

Lorum

4 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Long

Score the fewest penalties across 8 contracts.

SETUP

- 4 players, 32 cards, deal 8 each.
- Active player chooses a contract.
- No trump in any contract.

SCORING

- Each contract penalizes different cards/tricks.
- Lorum contract combines all penalties.

Tip: Save the Lorum contract for your strongest defensive hand.

ON YOUR TURN

- Follow suit if possible.
- Highest card wins the trick.
- Penalties based on active contract.

Lorum is a Hungarian compendium card game with eight different negative contracts. Each player must play all eight contracts during the game, choosing strategically based on their hand.

Objective

Score the fewest penalty points across all eight contracts. Each contract has unique penalties for different cards or tricks.

Setup

1. **Players:** 4 players.
2. **Deck:** 32 cards (7 through Ace of each suit).
3. **Deal:** Deal 8 cards to each player. The active player chooses one of their remaining contracts.

Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** The active player selects a contract from their unused list.
2. **Step 2:** Standard trick play follows: follow suit, highest wins, no trump.
3. **Step 3:** After all tricks, penalties are assessed based on the active contract.
4. **Step 4:** Each player serves as active player twice, playing all 8 contracts over the game.

Scoring

- Contracts include: No Tricks, No Hearts, No Queens, No King of Hearts, No Last Two Tricks, No Boys (Jacks/Kings), No Girls (Queens), Lorum (all penalties combined).
- Each contract has specific penalty values. The Lorum contract combines all other contracts' penalties in one hand.

Variations

- **Short Lorum:** Play only 4 contracts for a quicker game.
- **Double Stakes:** The active player can double penalties before play.

Tips and Strategies

- Save the Lorum contract for when you have the strongest avoidance hand.
- Match contract selection to hand strength.
- Track which contracts opponents have remaining to predict their choices.

Tips & Strategy

Save the combined Lorum contract for your strongest hand. Choose contracts that match your hand each round.

Contract selection is the key strategic layer. Knowing which contracts opponents still need helps you predict the game's flow.