

The Game of 49, Rules Summary

For 2 to 5 players, age 10 and up, 30 minutes playing time
(See sample turns on reverse)

Equipment

49 game board • 5 sets of colored chips • 60 number cards • card tray • paper money (\$1s, \$5s, \$10s, and \$20s) • rules

Object

Be the first player to place four of your chips in a row on the board, horizontally, vertically, or diagonally. (In a 5-player game, three in a row wins.)

Start

Place the game board in the center of the table. Shuffle the cards and place them facedown in the card tray. Choose a start player. Give each player a set of chips of one color and \$49 (3 x \$10, 3 x \$5, 4 x \$1). Keep your money secret.

Play

Start player draws and reveals the top number card, which is then auctioned off. On his or her turn, a player must increase the previous bid (whole dollar amounts only) or “pass” to withdraw permanently from the current auction. Bidding more money than held is illegal.

Winning bidder pays the bank, claims the number card, and places a chip on the corresponding board space. The next player clockwise then draws a card to start the next auction.

Get money

Draw and auction a Wild+Payoff card. Winning bidder places a chip as permitted by the card, then all players receive a payoff of \$7 per chip on the board, \$49 maximum.

“49”

The deck contains five “49” cards, so the space may be auctioned off multiple times during a game. The winning bidder for a “49” card claims the space with a chip, bumping an opponent’s chip if necessary. If the winning bidder already occupies the 49 space, he or she retains the space and may place an additional chip on any unoccupied space on the game board.



The Game of 49, sample turns for a 3-player game

(See Rules Summary on reverse)

Red is chosen as starting player. Red draws the top card from the card tray, the 26, and opens the bidding at \$1.

Green bids \$2.

Blue bids \$4.

Red raises the bid to \$7, after which Green and Blue pass.

Red pays \$7 to the bank and places his red chip on the 26 board space.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	25	26	27	28	29	8
23	40	41	42	43	30	9
22	39	48	49	44	31	10
21	38	47	46	45	32	11
20	37	36	35	34	33	12
19	18	17	16	15	14	13

Red passes the card tray to Green who draws the top card, the 14. Green opens the bidding at \$2.

Blue bids \$4.

Red passes.

Green bids \$6, after which Blue also passes.

Green pays \$6 to the bank and places her Green chip on the 14 board space.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	25	26	27	28	29	8
23	40	41	42	43	30	9
22	39	48	49	44	31	10
21	38	47	46	45	32	11
20	37	36	35	34	33	12
19	18	17	16	15	14	13

Green passes the card tray to Blue who draws the top card, the 42. Blue checks (declines to open the bidding).

Red opens the bidding at \$5.

Green bids \$7.

Blue bids \$8. (A player who checks may participate in the auction after another player opens the bidding.)

Red ultimately wins the auction at a price of \$12. He pays the bank and places his chip on 12, and now has two chips diagonally in a row.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	25	26	27	28	29	8
23	40	41	42	43	30	9
22	39	48	49	44	31	10
21	38	47	46	45	32	11
20	37	36	35	34	33	12
19	18	17	16	15	14	13

Blue passes the card tray to Red who draws a Wild+Payoff 41–48 card. Red opens the bidding at \$1.

Green sees that Red will have three chips in a row if he wins the auction and places a chip on 44. Green can help her own cause by outbidding Red and placing a chip on either 46 or 48. But Green instead decides to let Blue pay the price to block Red. Green passes.

Blue raises the bid for the Wild/Payoff 41–48 card to \$4.

Red knows he has less money in hand than Blue but bids up the price before eventually passing, after Blue bids \$16.

Blue pays \$16 to the bank and places a chip on 47.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
24	25	26	27	28	29	8
23	40	41	42	43	30	9
22	39	48	49	44	31	10
21	38	47	46	45	32	11
20	37	36	35	34	33	12
19	18	17	16	15	14	13

Each player now receives a payoff from the bank—\$7 per chip on the board: Red receives \$14 and Green and Blue receive \$7 each. (Red now has \$44, Green \$50, and Blue \$40.)

Red passes the card tray to Green who draws the next card, and play continues.