

American Mahjong Scoring Cheat Sheet



Scoring Basics

- ✓ Every valid hand has a point value printed on the NMJL card.
- ✓ The winner collects that amount from each of the other three players.
- ✓ Total collected = Hand Value × 3

Quick Payout Examples

Hand value		Total collected
25 points	→	75 points
30 points	→	90 points
40 points	→	120 points
50 points	→	150 points
75 points	→	225 points

Winning Checklist

- 1 Say “mahjong” clearly.
- 2 Reveal your hand face-up.
- 3 Match the hand to the NMJL card.
- 4 Confirm the point value.
- 5 Collect payment from each player.

Concealed vs. Exposed

- ✓ Some hands are concealed-only.
- ✓ Calling a discarded tile creates an exposure.
- ✓ Exposed hands cannot be used for concealed-only patterns.
- ✓ Accidentally exposing a concealed-only hand results in a dead hand.

Always check the hand requirements before making your first call.

Payment Rules

- ✓ All three players pay equally.
- ✓ No extra penalty for discarding the winning tile.
- ✓ Flowers do not add bonus points.
- ✓ Jokers do not add bonus points.
- ✓ Self-draw pays the same as a discard win.

Common Mistakes

- ⚠ Choosing low-value hands.
- ⚠ Declaring the wrong hand.
- ⚠ Forgetting a hand is concealed-only.
- ⚠ Miscalculating payments.
- ⚠ Using an outdated NMJL card.

Common Scoring Questions

- Q Do flowers add points?**
A No. Flowers only satisfy the requirements shown on the card.
- Q Do jokers increase hand value?**
A No. Jokers help complete hands but do not add points.
- Q Does self-draw earn extra points?**
A No. Under standard NMJL rules. Some house rules may offer.
- Q Do all players pay the winner?**
A Yes. Under NMJL scoring, each player pays the full hand value.

Key Reminders

- 🔔 Verify before declaring.
- 🔔 Use the current NMJL card.
- 🔔 Check concealed requirements.
- 🔔 Ask about house rules.
- 🔔 Confirm before collecting.
- 🔔 Match the hand exactly.
- 🔔 Count before collecting.
- 🔔 Collect from all players.



For educational purposes. Always follow the current NMJL card and any house rules agreed upon by your playing group.