

## PLAYING COOYAH

Many of us learned to play the card game Cuyou or Cooyah (as it's spelled here) but how many of us remember much about it? According to the website [pagat.com](http://pagat.com): "Couillon is a popular Belgian card game... The name "couillon" almost certainly derives from the Walloon word coyon (=testicle), which refers to the circles or balls that were traditionally used as part of the method of keeping score. However, in Flanders and Luxembourg, the name has been modified to the similar sounding Kwajongen and Kujong respectively."

These are the basic rules of play but local variations exist:

1. Separate the deck using only the nine, ten, Jack, Queen, King and Ace cards.
2. There are four or six players in fixed teams of two seated in every other chair.
3. Dealer shuffles the cards. Person to the dealer's right cuts the cards.
4. Dealer deals 4 cards to each person.
5. The top card is turned up from the remaining deck and the suit of that card is the proposed trump.
6. Going clockwise, starting with the player to the dealer's left, each player has the chance to "go" by accepting the suit of the trump card. If all four players pass, the bottom card from the deck is turned up and it becomes trump.
7. The player to the dealer's left plays the first card.
8. Each player must either play a card following the suit of the first player's card or a trump card. If the player does not have a trump or card of the lead suit, any card can be played.
9. The "trick" is won by the highest trump card, or if there is no trump card, the highest card of the suit that was led. The winner of the trick takes all of the cards. If there is a tie, the team that wins the next game gets an extra point.
10. Card values are:
  - Any trump card always takes any non trump card.
  - 9 & 10 - 0
  - Jack - 1
  - Queen - 2
  - King - 3
  - Ace - 4
11. The player that wins the trick plays the lead card of the next trick.
12. When all cards dealt have been played, points for each team are added up. The team with the highest total wins 1 game point. If the team that "goes" scores fewer card points than the other team, they lose a game point. If there is a tie, neither team wins a point. Play continues to 7 points or as decided before play starts.

Joe DuBois  
foreground with back  
to camera, then left  
clockwise, unknown,  
Donald DuBois,  
Vincent Pommier,  
Jim DuBois (child),  
unknown, Cliff  
DuBois

