

## **ASIA POKER**

### **Rules of the Game**

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#### **1. Definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in the Rules of the Game of Asia Poker, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*Copy hand* - means either a high hand, medium hand or low hand of a player that is identical in rank to the corresponding high hand, medium hand or low hand of the dealer.

*High hand* - means the four-card hand formed by the player or dealer from the seven cards that he or she is dealt, so that the four-card hand is higher in rank than the medium hand and low hand.

*Low hand* - means the one-card hand formed by the player or dealer from the seven cards that he or she is dealt, so that the one-card hand is lower in rank than the high hand and the medium hand.

*Medium hand* - means the two-card hand formed by the player or dealer from the seven cards that he or she is dealt so that the two-card hand is lower in rank than the high hand and higher in rank than the low hand.

*Rank or ranking* - means the relative position of a card or group of cards as set forth in Section 3.

*Set or setting the hands* - means the process of forming a high hand, medium hand and low hand from the seven cards that are dealt to a player or the dealer.

*Suit* - means one of the four categories of cards: club, diamond, heart or spade.

#### **2. Cards; number of decks**

- (a) Except as provided in (b) below, Asia poker shall be played with one deck of cards that meets the requirements of 205 CMR 146.48, including one joker, and one additional cutting card and one additional cover card. The cutting card and cover card shall be opaque and in a solid color readily distinguishable from the color of the backs and edges of the playing cards, as approved by the Commission. Nothing in this section or 205 CMR 146.49 shall prohibit a gaming licensee from using decks that are manufactured with two jokers provided that only one joker is used for gaming at Asia poker.
- (b) If an automated card shuffling device is used for Asia poker, a gaming licensee shall be permitted to use a second deck of cards to play the game, provided that:
- (1) Each deck of cards complies with the requirements of (a) above;
  - (2) The backs of the cards in the two decks are of a different color;
  - (3) One deck is being shuffled by the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being dealt or used to play the game;

- (4) Both decks are continuously alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play; and
- (5) The cards from one deck only shall be placed in the discard rack at any given time.

### **3. Asia poker rankings; cards; poker hands**

- (a) The rank of the cards used in Asia poker, in order from highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, and two. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a “straight flush” or a “straight” formed with a two, three and four. Except as otherwise provided in (c) below, the joker shall be used and ranked as an ace.
- (b) The permissible poker hands at the game of Asia poker, in order from highest to lowest rank, shall be:
  - (1) “Four aces” is a high hand consisting of all four aces or three aces and the joker;
  - (2) “Royal flush” is a high hand consisting of an ace, king, queen and jack of the same suit;
  - (3) “Straight flush” is a high hand consisting of four cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with ace, two, three and four being the highest ranking straight flush; king, queen, jack and 10 being the second highest ranking straight flush, and five, four, three and two being the lowest ranking straight flush;
  - (4) “Four-of-a-kind” is a high hand consisting of four cards of the same rank regardless of suit, with four kings being the highest ranking four-of-a-kind and four twos being the lowest ranking four-of-a-kind;
  - (5) “Flush” is a high hand consisting of four cards of the same suit, and when comparing two flushes, the provisions of (e) below shall be applied;
  - (6) “Straight” is a high hand consisting of four cards of consecutive rank, regardless of suit, with an ace, king, queen and jack being the highest ranking straight; an ace, two, three, and four being the second highest ranking straight, and a five, four, three and two being the lowest ranking straight;
  - (7) “Three-of-a-kind” is a high hand containing three cards of the same rank regardless of suit, with three aces being the highest ranking three-of-a-kind and three twos being the lowest ranking three-of-a-kind;
  - (8) “Two pairs” is a high hand containing two pairs, with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pairs and two threes and two twos being the lowest ranking two pairs; and
  - (9) “Pair” is either a high hand or a medium hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, regardless of suit, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two twos being the lowest ranking pair.
- (c) For purposes of setting the hands, a joker may be used as any card to complete a straight, a flush, a straight flush or a royal flush.
- (d) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) above, a gaming licensee may, in its discretion, determine that a straight flush formed with an ace, two, three, and four of the same suit shall be the lowest ranking straight flush and that a straight formed with an ace, two, three, and four, regardless of suit, shall be the lowest ranking straight. If a gaming licensee chooses to

exercise this option, it shall so indicate in its Rules of the Games Submission.

