Modern American Canasta Cheat Sheet

Deal 13 each. Two canastas to go out. First team to **8,500 points** wins.

Canasta bonuses

Canasta	Points
Natural Aces or 7s	2,500
Wild canasta	2,000 to 3,000
Natural (no wilds)	500
Mixed	300
Going out	100

Card values

Card	Points
Joker	50
Ace or 2	20
K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8	10
7, 6, 5, 4	5

Melded cards count only if your team has a canasta.

3s of one color

How many	0 canastas	1	2 or more
One	-100	0	+100
Two	-300	0	+300
Three	-500	0	+500
All four	-1,000	0	+1,000

First meld minimum

Your team's score	Minimum
Below 3,000	125
3,000 to 4,995	155
5,000 or more	180

Must include a clean triple (3 naturals of one rank).

Penalties

Penalty	Points
Unfinished meld of 7s or Aces	-2,500 each
Unfinished wild meld	-2,000
3 or more Aces or 7s left in hand	-1,500
Cards left in hand	minus their value

Rules to remember

- **Wild cards:** 2s and jokers. No more than 2 wilds in a meld. 7s never take wild cards.
- **Bonus cards:** after opening, the first team draws 4 extra cards and the second team draws 3.
- **Taking the pile:** use the top card with a natural pair from your hand, or add it to one of your team's melds.
- **3s:** lay down right away and draw a replacement. Never discard a 3.
- **Dead ranks:** once a canasta is complete, that rank is closed.
- **SWAD:** never discard a Seven, Wild, Ace or Dead card onto an empty pile.
- **Going out:** two canastas needed. Meld all but one card, then discard it.

Modern American Canasta Score Sheet

Write each hand's total, then keep a running score. First to 8,500 wins.

Team 1: _____ Team 2: _____

Hand	Team 1: this hand	Team 1: total	Team 2: this hand	Team 2: total
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				

First meld minimum: below 3,000 = 125 | 3,000 to 4,995 = 155 | 5,000+ = 180

Based on Canasta League of America rules.