

# Texas Hold'em

## Type of Game

The players of Texas Hold'em play against each other for "the pot" of money on the table. The game does not utilize a player-dealer position, it is a Poker game. The gambling establishment does not participate in the actual play of the game and has no interest in the outcome of the play.

## Object of the Game

The object of the game is for players to form a five-card poker hand that ranks higher than the other players' five-card poker hands. Each player may use any combination of the two cards initially dealt to them at the beginning of the game, referred to as "hole" cards, and the five cards dealt on the table throughout the course of the game, referred to as "community" cards or "the board" cards, or they may play the board by using no hole cards and using the five community cards, to make the highest ranking five-card poker hand, according to the rankings as shown below.

## Description of the Deck and Number of Decks Used

The game shall be played using one standard 52-card deck and no joker.

## Card Values and Hand Rankings

The rank of each card used in Texas Hold'em, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, and 2. All suits shall be considered equal in rank.

The ranking of hands for Texas Hold'em, in order from highest to lowest rank, shall be:

Hand Dealt	Hand Requirements
<b>Royal Flush</b>	A hand that consists of an Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 10 of the same suit.
<b>Straight Flush</b>	A hand that consists of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking. A King, Queen, Jack, 10 and 9 is the highest ranked Straight Flush and a 5, 4, 3, 2 and Ace is the lowest ranked Straight Flush.
<b>Four of a Kind</b>	A hand that consists of four cards of the same rank. Four Aces is the highest ranked Four of a Kind and four 2's is the lowest ranked Four of a Kind.
<b>Full House</b>	A hand that consists of a Three of a Kind and a Pair. Three Aces and two Kings is the highest ranked Full House and three 2's and two 3's is the lowest ranked Full House.
<b>Flush</b>	A hand that consists of five cards of the same suit, but that are not in consecutive ranking. An Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 9 is the highest ranked Flush and a 7, 5, 4, 3 and 2 is the lowest ranked Flush.
<b>Straight</b>	A hand that consists of five cards that are in consecutive ranking, but that are not the same suit. An Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 10 is the highest ranked Straight and a 5, 4, 3, 2 and Ace is the lowest ranked Straight.
<b>Three of a Kind</b>	A hand that consists of three cards of the same rank. Three Aces is the highest ranked Three of a Kind and three 2's is the lowest ranked Three of a Kind.
<b>Two Pairs</b>	A hand that consists of two pairs. Two Aces and two Kings is the highest ranked Two Pairs and two 3's and two 2's is the lowest ranked Two Pairs.

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<b>One Pair</b>	A hand that consists of two cards of the same rank. Two Aces is the highest ranked Pair and two 2's is the lowest ranked Pair.
<b>High Card</b>	A hand that consists of five cards that do not make any of the hands listed above. An Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 9 is the highest ranked High Card hand and 7, 5, 4, 3 and 2 the lowest ranked High Card hand.

## **Description of Table Used and Total Number of Seated Positions**

The game shall be played on a standard poker table which shall accommodate up to ten seated positions for patrons. Within each betting area for each seated position, there shall be a single betting space specifically designated for players to place a wager. Each seated position at the table shall have the same minimum and maximum wagering limits during each betting round, as specified by the table limits. Back-line betting is not permitted.

## **Action and Distribution of Cards**

The game shall utilize a flat white disk with the words "dealer button" on it to visually designate which player is in the dealer position (in theory) for that hand. The dealer button shall rotate from player to player around the table clockwise after each round of play. The player with the dealer button is the last to receive cards, and has the right of last action on all betting rounds (second, third, and fourth) except the first betting round, in which the "big blind" shall have the right to act last.

The game also utilizes two separate disks, one with the words "small blind" and the other with the words "big blind" on them, to visually designate which player is in the "small blind" position and which player is in the "big blind" position. The small blind and the big blind, which are used to initiate action, are made from the positions immediately to the left of the dealer button and posted before the house dealer deals cards. On all subsequent betting rounds (second, third, and fourth), the action is started by the first active player to the left of the dealer button. The small blind and big blind buttons shall rotate from player to player around the table clockwise after each round of play.

## **Dealing Procedures and Round of Play**

The 52-card deck shall be manually shuffled, cut, and dealt by the house dealer.

When first opening a game, all players shall be dealt one card face-up, starting with the player to the immediate left of the house dealer and continuing clockwise around the table. The player with the highest ranked card, by suit, shall receive the dealer button.

