

American Mah Jongg Quick Reference & Resources

The Card

- The National Mah Jongg League Card (NMJL card) is your roadmap for every game. Read the rules on the back and study the hands and categories.
 - The 2025 card is valid through April 2026. A new card is issued each spring.
 - Order directly from NMJL: [Buy your card](#)
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Continue Learning

- Mahj Mind Blog: [Learning American Mahjong](#)
 - Videos: [Mahj Life YouTube](#)
 - Mah-Jongg FAQs: [Sloperama FAQs](#)
 - Online Practice: [Mahjong 4 Friends](#) *(Use the 2025 NMJL card)*
 - Instruction Book "Mah Jongg Made Easy" Revised Edition 2024 Order directly from NMJL: [Buy Book](#)
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Stay Connected

- Facebook: [Mahj Mind](#)
 - Facebook Group: [Mahj Mind AZ](#)
 - Instagram: @mahjmind
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Etiquette, Rules & Best Practices

Rules

- **Set expectations early:** Agree on NMJL rules and any house rules *before play begins*—and stick to them.
- **No peeking:** Don't look at your tiles until everyone has been dealt. Don't peek at passed tiles.
- **Phones away:** Silence notifications and keep devices off the table.
- **Mind the chatter:** Keep conversation light—don't point out mistakes, reveal hands, or chat during the Charleston.
- **Play with pace:** Don't stall the game, but don't rush so quickly that others can't call tiles.
- **Hands off racks:** Never touch another player's rack; exchange tiles by hand or slide gently.
- **Be gracious:** Celebrate the winner first. No play-by-play recaps or bad tempers.
- **Keep politics out:** Mahjong is your escape—leave divisive topics behind.

Best Practices

- **During Charleston,** pass tiles face down. Only the *second left* is stacked.
- **Wait your turn:** Don't rush the Charleston—move together as a group.
- **Rack clearly:** Place drawn tiles in the rack slope immediately; tapping on top doesn't count.
- **Announce discards:** Speak clearly when discarding. Correct mistakes quickly.
- **Playing with three:** NMJL says to skip the Charleston. Your group can agree on its own variation.

Most important: Be kind, be fair, and have fun! Mahjong is about connection as much as competition.