

Laus

Laus is a fast-paced trick-taking game featuring wildly swinging scores and vindictive play (in a good way). The version here has been modified from the traditional version to simplify the rules slightly.

1 Setup

1. Remove the 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6 of each suit and set them aside for the entire game. These cards are not used.
2. Shuffle and deal the remaining cards evenly among four players.

2 How to Play

Superficially, Laus is a standard trick-taking game, as described below.

1. The first player leads with any card. (For the first trick of the round, the player that received 7♠ leads with that card.)
2. Proceeding clockwise, each player plays a single card, following suit if possible. If a player has no card of the lead suit, then any card may be played.
3. The player who played the highest value of the lead suit takes the four cards involved in this trick. The value of these cards will be added to his score, unless the 10♦ is taken (see below). If trumps were played, the one who played the strongest trump takes the trick instead.
4. The player who took the previous trick leads with any card.
5. Play continues until all cards have been played.

3 Rules Specific to Laus

1. The object of the game is to avoid taking points. Play generally continues for a predetermined number of rounds or until some player crosses a certain point threshold.

2. Laus has five suits: ♠, ♣, ♥, ♦, and trump. The trumps are the four Aces, and their *only* suit is trump. For example, if diamond is led, a player need not follow with $A♦$ even if it is his only “♦”, since the suit of $A♦$ is trump, not ♦. For the same reason, a player who leads with $A♦$ has led with the trump suit, not ♦.
3. If multiple trumps are played in the same trick, resolve the hand according to the following ranking: $A♠$ beats $A♣$ beats $A♥$ beats $A♦$.
4. The player that takes the $10♦$ automatically receives a score of 0 for that round, regardless of any other point cards taken. This is indicated by “Null” on the scoring table.

4 Scoring

$10♠$	300
$10♣$	200
$10♥$	100
$10♦$	Null
Any A	25
Any K	10
Any Q	5
All others	0