Tali (Knucklebones)

This Greek and Roman game was the Yahtzee! of its time.

The "dice" were actual sheep knucklebones (although the Romans got fancy with other materials) with four sides -a 6, 4, 3, 1 usually denoted by marks, but elaborate ones would have pictures.



Roll four knucklebones. Your results should match up with one of the following. The highest number wins.

There Can Be Only One rules:

Get a group of four or more. Each rolls their tali. The lowest is out. Each continues to roll, each time eliminating the lowest until only one remains.

I Want Points!

Emperor Augustus played for money. Anyone throwing the Dogs puts 4 coins in the pot, and the first player to throw a Venus would take all. We will do so with points. Players throwing dogs will lose those points. Anyone rolling Venus will gain them. We'll change it up and say 50 points instead of 4 coins.

SCORING RULES FOR TALI: (1,3,4,6): Venus -- all four tall with different sides. (6,6,6,4): Total = 22 (6,6,6,3): Total = 21 (6,6,4,4): Total = 20 (6,6,6,1): Total = 19 (high) (6,6,4,3): Total = 19 (6,6,3,3): Total = 18 (6,6,4,1): Total = 17 (6,6,3,1): Total = 16 (4,4,4,3): Total = 15 (6,6,1,1) : Total = 14 (high) (4,4,3,3): Total = 14 (4,4,4,1): Total = 13 (4,4,3,1): Total = 12 (4,3,3,1): Total = 11 (4,4,1,1) : Total = 10 (high) (3,3,3,1): Total = 10 (4,3,1,1): Total = 9 (3,3,1,1): Total = 8 (4,1,1,1): Total = 7 (3,1,1,1): Total = 6 (6,x,x,x): Senio -- a single six and anything (6,6,6,6): Vultures -- all four tall the same (4,4,4,4): Vultures -- all four tali the same (3,3,3,3): Vultures -- all four tall the same (1,1,1,1): *Dogs* -- lowest of the Vultures