

WINNER'S POT POKER

Rules

1. Definitions

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

Ante - or "ante wager" means the initial wager in a fixed dollar amount established by the gaming licensee that a player and the dealer are required to make prior to any cards being dealt in order to participate in a round of play.

Bet - or "bet wager" means the second wager, equal in amount to the ante wager, that the dealer shall make and that a player may make in order to remain in the round of play. A bet wager by a player shall be placed after each player and the dealer has been dealt three cards.

Burn - means to remove the top or next card from the deck and place it face down in the discard rack without revealing it to anyone.

Double - or "double wager" means the third wager, equal in amount to double the ante wager, that the dealer shall make and that a player may make in order to remain in the round of play. A double wager by a player shall be placed after each remaining player and the dealer has been dealt a fourth card.

Fold - means the decision of a player to discontinue their participation in a round of play and to forfeit their ante wager and, if placed, bet wager and double wager.

Jacks plus bonus wager - means the optional supplemental wager that a player may place prior to any cards being dealt that the hand of the player will qualify for a posted payout.

Hand - means the highest ranking poker hand that can be formed from the cards of a player or the dealer.

Rank - or "ranking" means the relative position of a card or hand as set forth in Section 5

Round of play - or "round" means one complete cycle of play during which all players playing at the table have placed their wagers, been dealt a hand, and have had their wagers paid or collected in accordance with the Rules of the Game of Winner's Pot Poker.

Stub - means the remaining portion of the deck after all cards in the round of play have been dealt.

Suit - means one of the four categories of cards: club, diamond, heart or spade, with no suit being higher in rank than another.

Tie hand - means a hand that is of equal rank with the hand of another player or the dealer during a round of play.

Winner's pot - or "pot" means the aggregate ante, bet and double wagers of all players and the dealer, except for the ante wager of any player who declines to make a bet wager and folds their hand after the first three cards are dealt.

2. Cards; number of decks

- (a) Except as provided in (b) below, the game of Winner's Pot Poker shall be played with one deck of cards that meets the requirements of 205 CMR 146.48 and one additional solid yellow or green cover card.
- (b) If an automated card shuffling device is used, 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 205 CMR 146.48;
 - (2) The backs of the cards in the two decks are of 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 continually alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play; and
 - (5) The cards from only one deck shall be placed in the discard rack at any given time.

3. Opening of the table for gaming

- (a) After receiving the 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) 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 in horizontal fan shaped columns by deck according to suit and in sequence. The cards in each suit shall be laid out in sequence within the suit.
- (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 4
- (d) If a gaming licensee uses an automated card shuffling device to play the game 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.

4. Shuffle and cut 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 they 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 the use of an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the shuffling of the cards, inserts the stack of cards directly into a 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 Sections 7 or 8.
- (c) If a cut of the cards is required, the dealer shall:
 - (1) Cut the deck, using one hand, by:
 - (i) Placing the cover card on the table in front of the deck of cards;
 - (ii) Taking a stack of at least 10 cards from the top of the deck and placing them on top of the cover card;
 - (iii) Placing the cards remaining in the deck on top of the stack of cards that were cut and placed on the cover card pursuant to (c)(1)(ii) above; and
 - (iv) Removing the cover card and placing it in the discard rack; and
 - (2) Deal the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in Sections 7 or 8.
- (d) Notwithstanding (c) above, after the cards have been cut and before any cards have been dealt, a casino supervisor may require the cards to be recut if he or she determines that the cut was performed improperly or in any way that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game.
- (e) Whenever there is no gaming activity at a Winner's Pot Poker table that is open for gaming, the cards shall be spread out on the table. After the first player is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the procedures outlined in Section 3(c) and, if applicable, (d) shall be completed.

