

Zole

Zole or **Zolite** is a Latvian trick-taking cooperative card game for 3 to 5 players. Jacks and Queens are permanent trumps in the game. Six or ten cards are removed from the deck and left out of play.

Playing deck

The Zolite playing deck consists of all the Aces, Kings, Queens, Jacks, Tens and Nines plus the 8 of diamonds and 7 of diamonds. This gives a total of 26 cards. The game has a total of 14 trumps.

Rules

The game is trick-based and commonly played for money. There is no time limit for the party, but duration of the turn limited to 1 minute. If there are 4 players the dealer sits out the round while the remaining 3 play.

After cards have been dealt, each player in turn clockwise from the dealer gets one chance to declare they will be Big (Latvian: *Lielais*) and play against the other two as a team, or pass.

If any player declares themselves “Lielais”, the other two players are Small (Latvian: *Mazie*)

The target of the game is for “Lielais” to collect the majority of points available, i.e. 61 out of 120, which is the maximum quantity of points in the game. If both sides get 60 then the “Mazie” win. The value of the cards is as follows: Ace – 11 points, Ten – 10, King – 4, Queen – 3, Jack - 2, all other cards have zero value. It's worth to note that 10 is stronger and of higher value than the King, in some computer variant of the game Tens are marked as Ø.

| <i>Rank</i> | <i>Trump</i> | |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------|
| <i>1</i> | <i>Queen of Clubs</i> | <i>♣Q</i> |
| <i>2</i> | <i>Queen of Spades</i> | <i>♠Q</i> |
| <i>3</i> | <i>Queen of Hearts</i> | <i>♥Q</i> |
| <i>4</i> | <i>Queen of Diamonds</i> | <i>♦Q</i> |
| <i>5</i> | <i>Jack of Clubs</i> | <i>♣J</i> |
| <i>6</i> | <i>Jack of Spades</i> | <i>♠J</i> |
| <i>7</i> | <i>Jack of Hearts</i> | <i>♥J</i> |
| <i>8</i> | <i>Jack of Diamonds</i> | <i>♦J</i> |
| <i>9</i> | <i>Ace of Diamonds</i> | <i>♦A</i> |
| <i>10</i> | <i>Ten of Diamonds</i> | <i>♦10</i> |
| <i>11</i> | <i>King of Diamonds</i> | <i>♦K</i> |
| <i>12</i> | <i>Nine of Diamonds</i> | <i>♦9</i> |
| <i>13</i> | <i>Eight of Diamonds</i> | <i>♦8</i> |
| <i>14</i> | <i>Seven of Diamonds</i> | <i>♦7</i> |

