiser:** Bidding no-trump is always the highest possible bid.
- **Low Kaiser:** A negative bid where you try to lose tricks.

## Tips and Strategies

- Capture the 5 of Hearts and avoid the 3 of Spades for a 8-point swing.
- Bid aggressively with strong trump holdings and the 5 of Hearts.
- Lead trumps early to control the game.

## Tips & Strategy

The 5 of Hearts and 3 of Spades create an 8-point swing. Focus your strategy around capturing the 5 and dumping the 3 on opponents.

The bidding phase is crucial. Holding the 5 of Hearts gives your team a built-in advantage worth bidding on.