5. Winner's Pot Poker hand rankings

- (a) The rank of the cards used in Winner's Pot Poker, for the determination of winning hands, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a "straight flush" or a "straight" formed with a 2, 3, 4 and 5. An ace may not be used, however, with any other sequence of cards to form a "straight" (for example, queen, king, ace, 2 and 3).
- (b) The permissible poker hands at the game of Winner's Pot Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:
 - (1) "Royal flush" is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 of the same suit;
 - (2) "Straight flush" is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with king, queen, jack, 10 and 9 being the highest ranking straight flush and ace,

- 2, 3, 4 and 5 being the lowest ranking straight flush;
- (3) "Four-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of four cards of the same rank, with four aces being the highest ranking four-of-a-kind and four twos being the lowest ranking four-of-a-kind;
 - (4) "Full house" is a hand consisting of a "three-of-a-kind" and a "pair," with three aces and two kings being the highest ranking full house and three twos and two threes being the lowest ranking full house;
 - (5) "Flush" is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit, not in consecutive order, with ace, king, queen, jack and 9 being the highest ranking flush and 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 being the lowest ranking flush;
 - (6) "Straight" is a hand consisting of five unsuited cards of consecutive rank, with an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 being the highest ranking straight and an ace, 2, 3, 4 and 5 being the lowest ranking straight;
 - (7) "Three-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank, 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 hand consisting of 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 a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two twos being the lowest ranking pair.
- (c) When comparing two hands which are of identical poker rank pursuant to the provisions of this section, or which contain none of the hands authorized in this section, the hand which contains the highest ranking card as provided in (a) above which is not contained in the other hand shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of identical rank after the application of this subsection, the hands shall be considered a tie.

6. Wagers

- (a) All wagers at Winner's Pot Poker shall be made by placing gaming chips or plaques and, if applicable, a match play coupon on the appropriate betting areas of the table layout. A verbal wager accompanied by cash shall not be accepted.
- (b) Except as provided in Section 9, all wagers shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing "No more bets" in accordance with the dealing procedure in Sections 7 and 8, and no wager shall be made, increased, or withdrawn after the dealer has announced "No more bets."
- (c) At the beginning of each round of play, each player shall be required to place an ante wager. At the beginning of each round of play, the dealer shall be required to place an ante, bet and double wager.
- (d) The outcome of the jacks plus bonus wager made by a player shall have no bearing on any other wager of that player.

- (e) Only players who are seated at a Winner's Pot 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.

7. Procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe

- (a) If a gaming licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from a manual dealing shoe, the dealing shoe shall meet the requirements of 205 CMR 146.51 and shall be located on the table in a location as approved by the Commission. Once the procedures required by Section 4 have been completed, the stacked deck of cards shall be placed in the dealing shoe either by the dealer or by the automatic card shuffling device.
- (b) Cards will be dealt so as not to expose the hole card or any other face down cards in a manner that cannot be readily observed by someone attempting to ascertain their value.
- (c) The dealer shall announce "No more bets" prior to dealing any cards.
- (d) Each card shall be removed from the dealing shoe with the hand of the dealer that is the closest to the dealing shoe and placed on the appropriate area of the layout with the opposite hand.
- (e) In the first round of play, the dealer shall place a button in front of the dealer's position indicating that the dealing shall commence with the player farthest to their left and continue around the table in a clockwise manner. For each ensuing round of play, the button shall rotate clockwise to the next player or, if the button has rotated to the player farthest to the dealer's right, the dealer. Dealing shall commence with the player or dealer, as applicable, positioned immediately after the button in clockwise rotation.
- (f) The dealer shall burn the top card of the deck and shall then deal the cards as follows:
 - (1) One card face down to each player and the dealer in a manner as to not disclose the value of the cards;
 - (2) A second card face down to each player and the dealer in a manner as to not disclose the value of the cards; and
 - (3) A third card face up to each player and the dealer.
- (g) After all cards have been dealt to each player and the dealer as provided in (e) above and Section 9, the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and place the stub face down in the discard rack without exposing the cards.
- (h) The dealer shall be required to count the cards in the deck at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still in the deck.

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 Winner's Pot Poker dealt from an

automated dealing shoe/machine which dispenses cards in stacks of three cards, provided that the shoe/machine, its location and the procedures for its use are approved by the Commission.

