

# Three Five Eight

3 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

Win your target number of tricks (3, 5, or 8).

## SETUP

- 3 players, deal 16 each + 4 to dealer.
- Dealer picks up extras, names trump, discards 4.
- 8-target player leads first.

## SCORING

- Overtricks earn card-trading rights.
- First to 12 tricks in a round wins.

*Tip: The dealer has a big advantage with 4 extra cards. Use it wisely.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Follow suit if possible.
- Highest trump or led-suit card wins.
- Count tricks against targets.

*Three Five Eight (also called Sergeant Major) is a trick-taking game for exactly 3 players where each has a different trick target: 3, 5, or 8 tricks. Players trade cards between rounds based on performance.*

## Objective

Win your target number of tricks (3, 5, or 8 depending on your seat). Exceeding your target earns you the right to trade cards next round.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 3 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Deal:** Deal 16 cards to each player. The remaining 4 cards go to the dealer, who discards 4 after seeing them.

## Gameplay

1. **Step 1:** The dealer picks up the 4 extra cards, chooses a trump suit, and discards 4 cards face down.
2. **Step 2:** The player with target 8 leads the first trick. Players must follow suit if possible.
3. **Step 3:** Highest trump or highest card of led suit wins each trick.
4. **Step 4:** After all tricks, players who exceeded their target take cards from those who fell short next round.

## Scoring

- Players who exceed their target gain 'overtricks' as trading currency.
- Players who fall short must give their best cards to those with overtricks.
- The game continues until one player wins 12 tricks in a single round.

## Variations

- **Nine Five Two:** Targets are 9, 5, and 2 tricks instead.
- **Rotating Targets:** Targets rotate each round so all players experience each position.

## Tips and Strategies

- As the 8-target player, you need strong trumps and the ability to control the game.
- As the 3-target player, play defensively and let others fight over tricks.
- Trading cards wisely between rounds is crucial for long-term success.

## Tips & Strategy

Adapt your strategy to your target. The 8-player must dominate; the 3-player should play conservatively and let others clash.

The card trading between rounds means strong early performance snowballs. The dealer has the biggest advantage from the extra 4 cards.