

Shut the Box

Shut the box is a simple, but rather desirable game of dice for almost any number of players. It consists of a board with a row of 10 tiltable flaps and two dice. At the beginning of the game all the flaps are set in the perpendicular position. The aim is to turn all of them to the horizontal. How this is done determined by throwing both dice giving a combination of numbers. The player adds the number of both dice and can then decide in which combination he wants to play out the sum. Please note that with each turn the complete sum must be used up and that no number may be left over.

Examples: number on dice tiltable flaps

2	No. 2
3	No. 3, or No. 2 and No.1
4	No. 4, or No. 1 and No.3
5	No. 5, or No. 1 and No. 4 or No.2 and No.3
6	No. 6, or No.1 and No. 5 or, No. 2 and No. 4 or, No.1, 2 and 3

The higher the number, the more possibilities there are and so here we forego showing further examples. Dice are thrown in one turn for as long as flaps can be closed. If it is not possible for a player to use the number in any combination his turn is finished and the remaining open flaps are taken into his account as minus points.. These points can be determined in either of the two following different ways, which has to be previously decided upon:

- the numbers are written down from left to right as one number
- the numbers are added up.

Example:

If the remaining open flaps are No. 2, 3 and 4, then an 8 cannot be used up. The minus points for the open flaps are either 234 or $2+3+4=9$. After noting the minus points it is the next player's turn and up to a previously determined number of points per player are played out. The player with the fewest minus points is the winner. However if a player can close all flaps he calls out "Shut the box" no matter how many minus points he has at that time.