

Taiwan Snackbar

Ages 8 and up

For 3 to 10 players (the more the better!)

Game Length: 15-30 minutes

Genre: Party Game

This rule book is available for download at www.smiling-monster.de.

Background Story

One of Taipei's most famous snackbars is holding its annual eating competition: Enormous amounts of Taiwan's most delicious snacks are being served by their most beautiful servers, making your mouth water. They're serving Taiwanese Oyster Omelet, Filled Bamboo Leaves, Steamed Dumplings, Braised Pork Rice, Pig Blood Rice Sticks and the notorious Stinky Tofu. People from near and far gather to take part in the competition or just to watch the spectacle (and/or the servers). In this competition you will eat more than you can imagine as your competitors continually challenge you to shove even more in. Play your cards cleverly or the servers will serve you food until you fall from your seat. Let your competitors be the ones to fill up until they drop and the snack bar throne will be yours!

Game Components

108 playing cards:

6 Dish Cards:

16 cards of 2 points: Two Servings Stinky Tofu (chou dou fu)

14 cards of 3 points: Three Servings Taiwanese Oyster Omelette (o-a-chian)

12 cards of 4 points: Four Servings Filled Bamboo Leaves (zong zi)

10 cards of 5 points: Five Servings Steamed Dumplings (xiao long bao)

8 cards of 6 points: Six Servings Braised Pork Rice (lu rou fan)

6 cards of 7 points: Seven Servings Pig Blood Rice Sticks (zhu xie gao)

3 Special Action Cards:

8 cards of Change Direction

8 cards of Choose Player

10 cards of One More

Round-Ending Cards:

6 cards of No More

Defeat Cards:

10 cards of Minus Point(s) (front side: minus 1 point, back side: minus 2 points)

Game Preparation

1. The player who looks the most like a dedicated eater is the starting player.
2. The starting player sets the 6 No More cards and the 10 Defeat Cards aside and shuffles all the other cards. The dealer then deals 5 of the shuffled cards to each player. The remaining cards will be the Draw Pile.
3. The starting player shuffles a certain number of No More cards into the Draw Pile: The players decide together how many No More cards will be used in each competition round – more cards might mean more excitement! (We suggest starting with one No More card in the first round, two No More cards in the second round, etc.). The Draw Pile is placed face down in the middle of the table.
4. The starting player starts the game, after that, players take turns in a clockwise direction.

Game Rules

On their turn, players can either play cards or draw cards. After cards have been drawn or played, it's the next player's turn.

Play Cards

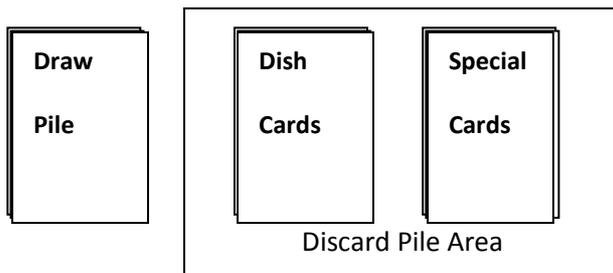
If you want to (or have to) play cards you may choose one of the following three options:

1. Play Dish Cards:

a. Order Food

The starting player will usually play a Dish Card to order food for the next player. The number on the Dish Card shows how many servings he or she orders for the next player. The next player has to eat that much (draw that many cards) unless he or she plays their own card(s) according to the rules and passes the food on to the next player. If passed on, the number of the food servings will accumulate. The accumulated number of servings is called "Collected Food Points" (CFP or CoFoPo). If these Collected Food Points are 0, the next player may not draw any cards, but can only play cards. There are other ways to play cards instead of ordering food for the next player, but at the beginning of the game it makes sense for the starting player to order food.

Place the played Dish Cards on a discard pile next to the Draw Pile. If, later in the game a player plays a Special Card, the Special Card is discarded in a different discard pile.



