

Pandoeren

2-4 players

32 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

Score the most card points by winning tricks; first to a target score wins.

SETUP

- Use a 32-card deck (7 through Ace) for 2-4 players.
- Deal 8 cards to each player in a 4-player game.
- Trump is determined by bidding or turning up a card.

SCORING

- Ace: 11, Ten: 10, King: 4, Queen: 3, Jack: 2.
- Last trick bonus: 10 points.
- First team to the target score wins the game.

Tip: Save a strong trump or high card for the final trick to secure the 10-point last trick bonus.

ON YOUR TURN

- Follow suit if possible; play trump if you cannot follow.
- You must overtrump if trump has been played and you can.
- Highest trump or highest card of led suit wins the trick.

Pandoeren is a traditional Dutch trick-taking game played with a shortened deck and a complex trump system. Known for its strategic depth, it rewards careful hand management and precise counting of card values.

Objective

Score the most card points by winning tricks. The game is played over multiple rounds, and the first player or team to reach a target score wins.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 4 players, often played with 4 in two partnerships.
2. **Deck:** 32-card deck (7 through Ace in each suit).
3. **Deal:** Deal 8 cards to each player when playing with 4 players.

Gameplay

1. **Trump determination:** Trump is established through the bidding process or by turning up a card from the stock.
2. **Leading:** The player left of the dealer leads the first trick.
3. **Following suit:** Players must follow the led suit. If unable, they must play trump if they have it. If they have neither, any card may be played.
4. **Overtrumping:** When trump is led or played, subsequent players must play a higher trump if possible.

Scoring

- **Ace:** 11 points.
- **Ten:** 10 points.
- **King:** 4 points.
- **Queen:** 3 points.
- **Jack:** 2 points.
- **Last trick bonus:** The team that wins the final trick receives an additional 10 points.

Variations

- **Pandoeren with Bids:** Players bid for the right to choose trump, adding a pre-play strategic layer.
- **Short Pandoeren:** Played with fewer cards per hand for quicker rounds.

Tips and Strategies

- Secure the last trick bonus by saving a strong trump or high card for the final trick.
- Count card points as they are played to track whether you or your opponents are ahead.
- Coordinate with your partner by signaling suit preferences through your discards.

Tips & Strategy

The last trick bonus of 10 points can swing the round. Always plan your endgame to either secure or contest that final trick.

The overtrumping rule means you cannot hold back trump cards defensively when trump is led. Plan your trump usage knowing that opponents can force you to spend them.