

Comparison of Basra Rules

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General Basra rules

Players and cards

A standard 52 card pack is used. As for players, they may be 2, 3 or 4 players. If there are four players, partners sit opposite each other. 4 players can play individually or in partnership.

Deal and Play

The cards are shuffled and the person to the left of the dealer cuts. The dealer may look at the bottom card of the pack after it has been cut.

The dealer then gives the four cards to each player, beginning with his right hand opponent, going around the table anticlockwise, and ending with himself. The next 4 cards are turned face up in the middle of the table. The area where the face up cards are set out is known as the "floor" - maybe the game was originally played on the floor, though nowadays it is normal to play on a table. If the cards on the floor include any jacks or the seven of diamonds, the dealer buries these cards in the undealt pack and replaces them by dealing new cards to the floor from the top of the undealt cards.

The player to dealer's right plays first and the turn to play passes anticlockwise. Each turn consists of playing one card face up to the floor and possibly capturing some of the cards that are there. Captured cards are placed face down in front of the player who captured them. When there are four players, partners keep the cards they have captured together in a single pile. When all players have played their four cards, the dealer gives them each another batch of four from the undealt cards (but no more cards are dealt to the floor) and play continues. When the whole pack has been dealt and the players have played their last four cards the play ends. The hand is scored and the turn to deal passes to the right.

Notes :-

[3] Basra can occur in the beginning or the end of the game.

[4] After the last card has been played, any cards that remain on the floor are taken by the player who last made a capture, but this does not count as a Basra

Comparison between Basra games, page (1)

Point	Cyproite (Bastra)	Lebanese Basra (1)	Lebanese (2) Ashush
Deck	52	52	52
Players	2 or 3 or 4	2 or 3 or 4	2 or 3 or 4
Cards	4	6	4 or 6
Play	player opposite the dealer	player opposite the dealer	player opposite the dealer
Collecting cards	<p><u>Pairing</u> (a card or cards of the same denomination) $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$</p> <p><u>Combining</u> (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together) $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$</p> <p><u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D+4S)$</p>	<p><u>Pairing</u> (a card or cards of the same denomination) $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$</p> <p><u>Combining</u> (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together) $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$</p> <p><u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D+4S)$</p>	<p><u>Pairing</u> (a card or cards of the same denomination) $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$</p> <p><u>Combining</u> (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together) $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$</p> <p><u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D+4S)$</p>
Scoring	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 16 points</p> <p>In a tie, each player or team receives 3. <i>There is a variant where no one receives 3 points when it's a tie.</i> A Bastra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack Basra = 10 Capturing a Jack with a Jack is a not a Basra, that is NO points at all.</p>	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 16 points</p> <p>In a tie, NO player or team receives 3 A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack Basra = 10 Capturing a Jack with a Jack is an ordinary Basra, that is 10 points.</p>	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 16 points</p> <p>In a tie, NO player or team receives 3 A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack only by pairing Basra = 10 Capturing a Jack with a Jack is an ordinary Basra, that is 10 points.</p>
End of the game	100/101 points If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.	101 points If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.	101 points If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.

Comparison of Basra games, page (2)

Point	Palestinian/Jordanian	Jordanian (variant)	Syrian Basra -ordinary	Syrian (Homs/ Nedal)
Deck	44 (Qs Ks removed)	52	52	44 (Qs Ks removed)
Players	2 or 3 or 4	2 or 3 or 4	2 or 3 or 4	2 or 3 or 4
Cards	4	4	4 or 6	4
Play	player opposite the dealer	player opposite the dealer	player opposite the dealer	player opposite the dealer
Collecting cards	<p><u>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</u> $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$ <u>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together)</u> $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$ <u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D+4S)$</p>	<p><u>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</u> $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$ <u>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together)</u> $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$ <u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D+4S)$</p>	<p><u>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</u> $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$ <u>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together)</u> $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$ <u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D+4S)$</p>	<p><u>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</u> $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$ <u>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together)</u> $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$ <u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D+4S)$</p>
Scoring	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 16 points In a tie, No player or team receives 3 until it's broken A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack Basra = double $7S = 7C \rightarrow 14$ points Capturing a Jack with a Jack is a not a Basra, i.e NO points because there is no value associated with the picture card, Jack</p>	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 16 points In a tie, No player or team receives 3 until it's broken A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack Basra = double $7S = 7C \rightarrow 14$ points Jack, Queen, King = 10 Capturing a Jack with another Jack is a double Basra, that is 20 points</p>	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 16 points In a tie, No player or team receives 3 until it's broken A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack Basra = double $7S = 7C \rightarrow 14$ points Queen = 3 points King = 4 points Jack = 12.5 Capturing a Jack with a Jack is a double Basra. You will acquire 25 points.</p>	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 16 points In a tie, No player or team receives 3 until it's broken A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack Basra = double $7S = 7C \rightarrow 14$ points Jack = 12.5 Capturing a Jack with a Jack is a double Basra. You will acquire 25 points.</p>
End of the game	101 points or 150 If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.	101 points or 150 If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.	101 points or 150 If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.	101 points or 150 If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.

