

# Svoi Kozyri

3-5 players

36 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

Win the most tricks using your secretly chosen personal trump suit.

## SETUP

- Use a 36-card deck (6 through Ace) with 3 to 5 players.
- Deal cards evenly among all players.
- Each player secretly selects one suit as their personal trump.

## SCORING

- Each trick won counts as 1 point.
- Winning more than half the tricks earns a bonus point.
- First player to reach the agreed point total wins.

*Tip: Delay revealing your trump as long as possible to keep opponents guessing.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Follow the led suit if possible; otherwise play any card.
- Playing a personal trump card beats all non-trump cards.
- Reveal your trump suit the first time you use it.

*Svoi Kozyri, meaning 'your own trumps,' is a Russian card game where each player selects their own personal trump suit at the start of the round. This unique twist on trick-taking creates a dynamic where every player has a different strategic advantage.*

## Objective

Win the most tricks during the round by leveraging your personal trump suit. The player or team with the most tricks across multiple rounds wins the game.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 3 to 5 players.
2. **Deck:** 36-card deck (6 through Ace in each suit).
3. **Deal:** Cards are dealt evenly among all players.
4. **Choosing trumps:** Before play begins, each player secretly selects one suit as their personal trump. This suit is revealed only when a player uses it to win a trick.

## Gameplay

1. **Leading:** The player to the dealer's left leads any card.
2. **Following suit:** Players must follow the led suit if possible. If unable, they may play any card.
3. **Personal trumps:** When a player plays a card from their personal trump suit while unable to follow suit, that card beats all non-trump cards. If multiple players play their personal trumps, the highest trump wins.
4. **Revealing trumps:** The first time you play a personal trump card, announce your trump suit to all players.

## Scoring

- **Tricks won:** Each trick counts as one point.
- **Bonus:** A player who wins more than half the tricks in a round earns a bonus point.
- **Game target:** First player to reach the agreed point total wins.

## Variations

- **Blind Trumps:** Players choose their trump suit without looking at their cards first, adding a gambling element.
- **Team Svoi Kozyri:** Partnerships share a trump suit, requiring coordination before the round starts.

## Tips and Strategies

- Choose your trump suit based on which suit you hold the most high cards in, not just the most cards.
- Delay revealing your trump for as long as possible to keep opponents guessing.
- Watch carefully when other players cannot follow suit to deduce their personal trump before it is formally revealed.

## Tips & Strategy

Select a trump suit where you hold both length and strength. A suit with many low cards is less useful than a shorter suit with aces and kings.

Reading opponents is just as important as managing your own hand. When a player discards off-suit early, consider whether they are setting up to use a personal trump or genuinely weak in that suit.