

Each player is dealt two cards face down. Play begins with the player to the left of the big blind (call, raise or fold). Play continues with all players making one of these decisions. This is the first betting round.

Upon completion of the first round, the dealer then turns over three community cards (flop cards). These community cards can be used by all players in their final hand. This is the second betting round. Beginning with this round of betting (and throughout the remainder of the hand), the player to the left of the dealer acts first. Players may now check (not bet or fold) or bet if there is no betting in front of them. If there is betting and/or raising in front of them, they may call, raise, or fold.

Following the completion of action on the flop cards, the dealer turns over another community card (turn card). This is the third round of betting. The betting again starts with the player to the dealer's left.

Following the completion of action on the turn card, the dealer turns over a final community card (river card). This is the final round of betting.

When all bets are in, the showdown takes place between remaining players and the winner is declared. A player uses his best five cards from his two pocket cards and the community cards (flop, turn and river cards) to determine his hand.

POKER



The Legendary Game of Bluffing & Betting


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Poker is the most popular card game in the world. While its exact origins are unknown, it is clearly an American invention with early popularity enjoyed on Mississippi riverboats in the early 1800's.

GENERAL RULES

Poker is played with a standard 52 card deck. Cards are ranked from high, Ace, to low, 2, and contain four suits (hearts, diamonds, spades, clubs). Sometimes wild cards are used, either taken from the standard deck or with the addition of jokers.

The object is to have the highest hand. The hands are ranked as follows (from high to low):

- Five of a Kind (only possible with wild cards)
- Straight Flush (5 cards in order and of the same suit)
- Four of a Kind
- Full House (3 of a kind and a pair)
- Flush (all cards of one suit)
- Straight (5 cards in order, not all the same suit)
- Three of a Kind
- Two Pair
- Pair
- High Card

In the case of a tie, the hand with the higher cards wins.

Example 1, if Player 1 has a full house consisting of three queens, and two nines and Player 2 has three Jacks and two tens, Player 1 wins the hand since Player 1 has the higher three of a kind, the queens.

Example 2, if Player 1 has a flush consisting of a 3, 6, 9, Jack, Queen of hearts and Player 2 has a flush consisting of a 2, 4, 7, 9, Queen of spades, Player 1 wins because both have the same highest card, Queen, but Player 1 has the next highest card, Jack.

Dealer

Dealing usually rotates around the circle of players. Unless a specific game has already been agreed to by the group, the dealer calls out the game to be played that round before dealing (such as Five Card Draw).

Chips

This set comes with the following chips (and suggested point values):

WHITE – 100 chips (5 points)

RED – 50 chips (10 points)

BLUE – 35 chips (25 points)

GREEN – 15 chips (50 points)

Betting

You typically ante (place chips in the pot in the middle of the table) before the cards are dealt. As the hand progresses, players bet additional chips into the pot. The winner of the pot is the highest hand that has not folded. When it is your turn to bet (clockwise around the table), you have the following choices:

CALL – you match what has been bet since the last time you bet in the hand.

RAISE – you match the bet and you add to the amount.

FOLD – drop out of betting and quit the hand. You do not need to bet anymore but you also have lost any chance of winning the pot in the existing hand.

Betting continues until everyone calls or folds after a raise or initial bet.

Usually there is some minimum and maximum bet agreed upon by the players before play starts.

POPULAR GAMES

Five Card Draw

Each player is dealt five cards face down, then a round of betting follows. Each player may discard up to 3 cards and get new cards from the deck – as many new cards as he discarded. There is another round of betting, and then hands are revealed (the showdown). The highest hand wins the pot.

Seven Card Stud

Each player is dealt two cards face down and one card face up. Betting now begins with betting intervals continuing after each of three additional cards are dealt face up. Finally, one card is dealt face down with a final round of betting. Each player selects any five of his cards as the final hand.

Texas Hold'em

Before dealing, two blinds, the small blind (person immediately to the dealer's left) and the big blind (person to the left of the small blind), place designated (by the players before play starts) antes into the pot.