

# TENNESSEE GAME RULES

## “SPADES”



### 1. PLAYERS:

- a. Four (4) in two (2) partnerships.

### 2. CARDS:

- a. A pack of fifty-two (52) cards. The cards rank A (high), K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, & 2. Spades are always trumps.

### 3. DEALING:

- a. Thirteen cards are dealt to each player one at a time.

### 4. BIDDING:

- a. The game consists of thirteen (13) tricks. Starting with the player at the left of the dealer, and moving clockwise, each player in turn bids the number of tricks he expects to win. His bid, added to that of his partner constitutes the contract bid by that partnership. It is not necessary for the total of the contracts bid by the two (2) sides to equal thirteen (13) tricks; the total can be more or less.
- b. A player who does not expect to win any tricks may bid “NIL”. Before looking at his hand a player may bid “DOUBLE NIL”.

### 5. THE PLAY:

- a. The player at the left of the dealer leads first and may play any suit except Spades, which may not be led until the suit is "broken" by a spade being discarded on a trick (unless a player has no other suit to lead). A player must follow suit if able. A trick is won by the highest trump played or by the highest card of the suit led.

### 6. SCORING:

- a. The object of the game is to take at least as many tricks as bid by the side. If one partner has bid "NIL", his contract and his partner's are scored separately and then the scores are combined.
- b. Each trick bid counts ten (10) points for a side, if the contract is made; against if the contract is set. (A side may have a negative score) Over tricks count one (1) each. A bid of “NIL” receives a bonus of 100 points, if made or a penalty of 100 points, if set. The bonus or penalty for “DOUBLE NIL” is 200 points.

### 7. GAME:

- a. Game consists of 500 points. If the two sides both go over 500 points in the same hand, the one with the larger score is the winner. If both sides go over 500 points

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and have the same total one more hand will be played. Again, the side with the highest score wins.

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