

Slapjack

A fast-moving game for two or more players

Object of the game: Players aim to win all the cards

Deal: One player deals out all cards, face down. It does not matter if some players have one more card than others. Each player puts his cards face down in a neat pile in front of him. Players are not allowed to look at their cards.

Play: The player to the dealer's left turns over the top card of his pile and places it in the center. The next player on the left does the same, adding a face-up card on the pile.

Slapping a jack: When a jack is turned up, each player tries to be the first to put his hand on the card, or "slap the jack." The successful player wins the central pile of cards and shuffles them with his own pile. The player to the winner's left continues the game, placing a card face-up in the center.

Good to know: If more than one player slaps the jack, the winner is the player whose hand is underneath. If a player loses all his cards he can stay in the game if he is first to slap the next jack. But if he does not slap the next jack, he must retire from the game.

Penalty: If a player slaps a card that is not a jack, he must give his top card to the player whose card he slapped by mistake.

End: The winner of the game is either

- a) the first person to collect all the cards; or
- b) the player with the most cards at the end of a time limit set at the beginning of the game

Adapted from The Little Giant Encyclopedia of Card Games (Sterling, 1995)