

About Hand and Foot Card Game

The Hand and Foot card game is a variation of Canasta. It originated in North America and is played with two piles of cards called a “hand” and a “foot,” hence the name. This differs from traditional Canasta, which uses just a hand pile. The game uses between four and seven full decks of cards and is designed to be played in teams.



Each team is normally made up of two players with only two teams playing at a time. That said, the game can still work with up to three or four teams. In some versions, the number of decks used is one more than the number of players. Other variations call for equal numbers of players and decks. So, for example, if you have six players, use six to seven decks of cards.

The large number of playing cards makes forming piles much easier in the Hand and Foot card game than with the standard version of Canasta. For that reason, most people feel the Hand and Foot card game is suitable for beginning players.