

The RULES of SAMBOLA

Rules of the 4-Player & 6-Player Games

Jonola © is a special derivation of Canasta in which you make Canastas = Sets of 7 cards of the same value.
Samba is another derivation of Canasta in which Sambas are also allowed = Sets of 7 cards of the same suit in sequence.

Sambola is the combination of these two games.

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Main features:

- 3 packs with 9 Jokers.
- You cannot discard Jokers.
- Only take 5 cards from the Discard Pile.
- 'Red' and 'Black' Canasta Sets.
- 'Red' and 'Black' Samba Sets.
- 1 'Black' and 2 'Red' Sets are required to Go Out.

[This derivation of Jonola Canasta and Black Samba was devised by David Mallen in 2011]

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The Aim	To make the required type and number of Sets and Go Out by tabling all the cards in your hand. To accumulate points so your team reaches the Winning Score.
Teams	Alternate players form a team. 4 players form 2 teams of 2 players. (6 players form 2 teams of 3 players.) Team 1 = Players 1 & 3 (& 5). Team 2 = Players 2 & 4 (& 6). (See also 2- & 3-Player Games, below.)
Definitions	<p>Cards: Fours to Aces are 'natural' cards. 2s and Jokers are 'wild' cards. Wild cards may take the place of any other card. Red and Black 3s are special cards. (See 2s, Jokers, Red 3s and Black 3s, below.)</p> <p>Meld: A Meld is 3 or more cards to which other cards may be added to form a Set. (See Melds, below.) Tabling a Meld is called "Melding". If a team has tabled their Initial Meld, the team has "Melded".</p> <p>Sets: Sets consist of 7 cards. A Canasta is a Set of 7 cards of the same value. A Samba is a Set of 7 cards of the same suit in sequence.</p> <p>The 'colour' name of the Set signifies whether or not it contains wild cards. 'Red' Sets do not contain any wild cards. 'Black' Sets contain wild cards. The 'colour' name has nothing to do with the colour of the card's suit. Red Hearts and Diamonds may be used in 'Black' Sets and black Spades and Clubs used in 'Red' Sets. To eliminate any 'colour confusion', 'Red' and 'Black' Sets are sometimes called 'Pure' and 'Impure', respectively. (See below for details of Melds and the 2 types of Canasta and Samba Sets.)</p>
Variations	Any Variation shown in these rules must be agreed to, before play commences.
The Pack	3 packs with 9 Jokers. [Variation: 3 packs with 6 Jokers.]
The Deal	<p>The Dealer may be nominated by the players or selected by each player drawing a card from the stack. The player who draws the highest face value card becomes the Dealer. (If more than one player draws the same face value card, they redraw until one player has the highest face value card.)</p> <p>15 cards are dealt to each player, one card at a time around the table.</p> <p>The player on the left of the Dealer deals the cards for the next game.</p>
Deal Bonus	No bonus points for dealing the exact amount of cards.
The Piles	<p>After the deal, three piles are formed: 2 Pick-up Piles (cards face down) and 1 Discard Pile (cards face up).</p> <p>The top card of the stack of cards in the dealer's hand is turned face-up to form the Discard Pile. (If this card is a wild card, Red 3 or Black 3, keep turning up cards from the stack until a natural card is on top of the Discard Pile. Wild cards 'freeze' the Discard Pile. See 'Frozen' Discard Pile, below. A Red 3 or Black 3 doesn't 'freeze' the pile. It is just covered by a natural card.)</p> <p>The remaining cards in the stack are split into two piles about the same size to form the 2 Pick-up Piles on either side of the Discard Pile. (The Pick-up Piles must not be re-split during the game if one pile is getting low in cards. See Your Turn, below.)</p>