- (e) When comparing two high hands, two medium hands or two low hands that are of identical poker hand rank pursuant to the provisions of this section, or that contain none of the poker hands authorized in this section, the hand that contains the highest ranking card as provided in (a) above not contained in the other hand shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the two hands are of identical rank after the application of this subsection, the hands shall be considered a copy hand.

#### **4. Asia poker shaker and dice; computerized random number generator; button**

- (a) The starting position for the dealing or delivery of cards in Asia poker shall be determined by using one of the following methods:
  - (1) Three dice and an Asia poker shaker, which shall meet the requirements of 205 CMR 146.45 and 146.39(4), respectively, and be used in accordance with 205 CMR 146.46 and Section 9(a).
    - (i) The three dice shall be maintained at all times within the Asia poker shaker.
    - (ii) The Asia poker shaker and the dice contained therein shall be the responsibility of the dealer and shall never be left unattended while at the table.
    - (iii) No dice that have been placed in an Asia poker shaker for use in gaming shall remain on a table for more than 24 hours;
  - (2) A computerized random number generator that, in accordance with section (5) and Section 9(c), shall automatically select and display a number from 1 through 7 inclusive; or
  - (3) If an automated card shuffling device and dealing shoe is used pursuant to Sections 9 and 9(d), a button that is moved by the dealer clockwise around the table as each round of play is completed.

#### **5. Opening of the table for gaming**

- (a) After receiving a deck of cards at the table in accordance with 205 CMR 146.49, the dealer shall, as applicable, comply with the requirements of 205 CMR 146.49 and (b) through (d) below.
- (b) If the deck of cards used by the gaming licensee contains two jokers, the dealer and a casino supervisor shall ensure that only one joker is utilized. Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer and the verification by the floorperson assigned to the table, the cards shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first player to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread out according to suit and in sequence and shall include one joker.
- (c) After the first player is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards shall be turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a washing or chemmy shuffle of the cards and stacked. Once the cards have been stacked, they shall be shuffled in accordance with Section 6.
- (d) If a gaming licensee uses an automated card shuffling device to play the game of Asia poker

and two decks of cards are received at the table pursuant to 205 CMR 146.49 and Section 2, each deck of cards shall be separately sorted, inspected, verified, spread, inspected, mixed, stacked and shuffled in accordance with the provisions of (a) through (c) above immediately prior to the commencement of play.

## **6. Shuffle and cut of the cards**

- (a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play, and after each round of play has been completed, the dealer shall shuffle the cards by use of an automated card shuffling device so that the cards are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the shuffling of the cards, inserts the cards directly into an automated or manual dealing shoe. The automated shuffler may also be advanced and programmed to deal the appropriate number of cards during each round of play to each gaming position.
- (b) After the cards have been shuffled and stacked, the dealer shall use an automated card shuffling device, deal or deliver the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 8.
- (c) Whenever there is no gaming activity at an Asia poker table that is open for gaming, the cards shall be spread out on the table either face up or face down.

## **7. Wagers**

- (a) All wagers at Asia poker shall be made by placing gaming chips or plaques and, if applicable, a match play coupon on the appropriate betting area of the Asia poker layout. A verbal wager accompanied by cash shall not be accepted at the game of Asia poker.
- (b) Only players who are seated at the Asia poker table may place a wager at the game. Once a player has placed a wager and received cards, that player must remain seated until the completion of the round of play.
- (c) All wagers at Asia poker shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing “no more bets” in accordance with the dealing procedures set forth in Section 8. No wager at Asia poker shall be made, increased or withdrawn after the dealer has announced “no more bets.”

## **8. Procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe/machine**

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of 205 CMR 146 or this chapter, a gaming licensee may, in its discretion, choose to have the cards used to play Asia poker dealt from an automated dealing shoe/machine that dispenses cards in stacks of seven cards, provided that the shoe/machine, its location and the procedures for its use are approved by the Commission.
- (b) If a gaming licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from an automated dealing

shoe/machine, the following requirements shall be observed.

