

# Polignac

4 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Easy

Duration: Short

## Avoid capturing Jacks in tricks.

### SETUP

- 4 players, 32 cards.
- Deal 8 cards each.
- No trumps.

### SCORING

- Jack of Spades = 2 points, other Jacks = 1 point.
- Capture all 4 Jacks (capot): opponents score 5 each.

*Tip: Void a suit to dump Jacks onto opponents' tricks.*

### ON YOUR TURN

- Follow suit if possible.
- Highest card of led suit wins.
- Avoid taking tricks with Jacks.

Polignac is a French trick-avoidance game where players try to avoid winning tricks containing Jacks. The Jack of Spades (Polignac) is the most dangerous card, worth the most penalty points.

## Objective

Avoid capturing Jacks in tricks. The player with the fewest penalty points wins.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 4 players.
2. **Deck:** 32 cards (7 through Ace of each suit).
3. **Deal:** Deal all 8 cards to each player.

## Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** The player to the dealer's left leads the first trick.
2. **Step 2:** Players must follow suit if possible. The highest card of the led suit wins the trick.
3. **Step 3:** There are no trumps. The game is purely about avoiding Jacks.
4. **Step 4:** Play continues for 8 tricks until all cards are played.

## Scoring

- Jack of Spades (Polignac) = 2 penalty points.
- Each other Jack = 1 penalty point.
- A player who captures all four Jacks (capot) scores 0 and each opponent scores 5.

## Variations

- **Quatre Valets:** All four Jacks carry equal penalty (1 point each), removing the Polignac distinction.
- **Slobberhannes:** A related game where the first trick, last trick, and Queen of Clubs are also penalized.

## Tips and Strategies

- Void yourself in a suit to dump Jacks on others' winning tricks.
- Lead low cards to force opponents to win tricks that may contain Jacks.
- Track which Jacks have been played to know when it is safe to win tricks.

## Tips & Strategy

Create voids to dump Jacks onto opponents' tricks. Keeping track of which Jacks have been played is essential for risk management.

The capot (capturing all four Jacks) is a bold gambit that reverses all penalties. Only attempt it with a very strong hand.