

Basics

Euchre is played using a deck of 24 cards (standard deck of cards with the two's through the eight's removed) with 4 players in teams of 2. Rank of trump cards: Right Bower, Left Bower, Ace, King, Queen, Ten, Nine. Other suits: rank as usual Ace - Nine. First team that makes 10 points wins.

Dealing

The hand is started by one player dealing face up one card at a time till a jack appears. The person that receives the jack starts the game by dealing each player 5 cards. This is normally done in groups of 2's and 3's although the some circles (mainly north of the border) it is ok to one card at a time. It is the custom (and in many circles mandatory) to offer a cut to the person on the right, before dealing the first card. After dealing out 5 cards to everyone there should be 4 cards left. These are places face down in front of the dealer and the top card turned face up.

Farmers Hand

A 'farmer's hand' is a hand that contains all 9's and 10's. It is also known as 'No Ace No Face' It is not widely endorsed

Natural Trump

This rule states, you must hold the suit of the turned card in your hand before it may be picked up, or ordered into the dealers hand. Like the farmers hand, this is not widely endorsed. As far as I can tell these rules came about to give children and inexperienced players a chance to win. Most euchre enthusiasts find these rules take away from the game.

Misdeal

If an improper number of cards is dealt and the mistake is found before the hand is in progress the cards are re dealt. If the hand is in play, the deal is forfeited and is passed to the next player.

Calling Trump

The first player to the right of the dealer now has the option of naming the turned up trump. Each player in turn gets to name trump or pass. If a player would like to call a suit trump he should do so by saying "that's trump" or "pick it up". If no one names trump in the first round, the up card is turned face down and second round bidding starts. Players may then name one of the three remaining suits trump. Once a suit has been named trump, all "bidding" stops and the hand starts. If no one names trump in the second round, the deal is passed to the player on the left.

Stick the Dealer

Stick The Dealer is a variation in which if no one names trump in the second round, then the dealer must take the bid and name trump from one of the remaining suits.

Game Play

The player to the left of the dealer starts the hand by leading any card from his hand. If the person in the first seats partner goes alone, the deal is passed to the next player. Players must follow suit if possible.

Scoring

To score a point a team must take 3 out of the five possible tricks. A team that takes all five tricks gets two points. If they take less than 3 tricks they are said to be 'Euchred' and the other team receives 2 points

Going Alone

To go alone A team member must signal his intentions by stating "I'm going alone" (in some circles it is acceptable as the dealer to push the cards across the table to your partner indicating a lone play). The person that is playing alone must take all 5 tricks to receive 4 points. If they get 3 or 4 tricks then their team receives 1 point

If they take less than 3 they are 'Euchred' and the other team receives 2 points.

Renege

Players must follow suit when lead. If one does not have that suit in their hand, they may trump in or through off any card of their choosing. Failure to follow this rule will result in a penalty against the offending team. The non-offending team receives two points. (Or 4 points if the infraction was during a lone attempt). It is up to the opposition to catch the mistake.

Dealer Not Discarding

If the dealer forgets to discard, the hand is void, and the deal passed to the next person, in some circles this results in a 2 point penalty (4 if on a lone call).

Table Talk

Table talk is any remarks during the hand designed to give your partner information. Such things as "let's see if we can get a point partner (I'm very weak but maybe)" are considered table talk. Although in casual games there is no penalty. It should be avoided.

Ordering card into partners hand

This is for our friends north of the U.S. border.

If you order you partner to pick up a card, you must play the hand alone.