

Other Games People Play: Fives to Fifty-One

By Al Horton

A reader from California has introduced me to another interesting "game people play": Fives to 51. This game may be played by any number, each of whom is trying for a common goal: 51 points. The basic object is to gain points. This is achieved with scores (per three-dart round) that are a multiple of 5. To count in this game, your round must add up to a total that is divisible by 5, with nothing remaining. What you earn is the number of times 5 goes into your three-dart total. A five-dart game is possible (180 plus bull,dbull).

Since I created a monster with that explanation, here is a sample game to clear the air:

Score	Points	Total
Player 1		
26	0	0
85	17	17
43	0	17
Player 2		
41	0	0
40	8	8
50	10	18
Player 3		
60	12	12
55	11	23
85	17	40

Every multiple of 5 gains a point toward your total score. If the total of three darts cannot be evenly divided by 5, the score for that throw is zero. This goes on until a player accumulates 51 points. Exactly 51. If a competitor scores more than that, the bust-back rule of Darts applies. That player's score reverts back to what he or she had at the start of the prior turn.

To better explain this rule, let's look at Player 3, who has amassed 40 points already. If she throws another 85, that will earn her 17 more points and put her over 51. Her score, therefore, busts back to 40. Player 3 needs to shoot for a score that will gain her precisely 11 points. A 55 and only a 55 will do it.

I can sense your devious minds at work. Yes, there's more to this game than what I've told you. You **MUST** score with all three darts, or your turn counts zero, zip, nada, nothing! This rule applies also to the turn that will end the game.

To make the game harder, and yes I did say harder, count the total score of three

darts thrown; divide by 5; drop the remainder; and subtract these points from your total points. Now if you make a mistake, you pay for it.

As you can imagine, that's the expert method. For those of you who — like me — need assistance now and again from Blind Luck, try using this easier version. Accuracy is still required, and this kind of Fives to 51 is a good practice game. Aim only at the numbers divisible by 5 (5, 10, 15, 20, bull). Every time you hit one, count points toward the overall score. For example, bull = 5, 20 = 4, 15 = 3, 10 = 2, 5 = 1. The triple and double of those numbers count for 3 and 2 times the pie wedge total, respectively. And this version can also be made harder by subtracting the bad throws, like punishment for doing wrong.

To introduce newcomers to Darts for the

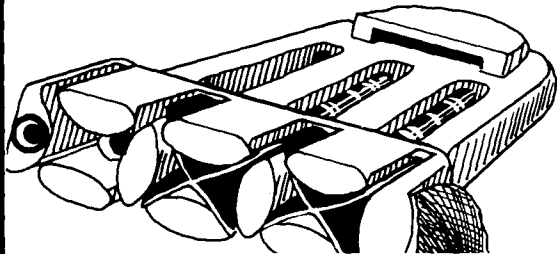
first time, you might want to try this easier variation on Fives to 51. It requires little to no skill but still gives new players a chance to aim and practice their dart math. Count the total score of three darts; divide by 5; and drop the remainder or round it to the next higher or lower number. This will be your point total. Accumulate points toward the game-winning score of 51, but don't worry about going over 51. In this version, you just try to equal 51 or get past it.

Fives to 51 is an exciting game that can be slightly modified to meet the needs and skill level of any player. Thank you, Debbie Kelly of the Antelope Valley Darts Organization, for sharing your practice/fun game with BEN. And if you haven't already figured it out Ms. Kelly is player #3 above and I'm #1. Note: There is no final score, and I do not care to divulge the winner's name at this time...



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