Example: It's player A's turn. The current number for Collected Food Points is 0 so player A can only play cards. In this example, Player A plays a "Two Servings Stinky Tofu" card and by doing this, the Collected Food Points are raised to 2. Now Player B has to draw 2 cards or do another action as described below.

b. Reorder Food

If it's your turn and the Collected Food Points are higher than 0, you have to eat (draw cards) or, if you don't want to eat, reorder food. To reorder, you can play the same card as the top card on the Dish Card discard pile. The number of servings on your card is added to the Collected Food Points and passed on to the next player. The new Collected Food Points now equal the former Collected Food Points plus the number on the card you just played.

Example: Continuing with the example above, it's now Player B's turn. Player B doesn't want to draw cards, so he/she plays a "Two Servings Stinky Tofu" card. The Collected Food Points are raised to 4 (2 from Player A and 2 from Player B). Now Player C has to draw 4 cards unless he/she also has a "Two Servings Stinky Tofu" card in order to pass the food on to the next player.

2. Play Two Dish Cards

Change Food Orders

If it's your turn, you can play two cards of the same type, regardless of the currently played Dish Card or the Collected Food Points. Playing two cards of the same type changes the food order and resets the Collected Food Points value: The new Collected Food Points equal the number of one of the cards you just played.

Example: It's now player C's turn. Player C plays two "Three Servings Oyster Omelette" cards to change the food order. Now player C doesn't have to draw cards and the Collected Food Points are changed to 3 (the number on the topmost card of the Draw Pile). Next, it's player D's turn. Player D could now play another "Three Servings Oyster Omelette" card to raise the Collected Food Points to 6 so player E would have to draw 6 cards, or player D could play two cards of another type, for example "Seven Servings Pig Blood Rice Sticks", which would change the Collected Food Points to 7, or Player D could draw 3 cards (because Collected Food Points have a value of 3 now).

3. Play Special Cards

If it's your turn, you may also choose to play a Special Card. There are three different Special Cards:

Change Direction – Changes the direction the game is played. If the order was clockwise before, it is now counter-clockwise and vice versa.

Choose Player – the one playing this card may choose any one of the other players to be the next in line. The direction and order of the game isn't affected by this but it can mean that several players will skip a turn.

One More – raises the Collected Food Points value by one. Then it's the next player's turn.

Example: Player A starts his/her turn when the Collected Food Points are 0. Player A plays a "Five Servings Steamed Dumplings" card. Next in turn is player B. Player B plays a "One More" Special Card so the collected food point value is raised to 6 (5+1). Now it's player C's turn. Player C plays another "Five Servings Steamed Dumplings" card, raising the Collected Food Points value to 11 (5+1+5).

Don't Forget: The discarded Special Cards will be placed in a different Discard Pile next to the played Dish Cards so they don't cover up the topmost Dish Card.

Drawing cards

As soon as the servers start piling up food (Collected Food Points > 0), and you don't have the right cards to play according to the rules above, or if you're still really hungry, you can help yourself and eat some more snacks (draw cards). Each card drawn from the Draw Pile has to be shown to all other players. Draw as many cards as the Collected Food Points show. No more, no less. After you've drawn the cards, the Collected Food Points get reset to 0, as all ordered food has been eaten.

Example: According to the example above, the collected food point count is 11. Now it's player D's turn. Player D decides to eat it up, so he has to draw 11 cards from the Draw Pile.

If, on his or her turn, a player decides (or is forced) to draw cards, then 'to draw or not to draw' a 'No More' card determines how the game continues:

A. You don't draw a No More card

All drawn Dish Cards and Special Cards are added to your hand, your turn is finished, and the next player continues.

B. You draw a No More card

All drawn Dish Cards and Special Cards are added to your hand, and each No More card drawn counts as minus 1 point. To show a player's current negative points, place a Defeat Card in front of the player who drew the No More card. After that, the No More card, as well as all played Dish Cards and Special Cards from the Discard Pile are put back into the Draw Pile and the Draw Pile gets reshuffled. The game then continues on to the next player.

Special Rules

If you're not holding any cards at the start of your turn, draw three cards from the Draw Pile first. You must show these cards to all other players as well. If you draw a No More card, it counts as a negative point, but in this case, it won't influence the Collected Food Points. After you've drawn three cards, your turn starts as usual.

If all cards from the Draw Pile have been drawn and there aren't enough cards left, the Collected Food Points get reset to 0, the cards get reshuffled, and the game continues on to the next player.