- (b) Cards will be dealt so as not to expose the hole card or any other face down cards in a manner that cannot be readily observed by someone attempting to ascertain their value.
- (c) 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 4 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.
- (d) In the first round of play, the dealer shall place a button in front of the dealer indicating that the dealing shall commence with the player farthest to their left and continue around the table in a clockwise manner. For each ensuing round of play, the button shall rotate clockwise to the next player or, if the button has rotated to the player farthest to the dealer’s right, the dealer. Dealing shall commence with the player or dealer, as applicable, positioned immediately after the button in clockwise rotation.
- (e) The dealer shall deliver the first stack of three cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe/machine face down to the player farthest to their left who has placed an ante wager in accordance with Section 6. Once the stack is delivered to the player position, the dealer shall turn face up the top card of the stack. As the remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe/machine, the dealer shall, moving clockwise around the table, deliver a stack face down to each player who has placed a wager in accordance with Section 6 and the dealer in a manner as to not disclose the value of the cards, turning face up the top card on the stack of each player and the dealer.
- (f) After each stack of three cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with this subsection, the dealer shall remove the remaining cards from the automated dealing shoe/machine and, deal from their hand any cards required to be dealt in accordance with the provisions of Section 9. After all required cards have been dealt, the dealer shall place the stub face down in the discard rack without exposing the cards.
- (g) The dealer shall be required to count the cards in the deck at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still in the deck.
- (h) Notwithstanding the provisions of (f) above, the counting of the cards once every five rounds of play shall not be required if an automated card shuffling device is used that counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are still present. If the automated card shuffling device reveals that an incorrect number of cards are present, the deck shall be removed from the table in accordance with the provisions of 205 CMR 146.49.

9. Procedure for completion of each round of play; collection and payment of wagers

- (a) After the dealing procedures required by Sections 7 or 8 have been completed, each player shall examine their two down cards without exposing them to any person and either place a bet wager or elect to fold. The dealer shall neither examine nor expose their down cards until each remaining player and the dealer is dealt a fifth and final card.
 - (1) If a player chooses to place a bet wager, the wager shall be placed in the designated bet wager betting area.
 - (2) If a player elects to fold after receiving the initial three cards, the player's ante shall be collected by the dealer and placed in the table inventory container. The three cards of the player shall be collected and placed face down in the discard rack unless the player has placed a jacks plus bonus wager, in which case the three cards shall be placed face down underneath the jacks plus bonus wager of the player.
 - (3) The dealer shall, moving in a clockwise rotation starting with the player next to the button, ascertain the decision of each player to either place a bet wager or fold.
- (b) Once each player has either placed a bet wager or elected to fold, the dealer shall burn a card and then deal a fourth card face up to each remaining player who has placed a bet wager and the dealer in clockwise rotation, beginning with the first player after the button.
- (c) After each remaining player who has placed a bet wager and the dealer have been dealt a fourth card, each player shall either place a double wager or elect to fold.
 - (1) If a player chooses to place a double wager, the wager shall be placed in the designated double wager betting area.
 - (2) If a player elects to fold after receiving a fourth card, the ante and bet wagers of the player shall be collected by the dealer and placed in the area of the table designated for the winner's pot. The four cards of the player shall be collected and placed face down in the discard rack unless the player has placed a jacks plus bonus wager, in which case the four cards shall be placed face down underneath the jacks plus bonus wager of the player.
 - (3) The dealer shall, moving in a clockwise rotation starting with the first remaining player after the button, ascertain the decision of each player to either place a double wager or fold.
- (d) Once each remaining player has either placed a double wager or elected to fold, the dealer shall burn a card and then deal a fifth and final card face up to each remaining player who has placed a double wager and the dealer in clockwise rotation, beginning with the first player after the button.
- (e) After each remaining player and the dealer have been dealt a fifth and final card, the dealer shall collect all ante, bet and double wagers remaining on the table and place them in the area designated for the winner's pot.
- (f) The dealer shall expose their two down cards and announce the best possible poker hand that can be formed from the cards of the dealer. The dealer shall then, starting with the remaining player farthest to their right and proceeding in a counterclockwise rotation around the table, expose the two down cards of each player and announce the best possible poker hand that can be formed from the cards of each player.