- (1) Once the procedures required by Section 6 have been completed, the cards shall be placed in the automated dealing shoe/machine.
  - (2) The dealer shall then announce “no more bets” prior to the shoe/machine dispensing any stacks of cards.
- (c) The dealer shall then, using one of the procedures authorized by Section 9, determine the starting position for delivering the stacks of cards.
- (d) Once the starting position has been determined in accordance with (c) above, the dealer shall deliver the first stack of cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe/machine to that position. As the remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe/machine, the dealer shall deliver a stack in turn to each of the other positions, including the dealer, moving clockwise around the table, whether or not there is a wager at the position. The dealer shall deliver each stack face down.
- (e) After the seven stacks of seven cards have been dispensed and delivered to each position, including the dealer, the dealer shall remove the remaining cards from the shoe/machine and determine whether exactly four cards are left by spreading them face down on the layout.
- (1) If four cards remain, the cards shall not be exposed to anyone at the table and shall be placed in the discard rack. The dealer shall then collect any stacks dealt to a position where there is no wager and place them in the discard rack without exposing the cards.
  - (2) If more or less than four cards remain, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt and a stack has more or less than seven cards, the round of play shall be void and the cards reshuffled. If the cards have not been misdealt, the round of play shall be considered void and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table pursuant to 205 CMR 146.49.

## **9. Procedure for determining the starting position for dealing cards or delivering stacks of cards**

- (a) In order to determine the starting position for the dealing of cards or the delivery of stacks of cards for the game of Asia poker, a gaming licensee may, in its discretion, use the procedure authorized in (b), (c) or (d) below.
- (b) The dealer shall shake the Asia poker shaker and dice described in Section 4 at least three times so as to cause a random mixture of the dice.
- (1) The dealer shall then remove the lid covering the Asia poker shaker, total the dice and announce the total.
  - (2) To determine the starting position, the dealer shall count counterclockwise around the table, with the position of the dealer considered number one, and continuing around the table with each betting position counted in order, including the dealer, regardless of whether there is a wager at the position, until the count matches the total of the three dice.
  - (3) Examples are as follows:
    - (i) If the dice total 8, the dealer would receive the first card or stack of cards; or
    - (ii) If the dice total 14, the sixth betting position would receive the first card or stack of

cards.

- (4) After the dealing or delivery of the cards has been completed in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 8, the dealer shall place the cover on the Asia poker shaker and shake the shaker once. The Asia poker shaker shall then be placed to the right of the dealer.
- (c) The dealer may use a computerized random number generator approved by the Commission to select and display a number from 1 through 7 inclusive, and verbally announce the number. To determine the starting position, the dealer shall count counterclockwise around the table, with the position of the dealer considered number one, and continuing around the table with each betting position counted in order, including the dealer, regardless of whether there is a wager at the position, until the count matches the number displayed by the random number generator.
- (d) After the starting position for a round of play has been determined, a gaming licensee may, in its discretion, mark that position by the use of an additional cut card or similar object.

**10. Procedures for completion of each round of play; setting of hands; payment and collection of wagers**

- (a) After the dealing of the cards has been completed, each player shall set their hands by arranging the cards into a high hand, medium hand and low hand. When setting the three hands, the high hand shall be higher in rank than the medium hand, and the medium hand shall higher in rank than the low hand. For example, if the medium hand contains a pair of sevens, the high hand must contain at least a pair of sevens and the two remaining cards.
- (b) Each player at the table shall be responsible for setting their own hands and no other person except the dealer may touch the cards of that player. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a player requests assistance in the setting of their hands, the dealer may inform the requesting player of the manner in which the gaming licensee requires the hands of the dealer to be set in its Rules of the Games submission. Each player shall be required to keep the seven cards in full view of the dealer at all times. Once each player has set a high, medium and low hand and placed the three hands face down on the appropriate area of the layout, the player shall not touch the cards again.
- (c) After all players have set their hands and placed the cards on the table, the seven cards of the dealer shall be turned over and the dealer shall set their hands by arranging the cards into a high, medium and low hand. The dealer shall then place the three hands face up on the appropriate area of the layout.
- (d) Each gaming licensee shall submit to the Commission in its Rules of the Games submission the manner in which it will require the hands of the dealer to be set.
- (e) A player may announce that they wish to surrender their wager prior to the dealer exposing any of the three hands of that player pursuant to (f) below. Once the player has announced their intention to surrender, the dealer shall:

