Canasta Scoring Cheat Sheet

Keep this next to you at the table. First team to **5,000 points** wins.

Card values

Card	Points
Joker	50
2 or Ace	20
K, Q, J, 10, 9, 8	10
7, 6, 5, 4, black 3	5

Bonuses

Bonus	Points
Natural canasta (no wilds)	500
Mixed canasta	300
Going out	100
Going out concealed	200
Each red 3	100
All four red 3s	800

Points needed for your first meld

Your team's score	First meld must total
Below 0	15
0 to 1,495	50
1,500 to 2,995	90
3,000 or more	120

Rules to remember

- **Wild cards:** 2s and jokers. Every meld needs at least 2 natural cards and no more than 3 wild cards.
- **Canasta:** a meld of 7 cards. Your team needs at least one canasta to go out.
- **Red 3s:** lay down right away and draw a replacement. They count *against* you if your team hasn't melded.
- **Black 3s:** discard one to block the next player from taking the pile. Meld them only when going out.
- **Taking the pile:** use the top card right away in a meld with cards from your hand.
- **Frozen pile:** if a wild card is in the pile, or your team hasn't melded, you need a natural pair matching the top card.
- **End of hand:** add up your melds and bonuses, then subtract the cards left in your hand.

Watch the full lesson: **How To Play Canasta For Beginners** on YouTube at youtube.com/@puzzlinggames

Canasta Score Sheet

Write each hand's total, then keep a running score. First to 5,000 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 0 = 15 | 0 to 1,495 = 50 | 1,500 to 2,995 = 90 | 3,000+ = 120