Once the dealer button has been distributed by the house dealer, the player to the immediate left of the player with the dealer button shall receive the small blind button and shall be required to place the small blind. Additionally, the player to the immediate left of the player that received the small blind button shall receive the big blind button and shall be required to place the big blind. Both blinds are predetermined and mandatory for the players with the small blind and big blind buttons. Both blind bets shall be placed in the center of the table, which is referred to as "the pot." Once the blinds have been placed in the pot, the house dealer shall deal one card face-down to each player, starting with the player to the left of the dealer button, which is the player that received the small blind button, and continuing clockwise around the table until all players have two cards face-down. These initial two cards are referred to as "hole cards." Once each player has received their two hole cards, the first round

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of betting will occur. Players are given the following options, starting with the player to the left of the player that received the big blind button and continuing clockwise around the table:

- Place their two hole cards face-down into the center of the table, referred to as a "fold." The hand shall be kept face-down and shall be collected by the house dealer, who shall then place them in the discard pile. A player that chooses to fold their hand will no longer participate during that round of play;
- Place a wager that is equal to the amount of the big blind, referred to as a "call."
- Place a wager that is equal to the amount of the big blind as well as an additional amount within the posted table limit, referred to as a "raise." If a player raises the pot, all other players will have the option to call the raise, re-raise the pot by placing a wager larger than the raise within the posted table limit, or fold their hand. There is a maximum of three raises per round of betting, unless there are only two players participating during a round of betting, in which case there is no limit to the number of raises. When a raise or re-raise occurs, checking is not permitted;
- Place no additional wager at this time, referred to as a "check." This is only permitted for the player in the big blind position when all other players have called the big blind and there have been no raises, or if a player raises the pot and all other players call the raise, in which case the player that originally raised the pot would be permitted to check.

After all players have acted in turn and either called all bets or folded their hand, the house dealer shall move all player bets into the pot. The house dealer shall then take the top card of the deck and place it in the discard pile without exposing it, referred to as a "burn." The house dealer shall then take the next three cards from the top of the deck and place them face-up on the table simultaneously, which is referred to as "the flop." These are community cards and are available to all players. Once the first three community cards have been placed face-up on the table, the second round of betting will occur. All active players, which are players that called all wagers and did not fold their hand, shall be given the following options, starting with the first active player to the left of the dealer button:

- Fold their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Check their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Raise the pot according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Call a raise according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round.

After all players have acted in turn and either called all bets or folded their hand, the house dealer shall move all player bets into the pot. The house dealer shall then take the top card of the deck and place it in the discard pile without exposing it, referred to as a burn. The house dealer shall then take one card from the top of the deck and place it face-up on the table so that there are now a total of four community cards face-up on the table. This is referred to as "the turn card." This card shall also become a community card and is available to all players. Once the fourth community card has been placed face-up on the table, the third round of betting will occur. All active players shall be given the following options, starting with the first active player to the left of the dealer button:

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- Fold their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Check their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Raise the pot according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Call a raise according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round.

After all players have acted in turn and either called all bets or folded their hand, the house dealer shall move all player bets into the pot. The house dealer shall then take the top card of the deck and place it in the discard pile without exposing it, referred to as a burn. The house dealer shall then take one card from the top of the deck and place it face-up on the table so that there are now a total of five community cards face-up on the table. This is referred to as "the river card." This card shall also become a community card and is available to all players. Once the fifth community card has been placed face-up on the table, which is the final community card, the fourth and final round of betting will occur. All active players shall be given the following options, starting with the first active player to the left of the dealer button:

- Fold their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Check their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Raise the pot according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Call a raise according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round.

## **How The Pot Is Awarded**

After the fourth and final round of betting has been completed, the house dealer shall move all player bets into the pot. All active players shall then enter into a showdown with each other and compare their hands. Players may use any combination of the two hole cards initially dealt to them at the beginning of the game and the five community cards turned over throughout the course of the game, or they may use the five community cards and no hole cards to make the highest ranking five-card poker hand. The following shall apply for determining which player wins the pot:

- The pot shall be awarded to the player with the highest ranking five-card poker hand, according to the hand and card rankings shown above. All other players shall lose;
- In the event that more than one player has the highest ranked hand, the pot shall be split equally among all players with the winning hand. In the instance that there are an odd number of chips, the odd chips shall be awarded to the player closest to the left of the dealer button.

## **Collection Fee Schedule**

Ample notice shall be provided to players relating to the assessment of fees. Flat fees on wagers may be assessed at different collection rates. However, no more than five collection rates may be permitted per table limit.

<b>Table Limit</b>	<b>Small Blind</b>	<b>Big Blind</b>	<b>Player Fee</b>	<b>Jackpot Fee</b>

Wagering limits and collection fees shall be determined by each cardroom that submits a request to have this game reviewed. Please specify the following:

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- The table limit, which is the minimum and maximum that may be wagered for the table. Additionally, please specify the type of limit game (i.e. limit game, no-limit game, pot limit game, spread limit game, etc.);
- If the game is no-limit, specify the corresponding small blind and big blind for the table limit;
- The collection fee(s) for the table limit and whether they are per hand, per player. Additionally, specify the criteria in which the fee is determined, whether it is based solely on the table limit, by the number of players, etc.;
- A description of when the collection fees will be collected and dropped by the house dealer during a round of play.