End of the Game

After a player collects three or more negative points, the game is over. At this time, the player with the least amount of negative points wins. If there is a tie, then the player with the most cards in his or her hand wins. If both still have the same score, both are winners.

Alternate Rules

Each player who draws a No More card immediately leaves the round. All cards from his or her hand, the No More card, and all Dish Cards and Special Cards from the Discard Pile are placed back into the Draw Pile and reshuffled. After that, it's the next player's turn until only one player is left.

Introduction to Taiwanese Snacks

To make it easier for you to surf for more information and photos of these snacks, check out www.wikipedia.org. The Latin transcriptions of their original Chinese names have been added in the parenthesis after the English names. Key these names into the Wikipedia search bar to see these wonderful Taiwanese snacks show up on your screen.

Stinky Tofu (chou dou fu)

Stinky Tofu is fermented tofu (bean curd). Usually, you fry Stinky Tofu whole or cut into four pieces, then serve it with a special sauce and Taiwanese pickled vegetables. By frying, the outer skin becomes crispy, which blends well with the very special taste of the Stinky Tofu. Stinky Tofu has a very unique but fine taste.

Taiwanese Oyster Omelette (o-a-chian)

Taiwanese Oyster Omelette is made from eggs, oysters and a kind of cabbage. First, cook the meats of eight to ten oysters, then add slightly beaten eggs and the cabbage. As soon as the oysters are done, you add a mixture of tapioca starch, yam starch and water as a binding agent, and let the whole omelet cook until done. The resulting oyster omelet is served with a sauce mixed from soy sauce, tomatoes and other ingredients. The fresh oysters give the omelet a very special taste.

Filled Bamboo Leaves (zong zi)

The main ingredients for Filled Bamboo Leaves are sticky rice, meat, prawns, egg and peanuts. These ingredients are formed into rice dumplings that are wrapped up in bamboo leaves to form pyramidal or long, flat pieces. There are many regional differences for preparing Filled Bamboo Leaves so it isn't exactly set how much of which ingredients the leaves are filled with so the taste differs from region to region. Filled Bamboo Leaves can be cooked or steamed.

Steamed Dumplings (xiao long bao)

Steamed Dumplings are dumplings filled mainly with minced meat and minced spring onions. They are kneaded together to form a thick mass. The mixture is then placed on a thin sheet of dough and folded up to form small dumplings of 4 centimeters in diameter. The dumplings are steamed in a bamboo basket. Several baskets filled with dumplings are piled on top of each other and placed over the stove. With the first bite, you not only taste the exquisite filling, but can also sip the delicious meat juice.

Braised Pork Rice (lurou fan)

Braised Pork Rice is mainly made from rice and pork. Braised Pork Rice also has many regional differences and nearly every restaurant uses its own recipe. Even the size of the pork varies; some use minced pork, others cut the pork into tiny cubes. The pork meat is then stewed in a sauce made of soy sauce and various spices. The stewed pork and the stock are then poured over rice and served with a pickled egg or other small treats.

Pig Blood Rice Sticks (zhu xie gao)

Pig Blood Rice Sticks mainly consist of pig's blood mixed into sticky rice and cooked until solid. Then you add ground peanuts and coriander on top of the finished rice stick and provide a sauce to dip it in. Pig Blood Rice Sticks can be eaten as a small snack or even as a main meal. The taste is very strong and distinct, the consistency is elastic, and the ground peanuts and coriander harmonize with the natural taste of the Pig Blood Rice Sticks.

Many thanks to the following game testers: Meir, God, TA, Black Bear, 200, Mr. Perfect, Dolphine, Odysseus, Shop Helper, White Hair, Sugar Bull, Sea Cucumber, Shenwei, Roger, Pistol God, the board game group Taizhong and the participants of the Taipei gamer meeting 2006.

Very special thanks from the author to: Renxing Kongjian (Human Nature Space Café), the board game group Taizhong and the Taiwanese game design group VoCannon.

Author: Muyu Cang

Illustrations: Xuanzi Lin

Graphic Design and Layout: Idgie Lo

© 2010 Swan Panasia Co.,Ltd.