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‘Frozen’ Discard Pile	<p>If there is a 2 in the Discard Pile, the pile is ‘frozen’. The 2s are placed at right angles to the other cards to signify this. (See To Qualify to take cards from the Discard Pile, below.)</p> <p>(When the Discard Pile is first formed at the end of the deal, a Joker also ‘freezes’ the pile and is placed at right-angles to the other cards.)</p> <p>All cards that have ‘frozen’ the Discard Pile must be taken before the pile is ‘un-frozen’. (The terms ‘crossed’ and ‘un-crossed’ are sometimes used in place of ‘frozen’ and ‘un-frozen’.)</p>
‘Blocked’ Discard Pile	<p>If the top card of the Discard Pile is a 2 or a Black 3, the Discard Pile is ‘blocked’. This forces the next player to take cards from the Pick-up Piles. (See also Jokers – Special Discard, below, for another way the pile can be ‘blocked’.)</p>

Your Turn	<p>Begin your turn by either picking-up 2 cards from the Pick-up Piles, or, if you qualify, taking the top card of the Discard Pile.</p> <p>Pick-up Pile: Pick-up the top card from each Pick-up Pile. If one Pick-up Pile has run out of cards, take 2 cards from the remaining pile. If there is only one card left in the Pick-up Piles, pick-up this card. (See also Game End, below.) You may then place these cards in your hand and combine them with the other cards in your hand to form melds of 3 or more cards. When you have sufficient cards to form your team’s Initial Meld you may table this meld. Once your team has Melded, you may table new melds, add to tabled melds or add natural cards to completed Canastas during your turn. (See Melds and The Initial Meld, below.)</p> <p>Discard Pile: If your team has not Melded, you may not access the Discard Pile unless you are forming your team’s first or Initial Meld. Special conditions apply for the Initial Meld. (See Melds and The Initial Meld, below.) If your team has Melded, you may take the top card of the Discard Pile provided you qualify. (See To Qualify to take cards from the Discard Pile, below.) The top card of the Discard Pile must be tabled by being combined with the qualifying cards to form a new meld or added individually to a tabled meld. You cannot keep the top card in your hand nor add it to a completed Canasta or Samba. You must table the qualifying cards before taking cards from the Discard Pile to show other players that you qualify. After you have tabled the top card, only take another 4 cards from the pile. (If there are less than 4 cards left in the pile, you take them all.) These cards may be kept in your hand or combined with other cards in your hand to form and table new melds, to add to tabled melds or, if natural cards, added to completed Canastas.</p> <p>Note: You cannot add wild cards to completed Canastas. You cannot add cards to completed Sambas. If by adding the cards to a matching Samba Set on the table, the total exceeds 7 cards, the cards must be tabled as a separate Samba meld. (A Samba can only contain 7 cards and Samba Sets of the same suit cannot be combined.)</p> <p>Complete your turn: After you have decided to table or not table cards, you complete your turn by placing one card on the top of the Discard Pile. This is called “Discarding”. 2s and Black 3s ‘block’ the Discard Pile. Place the 2 at right angles to indicate that the pile is also ‘frozen’. (See ‘Blocked’ Discard Pile and ‘Frozen’ Discard Pile, above, and Special Discard, below.) The player on your left may now begin their turn. You may also complete your turn by Going Out. (See Going Out, below.)</p>