- (1) Immediately collect the wager from that player; and
  - (2) Collect the seven cards dealt to that player without exposing the cards to anyone at the table. The dealer shall verify that seven cards were collected by counting them face down on the layout prior to placing them in the discard rack.
- (f) Once the dealer has set a high hand, medium hand and low hand pursuant to (d) above, the dealer shall expose all three hands of each player, starting from the right and proceeding counterclockwise around the table. The dealer shall compare the high, medium and low hand of each player to the high, medium and low hand of the dealer and shall announce if the Asia poker wager of that player shall win or lose.
- (g) All losing Asia poker wagers shall be immediately collected by the dealer and put in the table inventory container. All losing Asia poker hands shall also be collected. An Asia poker wager made by a player shall lose if:
- (1) Any two of the player's three hands are identical (copy hand) or lower in rank than the dealer's corresponding hands;
  - (2) Any one of the player's three hands is identical in rank to the corresponding hand of the dealer and one of the player's remaining hands is lower in rank than the dealer's corresponding hand;
  - (3) The high hand of the player was not set so as to rank higher than their medium hand, or the medium hand of the player was not set so as to rank higher than their low hand; or
  - (4) The three hands of the player were not otherwise set correctly in accordance with the rules of the game (for example, a player forms a one-card medium hand and a five-card high hand).
- (h) All hands that result in a winning Asia poker wager shall be immediately paid by the dealer from the table inventory container. After being paid, winning Asia poker hands shall also be collected. The dealer shall pay all winning wagers and collect all losing wagers, in order, beginning with the player farthest to the right of the dealer and continuing counterclockwise around the table. An Asia poker wager made by a player shall win if any two of the player's three hands are higher in rank than the dealer's corresponding hands.
- (i) A winning Asia poker wager shall be paid off by a gaming licensee at odds of 1 to 1.
- (j) All cards collected by the dealer shall be picked up in order and placed in the discard rack in such a way that they can be readily arranged to reconstruct each hand in case of a question or dispute.

### **11. A player wagering on more than one betting area**

- (a) A gaming licensee may, in its discretion, permit a player to wager on no more than two betting areas at an Asia poker table, which areas must be adjacent to each other.
- (b) If a gaming licensee permits a player to wager on two adjacent betting areas, the cards dealt to each betting area shall be played separately. If the two wagers are not equal, the player shall be required to rank and set the hand with the larger wager before ranking and setting the

other hand. If the amounts wagered are equal, each hand shall be played separately in a counterclockwise rotation with the first hand being ranked and set before the player proceeds to rank and set the second hand. Once a hand has been ranked and set and placed face down on the appropriate area of the layout, the hand may not be changed.

## **12. Irregularities; invalid roll of the dice**

- (a) If the dealer uncovers the Asia poker shaker and all three dice do not land flat on the bottom of the shaker, the dealer shall call a “no roll” and reshake the dice.
- (b) If the dealer uncovers the Asia poker shaker and a die or dice fall out of the shaker, the dealer shall call a “no roll” and reshake the dice.
- (c) If the dealer incorrectly totals the dice and deals the first card or delivers the first stack to the wrong position, all hands shall be called dead and the dealer shall reshuffle the cards.
- (d) If the dealer exposes any of the cards dealt to a player, the player has the option of voiding the hand. Without looking at the unexposed cards, the player shall make the decision either to play out the hand or to void the hand.
- (e) If a card or cards in the hand of the dealer is exposed, all hands shall be void and the cards shall be reshuffled.
- (f) A card found turned face up in the shoe shall not be used in the game and shall be placed in the discard rack. If more than one card is found turned face up in the shoe, all hands shall be void and the cards shall be reshuffled.
- (g) A card drawn in error without its face being exposed shall be used as though it was the next card from the shoe.
- (h) If any player or the dealer is dealt an incorrect number of cards, all hands shall be void and the cards reshuffled.
- (i) If the dealer does not set their hands in the manner submitted to the Commission pursuant to Section 11, the hands must be reset in accordance with this submission and the round of play completed.
- (j) If a card is exposed while the dealer is dealing the seven stacks in accordance with Section 8, the cards shall be reshuffled.
- (k) If an automated card shuffling device is being used and the device jams, stops shuffling during a shuffle, or fails to complete a shuffle cycle, the cards shall be reshuffled in accordance with procedures approved by the Commission.
- (l) If an automated dealing shoe is being used and the device jams, stops dealing cards, or fails to deal all cards during a round of play, the round of play shall be void, and the cards shall be



removed from the device and reshuffled with any cards already dealt, in accordance with procedures approved by the Commission.