



RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF POKER WITH CARDS

CONTROL OF THE GAME

- 1.1 A dealer shall be responsible for the conduct of the game. The dealer shall control all hands and cards, determine winners, and oversee the collection of winnings and the commission. With the exception of tournament poker, the dealer shall not be permitted to participate in the game. In tournament poker, provided the deal is rotated after each round of play so that all players take turns in dealing and provided no player is paid to deal the game, the dealer/s may be permitted to participate in the game.

THE DECK

- 2.1 The game may be played with a full deck of cards or with a reduced deck of cards. Where a reduced deck is used the deck shall consist of a deck of cards from which has been removed all cards in each suit with a value of 2,3,4,5 and 6. All cards in a deck shall have backs which are identical in colour and markings.
- 2.2 Whenever a table is opened a new deck of cards shall be used. Upon request players shall be permitted to visually inspect the cards. A new deck of cards shall also be introduced if a majority of players request a change; or if a card or cards become mutilated. Before a new deck is introduced, the old deck shall be proven to be complete by the dealer. The new deck must be of a different colour to the deck previously used. The dealer shall invalidate the outcome of a game if it is established that the deck in use contains an incorrect number of cards.

WAGERS

- 3.1 The minimum and maximum wagers shall be prominently displayed on a sign at the table.

COMMISSION CHARGES

- 4.1 The commission taken by the organisation to whom the permit is granted shall not exceed 10% of any pot. The commission charged shall be displayed on a sign at the table. Where tournament style games are played, no commission is taken from the pot but an additional fee, over and above the entry fee for the tournament, may be charged by the organisation which is granted the permit.

AGE LIMITS

- 5.1 Persons under the age of 18 years shall not participate in the game, or be involved in the dealing or conduct of the game.

ORDER OF HANDS

- 6.1 The order of hands in descending order in a game shall be:-
Where a full deck is used: Royal flush; Straight flush; Four of a kind; Full House; Flush; Straight; Three of a kind; Two pairs; One pair; Five odd cards.

Where a reduced deck is used: Royal flush; Straight flush; Four of a kind; Flush; Full house; Straight; Three of a kind; Two pairs; One pair; Five odd cards



RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF POKER WITH CARDS (continued...)

TERMINOLOGY:

Royal Flush	Ace, King, Queen, Jack and Ten of the same suit.
Straight Flush	Any 5 cards of the same suit in sequence. An ace will count low in the combination 5;4;3;2;A. In a reduced deck an ace will count low in the combination 10;9;8;7;A.
Four of a kind	Any 4 cards of the same face value.
Full house	Any 3 and any 2 cards of the same face value.
Flush	Any 5 cards of the same suit.
Straight	Any 5 cards of different suits in sequence. An ace will count low in the combination 5;4;3;2;A. In a reduced deck an ace will count low in the combination 10;9;8;7;A.
Three of a kind	Any three cards of the same face value.
Two of a kind	Any two pairs of cards with the same face value.
One pair	A pair of cards with the same face value.

CUTTING THE CARDS

- 7.1 Once the cards have been shuffled the dealer will offer the cards to the player holding the marker for a cut. If the player declines to cut the cards the dealer **will** then cut the cards. A cut **MUST** be made prior to every deal.

VARIATIONS OF POKER

- 8.1 **Draw Poker** – Each player contributes a wager known as the ante. All players are dealt five cards face down. A round of betting takes place. Each player may discard any or all of the cards in their hand. Replacement cards are dealt to the players, so that each player has five cards in their hand. There is a final round of betting and a showdown to determine the winning hand.
- 8.2 **Five card stud** - Each player contributes a wager known as the ante. The first card is dealt face down to each player in rotation and a second card face up. The player with the highest card showing opens the betting. Each player may either call, call and raise or fold. Three more cards are dealt face up to each remaining player, betting takes place after each round of cards. On completion of the final betting round, the player called shall then show his hole card. The dealer shall announce the winning hand.
- 8.3 **Six card stud** - The game is dealt as in five card stud, with the addition of a sixth card which shall be dealt face down. A player's completed hand shall consist of the best possible hand of five cards out of the six received.
- 8.4 **Seven card stud** - Each player contributes an ante. Players are dealt two cards face down, then one card face up. The player with the highest card showing opens the betting. Each player may call, call and raise or fold. Each remaining player is dealt three more cards face up with a round of betting after each card. All active players then receive a seventh and final card face down. A player's completed hand shall consist of the best possible hand of five cards out of the seven dealt.



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- 8.5 **Manila** - Each player contributes an ante. The dealer then deals each player two cards together face down. The dealer then deals one card face-up in the middle of the table. There is then a round of betting. The dealer deals a total of five cards face up in the middle of the table. After each card is dealt there is a round of betting. The five cards in the middle of the table are known as the communal cards. A player's hand shall consist of the best possible hand of five cards made up of his two hole cards and any three of the communal cards.
- 8.6 **Texas Hold 'Em** – An ante, in the form of a small “blind” and big “blind” wager, is placed by each player in turn. The dealer deals two cards to each player face down and one at a time, after which a round of betting takes place. The dealer then burns one card and exposes three communal cards, known as the “flop”. Another round of betting takes place following which the dealer burns another card and exposes another communal card known as the “turn”. Another round of betting takes place before the dealer burns another card and exposes the fifth and final communal card known as the “river”. A final round of betting takes place. A player's completed hand shall consist of the best possible combination of five cards made up from the player's 2 (2) hole cards and the five communal cards.
- 8.7 **Omaha** – An ante, in the form of a small “blind” and big “blind” wager, is placed by each player in turn. The Dealer shall deal two cards in succession face down to each player, in a clockwise direction, commencing with the player to the immediate left of the Dealer button, until each player receives four (4) cards (“Hole Cards”), after which a round of betting takes place. The dealer then burns one card and exposes three communal cards, known as “the flop”. Another round of betting takes place following which the dealer burns another card and exposes another communal card known as “the turn”. Another round of betting takes place before the dealer burns another card and exposes the fifth and final communal card known as “the river”. A final round of betting takes place. A player's completed hand shall consist of the best possible combination of five (5) cards made up from only two (2) of the player's four (4) hole cards and only three (3) of the five (5) communal cards.
- 8.8 **Tournament Poker** – The different variations of poker can be played in a tournament format. In tournament style poker, players pay an entry fee which they redeem for a quantity of chips. Players then compete against one another to determine a winner. The winner may be determined as the player with the highest value in chips after a pre-determined period of time or the last remaining player with chips.

In some tournament style games, buy backs (the re-purchase of chips) may be permitted. Buy backs are limited to a maximum number of 3 for each tournament. Where tournament style games are played, no commission is taken from the pot and therefore the organisation which is granted the permit, is permitted to charge an additional fee over and above the tournament entry fee. Specific tournament rules should be made available to players by the organisation which holds the permit.

DETERMINATION OF A WINNING HAND

- 9.1 The pot shall be shared where there is more than one player with the highest hand on the table. Suits do not count when determining the winning hand.