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To Qualify to take cards from the Discard Pile	<p>‘Blocked’ Discard Pile: If the Discard Pile is ‘blocked’, you must take cards from the Pick-up Pile.</p> <p>‘Unfrozen’ Discard Pile: To qualify to take the top card of an ‘unfrozen’ Discard Pile you must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A matching Canasta Set of the same value or a matching Samba Set of the same suit in sequence on the table – to add to these Sets without using any cards from your hand to qualify. b) At least 2 matching natural cards of the same value in your hand. c) At least 1 matching natural card of the same value and 1 wild card in your hand. d) At least 2 matching natural cards of the same suit in sequence in your hand. e) At least 1 matching natural card of the same suit in sequence and 1 wild card in your hand. <p>‘Frozen’ Discard Pile: To qualify to take the top card of a ‘frozen’ Discard Pile, or to take the top card for your Initial Meld, you must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) At least 2 matching natural cards of the same value in your hand. b) At least 2 matching natural cards of the same suit in sequence in your hand. <p>When using cards from your hand to qualify you may either form a new Set or add to a matching Set on the table. You cannot add the top card to a completed Canasta or Samba. Wild cards cannot be used to qualify if the Discard Pile is ‘frozen’.</p>
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The Initial Meld	<p>A team “Melds” when one member tables one or more melds to form the first or Initial Meld by satisfying the Minimum Card Points required. (See Initial Meld Points and Card Points, below.) Bonus Points do not count towards the Initial Meld Minimum Card Points.</p> <p>To form your team’s Initial Meld you may either use cards from your hand, cards taken from the Pick-up Pile or the top card of the Discard Pile. After tabling the Initial Meld, you may table other melds and cards during your Initial Meld turn.</p> <p>To qualify to take the top card of the Discard Pile for your Initial Meld you must have in your hand at least 2 matching natural cards of the same value (to form a Canasta Set) or 2 matching natural cards of the same suit in sequence (to form a Samba Set). Wild cards are not allowed to qualify to take the top card but may be used in other melds that form part of the Initial Meld. The other cards taken from the Discard Pile may <u>not</u> be used in the Initial Meld but may be melded and tabled during your Initial Meld turn after your Initial Meld is tabled.</p>	
Initial Meld Points	Progressive Team Score	Initial Meld Minimum Card Points
	Negative	15
	0 – 1495	50
	1500 – 2995	90
	3000 – 6995	120
	7000 – 9995	150
Card Points	Black 3s, 4s – 7s = 5 points. 8s – Kings = 10 points. 2s & Aces = 20 points. Jokers = 50 points.	
Melds	<p>Canasta melds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 or more natural cards of the same value, to start a Canasta Set. • 2 or more natural cards of the same value + <u>1, 2 or 3 wild cards</u>, to start a ‘Black’ Canasta Set. <p>Samba melds:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sequence of 3 or more natural cards of the same suit, to start a Samba Set. • A sequence of 2 or more natural cards of the same suit + <u>1 wild card</u>, to start a ‘Black’ Samba Set. <p>The melds of the members of a team are grouped together. Canasta melds of the same card value, if tabled separately, are combined to form one Set. Only after a Canasta has been completed can another Canasta meld of the same card value be started by the same team. More than one Samba meld of the same suit is allowed, however they cannot be combined into one Set.</p>	

