Overview

A game of Mahjong is played in multiple **rounds**, with each round consisting of several **hands**. The overall goal of the game is to score the most points; the goal of each hand is to form a **winning hand** of tiles before anyone else does. Most winning hands will consist of four **melds** (chows, pungs, or kongs) and one matched pair of tiles, but how many points winning hand is worth depends on what's in it and how it was built.

These rules are based on one particular version of Hong Kong Old Style Mahjong, but there are innumerable variants of game, with different tiles, scoring rules, and even rules of play. Feel free to tweak these rules to make it more fun; just r sure everyone in the group agrees what rules you are playing with before you start!

Tile Types

Suits — Circles, Bamboo, and Hanzi. The 1 and 9 of each suit are called the "terminals". Dragons — Red, Green, and White All types of dragons are "honour tiles" and grant extra points.

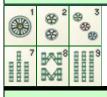
and that player goes first.

Bonuses — Seasons and Flowers

Grants extra points if you collect the right ones. When drawn, play immediately and draw a replacement.

Winds — East, South, West, and North
All winds are "honour tiles", but only the ones matching the round wind or your seat wind grant extra points.

Chow (three in a row)



Closed: form in your hand using tiles from the wall.

<u>Open</u>: form face-up by stealing the preceding player's discard and combining with two tiles in your hand Formed from suits only, not honour tiles. Usually the lowest-scoring form of meld.

Pung (three of a kind)



<u>Closed</u>: form in your hand using tiles from the wall.

Open: form face-up by stealing any player's discard and combining with two tiles in your hand.

Play continues to your right even if this skips someone.

Kong (four of a kind)



Winning

Next Hand

<u>Closed</u>: form in your hand using tiles from the wall, then play partially face up.

Open (Small): form face-up by adding a tile from the wall to a revealed pung.

Open (Large): form face-up by stealing **any** player's discard and adding to a concealed pung.

After playing, draw a replacement. Play continues to your right as with pung.

Plav

	Flay
Your Turn	Draw a tile, then choose a tile to discard (or declare victory if you can). You always end your turn by discarding, whether you drew a tile from the wall or stole a tile from someone else.
Stealing	After someone discards, other players have a few seconds to steal that tile to complete a meld or a win hand. If multiple players try to steal at once, winning beats kong, which beats pung, which beats chow Note that you can always steal if that tile would give you a winning hand, even if it wouldn't complete meld.
Replacements	After playing a bonus tile or a kong, draw a replacement tile from the back of the dead dead wall rathe than the front of the live wall.
Dead Wall	The last 14 tiles of the wall (7 columns) are the "dead wall". It's always 14 tiles long no matter how m tiles you've drawn from it.
Out of Tiles	The hand ends in a 4-way tie if there are only 14 tiles (the dead wall) left on the table.
XA/immim «	When drawing or stealing a tile gives you a winning hand (4 melds + 1 pair), reveal your hand and de

victory. You score points from the other players depending on the contents of the hand.

At the end of a hand (unless it was a tie), the East position moves to the player to the current East's rig

Next Round	Once every player has been East, the round wind changes to South and the South player goes first. After that comes West, then North.
Game End	A game usually ends after 1-4 rounds (depending on how long a game people want). It also ends immediately if any player runs out of points completely.

Setup

- (1) Choose a player to be East. Seat players counterclockwise E-S-W-N (reverse compass order). Decide on scoring rul
- (2) Shuffle tiles and build four walls, each one 18 tiles wide and 2 high. Push them together into a square.
- (3) East rolls 3d6; count that many seats around the table. That player counts that many tiles from the edge of their wall breaks the wall there. Players will draw tiles from the right side of the break.
- (4) Players draw two tiles at a time, starting with East, until everyone has 12 tiles; then one more tile each to make 13.
- (5) The round wind always starts at East, so the East player gets the first turn.

Between Hands

If a hand ends in a tie, just reshuffle the tiles, rebuild the walls, and play another hand.

If someone won, but not everyone has been the first player yet this round, the **seat winds** change; the player after the ct East becomes the new East (with the players after them being South, West, and North).

If everyone has already been first player this round, the **round wind** changes instead, in the same order:

East→South→West→North. The player whose seat matches the new round wind goes first.

Scoring

Players start with 500 **points**. The overall winner is the one with the most points at the end of the game.

Hands are scored in **faan**. Before playing, players should agree on a minimum number of faan to declare victory (usual 1-3) and a maximum faan per hand (usually 7 or 10; sometimes 13).

When someone wins a hand, the other players give them points based on the faan-to-points table below. If they won by stealing a tile from someone, the person they stole it from pays double. If they won by drawing a tile, **everyone** pays do

stealing a ti	le from someone	e, the pers	son they st	ole it fron	n pays double.	If they v	won by drawing a tile, eve	ryone pays do	
				Fa	an to Points				
Faan	0	1	2	3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13+	
Points	1	2	4	8	16	32	64	128	
Score Table									
Notes	2 (1) means that bonus is worth 2 if closed, 1 if open. 2 (-) means you only get the bonus if the hand is clo								
Notes	max means it automatically scores maximum faan. Anything that needs a pung, you can also use kongs fo								
				Alterna	te Winning H	lands			
max	Thirteen Orpha	ans			max		Nine Gates		
max	Eight Treasures						Seven Pairs		
Faan from Winning Move									
max	Win with your first draw				1		Last draw from the wall		
1	Steal the last discard			1		Any draw from the dead	wall		
1	Steal from a small kong			1 (-)		Normal draw from the w	all		
				Faar	n from Bonus	es			
2	All seasons			1		Per season or flower of your seat			
2	All flowers			1		No bonus tiles at all			
				Fa	an from Suits	3			
6 (5)	Full Flush All one suit, no honours			2 (1)		Pure Straight 1-9 of one	suit		
3 (2)	Half Flush All one suit, some honours			2 (1)		Three matching chow of	different suits		
3 (-)	Two sets of two matching chow of one suit			1 (-)		Two matching chow of o	ne suit		
				Faa	n from Meld	s			
max	Four kongs				2		Three kongs		
max (2)	Four pungs				2		Three closed pungs		
2	Three pungs with the same number			2		2 pungs + 1 pair of dragons			
Faan from Honours/Terminals									
max	Three wind pungs + wind pair or pung								
max	Three dragon pungs				2		Two dragon pungs + drag	gon pair	

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Only honours

Only terminals

max

max

All Simples No honours or terminals

One dragon pung

3 (2)	At least one terminal in each meld	1	Prevalent wind
2	Only terminals and honours	1	Seat wind