- (g) The dealer shall settle the jacks plus bonus wagers of all players and, for each player who has folded, place the cards of such players face down in the discard rack. Losing jacks plus bonus wagers shall be placed in, and winning jacks plus bonus wagers shall be paid from, the table inventory container.
- (h) The dealer shall then announce the highest ranking poker hand. All hands shall remain face up on the layout until such time as the winner's pot is awarded.
 - (1) If the dealer has the highest-ranking poker hand, they shall collect all ante, bet and double wagers from the area designated for the winner's pot and place them in the table inventory container.
 - (2) If a player has the highest ranking poker hand or the highest ranking poker hand is a tie hand, the dealer shall award the winner's pot to the player with the highest ranking poker hand, subject to the following:
 - (i) If a player has the highest ranking poker hand, a percentage commission of no more than ten percent or a fixed dollar amount, pre-established by the gaming licensee, whichever is less, shall be deducted from the pot and placed in the table inventory container; or
 - (ii) If the highest ranking poker hand is a tie hand, each player and/or the dealer holding a tie hand shall share the winner's pot equally, except that a percentage commission of no more than ten percent or a fixed dollar amount, pre-established by the gaming licensee, whichever is less, shall be deducted from that portion of the pot not awarded to the dealer and placed in the table inventory container.
- (i) After the winner's pot has been awarded in accordance with (h) above, the dealer shall immediately collect the cards of all remaining players and the dealer and place them in the discard rack. 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 the event of a question or dispute.

10. Payout odds

- (a) The payout odds for winning jacks plus bonus wagers at Winner's Pot Poker printed on any sign or in any brochure or other publication distributed by a gaming licensee shall be stated through the use of the word "to" or "win," and no odds shall be stated through the use of the word "for."
- (b) Each winning jacks plus bonus wager shall be paid once for the highest ranking qualifying hand at no less than the odds set forth below:

Hand	Payout Odds
Royal flush	400 to 1
Straight flush	80 to 1
Four-of-a-kind	50 to 1
Full house	30 to 1
Flush	15 to 1
Straight	10 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	7 to 1
Two pair	3 to 1
Pair of jacks, queens, kings or aces	1 to 1

- (c) Notwithstanding the payout odds in (b) above, the payout limit for a player for a winning jacks plus bonus wager shall be \$50,000 or the maximum amount that one patron could win per round when betting the minimum wager, whichever is greater; provided, however, that if two or more players who have placed a jacks plus wager receive a royal flush, the established maximum payout shall be paid to those players in the same proportion as the amounts of their respective jacks plus bonus wagers.

11. Prohibition against a player wagering on more than one player position

A player shall not be permitted to wager on more than one player position at a Winner's Pot Poker table.

12. Irregularities

- (a) If the first or second hole card of a player or the dealer is inadvertently turned face up in the dealing process, the third card dealt to that hand shall be dealt face down. If both cards of a player or the dealer are inadvertently turned face up in the dealing process, the dealer shall call the affected hand "dead," void any wagers associated with the dead hand and collect the two cards for placement in the discard rack. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a player has placed a jacks plus bonus wager, any winning wager shall be settled in accordance with the payout odds set forth in Section 10(b).
- (b) A card that is found face up in the shoe or the deck while the cards are being dealt shall not be used in the game and shall be placed in the discard rack. If more than one card is found face up in the shoe or the deck during the dealing of the cards, all hands shall be void and the cards shall be reshuffled. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the card(s) are found face up after all cards have been dealt, the wagers of all players shall be settled in accordance with the provisions of Sections 9 and 10.
- (c) A card drawn in error without its face being exposed shall be used as though it was the next card from the shoe or the deck.
- (d) If a player is dealt an incorrect number of cards, that player's hand shall be void.
- (e) If the dealer fails to burn a card in accordance with these rules, the dealer shall continue

dealing a card to each player and, after the betting round, the dealer shall burn two successive cards prior to dealing the next card.

- (f) If the dealer fails to deal any player or the dealer a card in accordance with these rules, the round of play shall be considered a misdeal, all wagers shall be void, and the cards shall be collected by the dealer for a reshuffle.
- (g) If the dealer fails to move the button in accordance with the rules of the game, the round of play shall continue as if the dealer moved the button. Upon commencement of the next round of play, the dealer shall rotate the button clockwise to the next player or, if the button has rotated to the player farthest to the dealer's right, the dealer.
- (h) If a player inadvertently exposes any of their down cards prior to such time authorized by these rules for the dealer to expose them, the player's hand shall remain active and the round of play shall continue.
- (i) 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.
- (j) If an automated dealing shoe is being used and the device jams, stops dealing cards, or fails to deal 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.