

Retribution

A TWO PLAYER CARD GAME

- The game requires a standard 52 card deck.
- Players cut for high card to determine who will go first. In a series of games players alternate going first.
- The deck is shuffled and placed face down. The players alternate drawing and playing one card at a time from the top of the deck. Cards are played face-up until 36 cards have been played. Cards are placed in such a way that 4 boxes of 9 cards each are formed. Each box contains 3 rows of 3 cards each. Players may play any card into any box (except a box that contains 9 cards). The second through ninth cards played in any box must be placed adjacent to one or more cards in the box (i.e., touching at least one edge or corner of a card already in that box). No card may be placed a position that would extend the length or width of a box to more than 3 cards.
- One player is credited with points scored in two of the boxes and the other player is credited with points scored in the other two. Players may play cards into either their own or their opponent's boxes. "Ownership" of the first two boxes started is specified when the first card is placed in each of these by whoever played that card. If both players each own one of the first two boxes started, ownership of the third box is specified by whoever puts the first card into that box. Players should position cards such that the two boxes nearest them are the boxes they "own".
- Each completed box is considered to contain eight poker hands of three cards each. These hands are the three rows, the three columns, and the two diagonals of the box. The poker hands are scored as follows:
 - Pair = 1 point (for example "QQ")
 - Flush (all the same suit) = 2 points
 - Straight (three consecutive cards) = 3 points
 - 3 of a kind = 4 points (for example "KKK")
 - Straight Flush = 5 points (for example "8♥ 9♥ 10♥")
- A player's point total for the game is the sum of the points scored in all hands in his or her boxes.
- The player who scores the most points wins the game. In case of a tie the game is replayed with the same player going first again (unless they decide to leave it a draw and go get a beer).

Clarifications

- Should an unplayed card from the deck be inadvertently exposed, all unplayed cards are reshuffled and re-cut before continuing the game.
- Typically, whenever a played card changes the current score the player who placed that card states the new score. In doing so, be careful to add only 3 points to the current score (instead of 4) when the third card of a three of a kind hand is placed if a point had already been credited when the second card of that hand was played. Also, do not credit a point for a pair of cards that are touching corners unless/until the position of other cards in the box ensures that both these cards are in the same diagonal of their box.
- If a player makes an error in announcing the score during the game there is no penalty. The final score of the game is based on the position of cards after the final one has been played.
- The order in which cards are played or in which they are arranged is not considered when scoring. For example, 6-5-4, 6-4-5, and 4-5-6 are all straights.
- Aces may count as either lower than a deuce or higher than a king in straights. A played ace can be "high" in one (or more) 3 card hands and also "low" in one (or more) other 3-card hands.
- Hands containing a 2, an Ace, and a King are not a straight.
- In match play the number of games won determines the winner of the match. The number of points scored in the hands of individual games is not considered. Players should agree beforehand how many games won are needed to win the match.