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Sets & Bonus Points	Completed Canasta and Samba Sets score Bonus Points, as follows. You may add natural cards to completed Canasta Sets. Once a Samba Set is completed, it is placed face-down and cannot be added to.	
Impure or 'Black' Canasta	A Set of at least 7 cards, with a minimum of 4 natural cards of the same value and a maximum of 3 wild cards.	300 Bonus Points
Pure or 'Red' Canasta	A Set of at least 7 natural cards of the same value.	500 Bonus Points
'Black' Samba	A Set of exactly 6 natural cards of the same suit in sequence in the range from 4 to Ace + 1 wild card.	700 Bonus Points
Pure or 'Red' Samba	A Set of exactly 7 natural cards of the same suit in sequence in the range from 4 to Ace.	1000 Bonus Points
[Variation: 'Red' Sambas score 1500 and 'Black' Sambas score 1000 Bonus Points, per the original games of Samba and Black Samba.]		

Going Out	<p>A team Goes Out when one member tables all their cards. To Go Out, your team must satisfy the <u>minimum requirement of three Sets = 2 'Red' Canastas or Sambas and 1 'Black' Canasta or Samba</u>. These may be completed and tabled prior to or during your turn.</p> <p>You must ask your team member(s), "May I go out?", and receive a positive reply from all member(s), before tabling <u>all</u> your cards. You may table all your cards or discard one card and table the rest. The game then ends and each team's game score is calculated.</p> <p>If one team member says, "No", you may not Go Out. You then discard one card and retain at least one card in your hand. (You may have to retrieve cards just tabled to do this.) The game then continues.</p>	
Going Out Bonus	<p>200 Bonus Points are awarded to the team that Goes Out. If no team Goes Out (per Game End, below) no team receives the Going Out Bonus.</p> <p>If you table your Initial Meld and Go Out in the same turn (known as Going Out 'Concealed') you do not receive any extra points other than the Going Out Bonus of 200 points.</p>	
Game End	If the Pick-up Piles are exhausted and the player, whose turn it is next, does not qualify to take the top card of the Discard Pile, play ends.	
Game Score	<p>Bonus: The sum of all the team's Bonus Points for completed Canasta and Samba Sets, Red 3s and Going Out.</p> <p>Cards: The Card Points of tabled Melds and Sets minus the Cards Points of cards held in the hand by the team.</p> <p>Game Score = Bonus + Cards.</p>	
Winning Score	10,000 points. The team with the higher score, above 10,000 points, wins.	

2s	<p>2s are 'wild' cards and may take the place of any other card in a meld. (Once tabled they may not be replaced by a natural card.) When a 2 is discarded it 'blocks' and 'freezes' the Discard Pile and is placed at right angles to the other cards to signify this.</p> <p>(See 'Frozen' Discard Pile and 'Blocked' Discard Pile, above.)</p>	
Jokers	<p>Jokers are 'wild' cards and may take the place of any other card in a meld. (Once tabled they may not be replaced by a natural card.) <u>Jokers cannot be discarded</u>. They 'freeze' the Discard Pile if turned-up when it is first formed at the end of the Deal or when turned-up during the Special Discard. (See The Piles, above.)</p> <p><u>Only Jokers left in your hand:</u> If you only have Jokers in your hand but have just tabled some natural cards or 2s, you must retrieve at least one of them so that you are able to discard. If you only have Jokers in your hand and have not tabled any natural cards or 2s, you must perform the Special Discard.</p>	
Special Discard	<p><u>Special Discard:</u> Reveal your hand to the players then select 1 card from a Pick-up Pile and place it on the Discard Pile. If this card is a wild card, Red 3 or Black 3, the pile is 'blocked'. A wild card also 'freezes' the pile.</p>	

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Red 3s	<p>Red 3s are ‘bonus’ cards. They are tabled and cannot be used in melds or as a discard.</p> <p>If you receive a Red 3 in the deal, you must table it at the start of your first turn and replace it with the top card from a Pick-up Pile. If you receive a Red 3 when picking up from a Pick-up Pile, you table it, and take another card from the top of the same Pick-up Pile to replace it. If you receive a Red 3 when taking cards from the Discard Pile, you table it, but do <u>not</u> replace it with another card.</p>
Red 3 Bonus Points	The Red 3s score 100 Bonus Points each. There are six Red 3s in total. If the team has all six Red 3s, the Red 3s score a total of $6 \times 200 = 1200$ Bonus Points . If a team has not Melded, the Red 3s score is still <u>positive</u> .
Black 3s	Black 3s are ‘blocking’ cards used to ‘block’ the Discard Pile. (Refer to ‘Blocked’ Discard Pile, above.) They cannot be melded or tabled at any time, including when Going Out.
2- & 3-Player Games	<p>Sambola can also be played individually without teams of two or three players. The above rules apply with “team” taken to mean a team of one person.</p> <p>When playing individually you may wish to consider the following variations:</p> <p>Going Out: Minimum requirement of three Sets = 1 ‘Red’ and 2 ‘Black’ Canastas or Sambas.</p> <p>Going Out: Minimum requirement of two Sets = 1 ‘Red’ and 1 ‘Black’ Canasta or Samba.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2- & 3-Player variations suggested by Peter Öberg, Sweden (2015)</p>