

NINE PINS



In colonial Virginia men and women of all classes enjoyed the popular pastime known as ninepins. The game proved to be an amusing distraction as early as 1690 when young William Ward received a reprimand for testing his skill at ninepins instead of watching the cows.

How to Play:

Ninepins can be played with two or more players. The object of the game is to roll the ball and knock down as many of the wooden pins as possible. The first player to score exactly 31 points is the winner. To begin, the ninepins are set up at one end of the table in a single row horizontal to the players, or in three rows of three. The players stand at the other end of the table and take turns casting the ball at the pins. After each player takes a turn, a point is scored for each pin knocked down. Once all nine have been knocked down, they are set up again. Players continue to knock down pins until someone wins by scoring exactly 31 points. If a player goes over 31 points, he must knock down all nine pins on his next turn in order to win the game.