CARROM

HOW TO PLAY CARROM ?

Carrom, also referred to as Karrom, is a popular game in the Middle East and surrounding areas. The game is similar to a combination of billiards and shuffleboard, while being much more portable. It involves a tabletop board, and some small game pieces. As its popularity grows, more people are learning to play and love Carrom. You can play Carrom in tournaments, parks and your family home.

Instructions

1 Preparing the Game

The board should be a smooth wooden square of 72-74 centimeters. Each corner will have a 51 millimeter circular hole with a net under it, similar to a miniature pool table. The board has two concentric circles in the center, one the size of a playing piece and another larger circle. Two lines running at a diagonal from the corners create the foul lines. Lines running parallel to the sides create small rectangles known as the “Baseline.”[1] Some players choose to lubricate the board with boric acid, potato starch, or chalk dust to allow the pieces to move more freely over the wood. This is representative of a traditional Carrom board. Other boards come in variations of sizes large enough to to push pieces as you would in shuffle board. Some boards can also be shaped in hexagons to allow for more players.

2 Collect the pieces needed to play Carrom.

The game involves nine black or dark playing pieces, nine white or light-colored playing pieces, a red queen and a striker. Advanced players often own a personal striker. These can be up to four times heavier than a piece and are commonly made of bone or ivory Each player can bring their own striker, or one striker can be shared among all the players.

3 Place the queen in the center of the Carrom board.

The queen is the red playing piece. Begin by placing the queen in the small circle in the center of the board. The remaining dark and light pieces will be arranged around the queen within the larger circle.[3]

4 Arrange the light and dark playing pieces.

Place the first light piece along the diagonal from the queen, in the direction of the pocket where you would like to strike the piece. Alternate dark, then light pieces in a circle, clockwise, using the queen as the center point.[4] Place another light piece along the same diagonal as the original one, and alternate dark and light pieces clockwise around the first circle of pieces, until you have completed an outer circle of pieces.

5 Determine who will strike first. One player will hold a game piece in one hand.

The other player must guess which hand conceals the game piece. If the player guesses correctly, they can choose whether to strike first, or allow the other player the position of the light pieces, having them strike first and “break."[5] If the player chooses the incorrect hand, the player who held the piece will get to choose whether to strike first or pass to the other player. The first player can also be determined by flipping a coin.

6 Choose your seat at the Carrom board.

The player who strikes first will be seated in the position facing the lighter pieces. For a traditional, two-player game, the opponent will be seated on the opposite side of the board. Carrom is often played with four people playing as doubles. In this case, your partner is seated opposite you and assigned the same color pieces. Turns proceed clockwise in a game of doubles.