

PLAYIRO

How to Play Canasta (Complete Rules)

Canasta is a strategic partnership card game built around meld creation, careful discard management, and timing your Canastas. The first team to reach 5000 points wins the game.

Game Overview

Players	4 (2 partnerships)
Deck	2 standard decks + 4 Jokers (108 cards)
Objective	Create melds and build at least one Canasta
Winning Goal	First team to 5000 points

Card Values

Card Type	Points
Jokers	50
2s (Wild)	20
Aces & 8–King	10
4–7	5
Black 3s	5
Red 3s	Bonus (100 each)

Scoring & Canastas

- Natural Canasta (no wilds) = 500 points
- Mixed Canasta (with wilds) = 300 points
- Each red 3 = 100 bonus points
- Going out = +100 points
- Subtract value of cards left in hand

Strategy Tips

- Track wild cards carefully and use them strategically
- Delay large melds until you meet minimum requirements
- Freeze discard pile using black 3s when beneficial
- Coordinate with partner through smart discards and meld timing