
Letter of the Law

A Cribbage Story and Tutorial

USA Top Cribbage Player #1 - Revision 74 - January 21, 2020



Introduction

Cribbage is a game, played with cards and board and pegs. First to 121 wins, but don't worry, you won't win. Your opponent always has the Mo (momentum), Ad (advantage), Edge (Edge) and usually the Lead (Lead). If you are lucky enough to snag the Lead, chances are you still aren't winning. To learn more, see the sections related to: Skunks, Near Skunks, Vacuums, "You count first", "You have 3 hands to 1", Stinkhole'n and "Sheesh, another MONSTER hand".



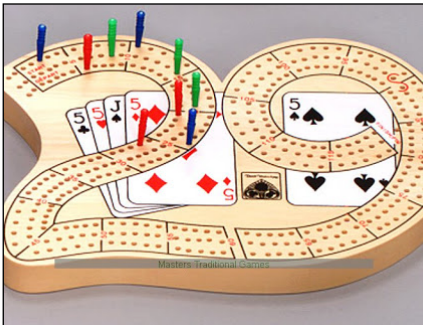
Talking at the Table

It is important to note that talking at the table during a cribbage match is **HIGHLY** encouraged. Your opponent definitely wants to know how good their hands are and how bad your hands are. It's important to follow a few rules:

- You opponent most like has the lead, let them know that said lead is insurmountable to gain on.
- Accuracy in numbers when talking is entirely optional. Are you losing (of course you are) by 11, round that up to 20... and let your opponent know.
- If by the Letter of the Law you attain a small lead, ensure your opponent knows that its nothing but luck and the other shoe will drop. Leading by 7? Nope, you are leading by 2... but certainly not winning.
- You're always going to throw the wrong cards to your opponents crib. Let them know about it.
- General phrases are accepted, context doesn't matter. Toss some good cards to your opponent? Saying something like, "Christ on crutches, I just threw you a requiem for a dream."

Vacuums

The Vacuum is a zone on the board where, if both players reside in its bounds, the player who is not about to deal is sure to win the game. The actual start and end of The Vacuum are hotly contested and often change from game to game, but it seems to reside anywhere from the 85 point line to the 100 point line. Occasionally some players will assert being inside The Vacuum at a much earlier or later point, but this is ~~simply a table talking strategy to be aware of and avoid~~ likely the truth.



If you find yourself in a Vacuum, your options are limited. There is a scientific 100000-1 chance that you get out with a win. You'll probably get skunked.