



The Russian Mafia Murder Game

As played by young people from Orenburg, Russia

Equipment

Playing cards

- 4 Black Suit Cards - Mafia
- Ace of Hearts - Doctor
- Red Joker - Policeman
- Red Suit Cards (as required) - Ordinary citizens

Method

One individual is appointed the administrator.

The players sit in a circle and the cards are dealt out.

Players note what their card is, then keep it hidden.

The administrator announces "It is night and all players go to sleep." and all players close their eyes.

The administrator announces "The Mafia wakes up."

The Mafia players open their eyes and without speaking agree on a victim. They do this by pointing at one of the "sleeping" players.

The administrator announces "The Mafia go back to sleep." then "The Doctor wakes up."

The player who is the Doctor points to one of the sleeping players. If it is the intended victim, the victim is saved.

The administrator announces "The Doctor goes back to sleep." and then "The Policeman wakes up."

The policeman attempts to guess a member of the Mafia by pointing. The administrator nods or shakes his head depending on whether the guess is correct.

The administrator announces that "The Policeman goes back to sleep." then "Everyone wakes up."

The administrator states the name of the victim showing the other players the victims playing card, or announces "Nobody was killed". The "victim" remains to witness the remainder of the game and no longer has to "go to sleep" but is not allowed to speak or indicate in anyway.

Those players who are alive now decide who is to be removed during the day. The Mafia know who their fellow Mafia members are and will try to encourage the ordinary players to choose a non Mafia member. The Doctor may know someone who is not a Mafia member and the Policeman will know the truth about one player. Any one in danger of being chosen will try to persuade the other players that he is not Mafia and will suggest others more worthy.

All players with particular roles try to keep them hidden during these discussions. The Mafia will target at night the Doctor or the Policeman if they can. Voting requires at least a majority of players to agree but is decided on the highest vote of hands as players can vote as often as they wish. When the players agree who is to be removed, that individual hands over his playing card, which is then disclosed to the remaining players.

All players still alive then go to sleep and the routine is repeated until,

All Mafia members are eliminated, or

There are more Mafia members left than other players.