Comparison of Basra games, page (3)

Point	Egyptian Basra	Yemeni Basra	Ethiopian Basra
Deck	52	52	52
Players	2 or 3 or 4	2 or 3 or 4	2 or 3 or 4
Cards	4	4	4
Play	player opposite the dealer	player opposite the dealer	player opposite the dealer
Collecting cards	<p>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</p> <p>7 S = 7 C 7H=7C+7S</p> <p>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together) 7 S = Ace C + 6H</p> <p>Pairing+ combining 9S = 9H, (5D+4S)</p>	<p>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</p> <p>7 S = 7 C 7H=7C+7S</p> <p>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together) 7 S = Ace C + 6H</p> <p>Pairing+ combining 9S = 9H, (5D+4S)</p>	<p>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</p> <p>7 S = 7 C 7H=7C+7S</p> <p>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together) 7 S = Ace C + 6H</p> <p>Pairing+ combining 9S = 9H, (5D+4S)</p>
Scoring	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1</p> <p>2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3</p> <p>All cards =30 Total = 43 points</p> <p>In a tie, No player or team receives 30 until broken</p> <p>A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack or 7 diamonds</p> <p><i>If the cards on the floor are all numerals, and their values add up to 10 or less, this counts as a Basra.</i></p> <p><i>If the floor adds up to more than ten, or includes picture cards, the ♦7 still takes all the cards but it doesn't count as a Basra. If you play the ♦7 to an empty floor, it stays there and can be captured later just like a normal 7)</i></p> <p>Basra = 10</p> <p>Capturing a Jack with a Jack is a double Basra, that is 20 points.</p>	<p>Each Ace= 1 Each Jack =1</p> <p>2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3</p> <p>All cards =30 Total = 43 points</p> <p>In a tie, No player or team receives 30 until it's broken</p> <p>A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack or 7 diamonds</p> <p><i>7 diamonds is a Basra in these cases</i></p> <p>a-The total value of the cards on the floor is less than 10 (not if it is equal to 10)</p> <p>b- The floor cards are 10s, Qs and Ks</p> <p>c- The cards on the floor can be divided into two or more groups which score an equal number of points, less than 10. For example capturing A-2-7-8 with the diamonds 7 would be a Basra, because (1+8)=(2+7)=9</p> <p>Basra = 10</p> <p>Capturing a Jack with a Jack is a double Basra, that is 20 points.</p>	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1</p> <p>2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3</p> <p>All cards =3 Total = 16 points</p> <p>In a tie, NO player or team receives 3</p> <p>A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack OR 7 Diamonds</p> <p><i>If the cards on the floor are all numerals, and their values add up to 10 or less, this counts as a Basra. If the floor adds up to more than ten, or includes picture cards, the ♦7 still takes all the cards but it doesn't count as a Basra. Grouping is allowed, so capturing A-2-7-8 with the diamonds 7 would be a Basra, because (1+8)=(2+7)=9</i></p> <p><i>If you play the ♦7 to an empty floor, then any card except the Jack can capture it with a Basra award.</i></p> <p>Basra = 10</p> <p>Capturing a Jack with a Jack is NOT permitted. The Prince/Jack card is impossible to Basra, (and also a Jack cannot do Basra on another Jack).</p>
End of the game	<p>101/121 points</p> <p>If there is a tie and each team has 26 cards, these 30 points are held in abeyance, and added to the score for the majority of cards on the next hand. Here, a player gets 60 points.</p>	<p>101 points</p> <p>If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.</p>	<p>52</p> <p>If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.</p>

Comparison of Basra games, page (4)

Point	Egyptian Basra (variant - Mona Russel)	Sab'a Alkoomi
Deck	52	52
Players	2 or 3 or 4	2 or 3 or 4
Cards	4	4
Play	player opposite the dealer	player opposite the dealer
Collecting cards	<p><u>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</u> $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$</p> <p><u>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together)</u> $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$</p> <p><u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D + 4S)$</p>	<p><u>Pairing (a card or cards of the same denomination)</u> $7S = 7C$ $7H = 7C + 7S$</p> <p><u>Combining (Multiple cards by adding the numeral value of the cards together)</u> $7S = \text{Ace } C + 6H$</p> <p><u>Pairing+ combining</u> $9S = 9H, (5D + 4S)$</p>
Scoring	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 7 of diamonds = 1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 17 points</p> <p>In a tie, No player or team receives 3 until broken A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack or 7 diamonds <i>(7 diamonds collects all ground cards, but it does not count as a Basra)</i> Basra = 10 Capturing a Jack with a Jack is a double Basra, that is 20 points.</p>	<p>Each Ace=1 Each Jack =1 2 clubs=2 10 Diamonds=3 All cards =3 Total = 16 points</p> <p>In a tie, No player or team receives 3 until broken A Basra occurs when a player collects all the cards on the table with a card other than a Jack or 7 diamonds <i>(7 diamonds collects all ground cards, but it does not count as a Basra)</i> Basra = 10 Capturing a Jack with a Jack is a double Basra, that is 20 points.</p>
End of the game	100 or 200 points If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.	101 or 121 points If there is a tie, more hands are played until the tie is broken.

References

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- https://books.google.jo/books?id=-1535Zgqe7YC&printsec=frontcover&dq=Egypt+Mona+Russell&hl=en&sa=X&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Egypt%20Mona%20Russell&f=false (*Egyptian Basra variant, Mona Russel*)