

LIVE POKER

RULES AND REGULATIONS



GAMBLING PROBLEM? CALL 1-800-GAMBLER.

MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO BE INSIDE RIVERS CASINO.

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Despite the impression you might get from watching poker on TV, there are many types of poker games with different rule variations, styles and strategies.

TEXAS HOLD'EM

Texas Hold'em (usually shortened to just Hold'em) is the most popular poker game. It can be played Limit, Pot Limit or No Limit, with somewhat different strategies for each. Texas Hold'em is a community card game where players are each dealt two cards while sharing five common cards. The player who stays in the pot until the end and combines their cards with the community ones to make the best five card hand wins, unless no one calls, in which case the only remaining hand wins.

OMAHA HOLD'EM

A community card game similar to Texas Hold'em. Omaha players get four personal cards and share five community cards. Omaha Players must use two (2) cards from their held cards and three (3) from the exposed community cards. Most often played eight-or-better high-low split. Omaha is also played high only, and also can be played Limit, Pot Limit or (rarely) No Limit. All Hold'em games are played with forced bets known as "blinds." Both a small and big blind. The small blind is usually approximately half the minimum bet of the round, and the big blind is equal to the minimum bet of the round. These games also have a "Dealer Button" that travels clockwise around the table to determine which player receives the first card and which player is last to take action.

STUD

Stud Poker has many variations. Seven Card Stud is the most popular version played in casinos. However, Seven Card Stud High-Low is becoming more popular. Stud High-Low with an eight-or-better qualifier is the most common form of High-Low Stud in casinos. Five Card Stud is rarely played in casinos. Too much skill is involved, so bad players lose quickly, and the game becomes tedious when played with only good players. Seven Card Stud is played with 2 down (hidden) cards and then 4 face up (exposed) cards followed by the final down card. 5 card stud is played with 1 down card then 4 exposed.

DRAW POKER

The most basic of all poker games. Five Card Draw is familiar to tens of millions of people. Players receive five hidden cards and will proceed to discard if they desire up to all five cards. The player with the highest hand will win. This game is also played with "blind bets" and a dealer button.

MIXED POKER GAMES

H.O.S.E (Hold'em, Omaha, Seven Card Stud, Seven Card Stud Eight or Better), H.O.E (Hold'em, Omaha, Seven Card Stud Eight or Better) and O.E (Omaha High-Low, Stud High-Low) are common. Mixed games are often spread to keep single game "specialists" out, and because the pool of players for any one game type is more limited.

RANKING THE POKER HANDS

- 1. Straight Flush:** This is the best possible hand. Five consecutive cards of the same suit. ("Suits" are spades, hearts, clubs and diamonds.) The highest possible straight flush is a Royal Flush. A Royal Flush includes the ACE, KING, QUEEN, JACK AND TEN OF THE SAME SUIT.
- 2. 4-of-a-kind:** Four cards of the same rank. For example, four kings, plus any fifth card. As always, higher ranks are better—four tens would beat four sixes.
- 3. Full House:** Three cards of the same rank, with a pair of another rank. For example, KKK33. The higher ranking three cards determine which full house beats another—77766 beats 222AA.
- 4. Flush:** Five cards of the same suit. For example, the Ace, Queen, Nine, Seven and Three of clubs. When comparing flushes, they are ranked from the top card on down. A9732 defeats KQJ85, while a QJ987 flush defeats a QJ983 one. If two flushes have exactly the same cards, like AJ976 of spades versus AJ976 of hearts, this is a tie, and a pot would be split.
- 5. Straight:** Five sequential cards of different suits. For example, 98765. When two straights are shown, the highest card determines the winner—KQJT9 defeats 87654. An ace can be used to make either a "Broadway" straight of AKQJT or a "wheel-straight" of 5432A. "Around the corner" straights like 32AKQ are not allowed.
- 6. 3-of-a-kind:** Three cards of the same rank, like 888 with two unpaired cards. As always, a higher ranked 3-of-a-kind defeats a lower ranked 3-of-a-kind—99932 beats 666AK. In flop games it is possible for both players to have the same 3-of-a-kind, in which case the two unrelated "kicker" cards would determine the winner—QQQ92 would defeat QQQ87. If the two hands are identical, the pot is split.
- 7. Two Pair:** Two cards of one rank, two cards of another rank and a kicker of a third rank. For example, JJ882. KK332 defeats QQJJ9, 99554 defeats 9933A, 7766A defeats 7766Q. Two hands of the same rank, like KKQQ5 versus KKQQ5, split the pot.
- 8. One Pair:** Two cards of the same rank and three unrelated cards. For example, JJK73. A higher pair defeats a lower pair. When players have the same pair, the unrelated "kicker" cards are valued in order, so 99Q32 defeats 99765.
- 9. No Pair, High Card:** Poker hands with no pair or any of the other ranking values listed above. When comparing no pair hands, the highest card determines the winner using each card in order, if necessary, so AKQ94 defeats AKQ85.