

Rules of Texas Hold'em



Texas Hold'em Rules

The basic rules for playing Texas Hold'em Poker are easy to learn. While becoming a great player will take hours of study and play, we have to start somewhere.

The Dealer Chip

The dealer chip moves clockwise around the table after each hand, and is a very important part of the game because it signifies your position. Since Texas Hold'em is a "fixed position" game, you will want to always pay attention to who is "on the button," as it is often referred to. At the very beginning of a game or tournament, to determine who gets the privilege of being "on the button" first, the most common method is to deal everyone a card, with the highest ranking card being the dealer.

The Small Blind and Big Blind

Rather than use antes to get the action started in Texas Hold'em, we use what are called "the blinds." These are placed into the pot before any cards are dealt, thus they are "blind bets," putting money into the pot without knowing what will be dealt. Before the cards are dealt, the person to the immediate left of the dealer puts in the small blind. The small blind is generally equal to half of the big blind. The player immediately to the left of the small blind is required to put in the big blind. The big blind is generally equal to the small bet of the limit being played.

Betting Rounds

After the two blinds are put in, the dealer deals each player 2 cards face down, called "hole cards," and the first round of betting begins. The first player to act in this round is the player immediately to the left of the big blind. He can call the amount of the big blind, fold or bet. Each player then acts in turn by either folding calling the current bet or raising. It is important to note here that the blinds are "live," which simply means that when action gets around to them

they to have the option of calling, folding or betting/raising. All this action is known as pre-flop play.

After all betting action has finished the dealer deals the "**flop**," by placing 3 cards face-up in the middle of the table. These cards are community cards which can be used by every player to better their hand. Another round of betting ensues.

The next round of action is called the "**turn**" and the dealer places one more card face up in the center of the table. This is also a community card, and yet another round of betting takes place.

Finally we arrive at the "**river**," as the dealer places a fifth card face-up in the center of the table, and the final round of betting begins. After betting is finished on the river, the last person to make a bet or raise on the river must flip over his cards. Each player in turn compares his hand to this hand and if beaten has the option to "muck" or throw away his or her hand face down so that no one sees what they were holding. If someone has a better hand, obviously they must turn their cards over for the world to see! The best five-card poker hand wins, using any combination of your two hole cards and the five cards on the board.

Here is a summary of the four rounds of betting:

Hole Cards.

Each player is dealt two cards face down. Betting takes place.

The Flop. Three cards are dealt face up on the table. Second round of betting takes place.

The Turn. A fourth card is dealt to the table. The third round of betting takes place.

The River. Finally, a fifth card is dealt to the table. The final round of betting takes place.

Example

Hole Cards: You are dealt A Q . Your opponent checks to you. You decide to bet with this hand and one player calls.

The Flop: The board is A 10 9 . Right now, you have a pair of aces. You make a bet and the other player calls.

The Turn: 10 comes on the board. You know have two pairs, aces and tens. Be aware that if your opponent has a ten in his hole cards, he now has a three-of-a-kind. However, you also now have the potential of hitting a flush if the river card is another spade. Again, you bet and the player calls.

The River: 2 comes on the river. The final board is A 10 10 9 2 . You now have a flush. You make a bet and your opponent calls.

Showdown: You show your flush. Your opponent shows J 1 0 , so he has three-of-a-kind.

You win.

Poker Hand Rankings

In Texas Hold'Em, each player is looking to create the **best five-card poker hand**. Here's the hand ranking, from best to worst:



Royal Flush

Five running cards of the same suit from 10 through to Ace



Straight Flush

Five running cards of the same suit

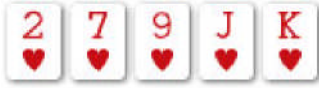


4 of a Kind Four cards of the same value



Full House

Three cards of the same value, plus two other cards of the same value



Flush

Five cards of the same suit, in any order



Straight

Five running cards, of any suit



3 of a Kind

Three cards of the same value



2 Pair

Two cards of the same value, plus two other cards of the same value



One Pair

Two cards of the same value

High Card

If a player doesn't have a pair, then the highest card in the hand plays - in this case, the King is the High Card.