



# Texas Hold 'Em

Poker's fame has evolved from the Mississippi Riverboats to the Saloons of the Wild Wild West and finally to Sand Hills Casino. Rich with history, the game of Poker is now one of the fastest growing games with competitions and tournaments world wide.



## Object Of The Game

The object is to have the highest ranking five card hand using any combination of the two cards in your hand and the five cards on the board, called community cards.

## How To Play

A dealer button is used to indicate where the "theoretical" dealer would be if everyone was to deal. The dealer button moves in a clockwise rotation around the table after each game. The player immediately to the left of the dealer button must post the small blind and the person immediately left of this must post the big blind. The small and big blind dollar value is dependent on the limit of the game. For example in a \$1/2 "no-limit" game, the small blind is \$1 and the big blind is \$2.

Once both blinds are posted, the dealer is then ready to deal the first two cards to all the players in the game starting with the player left of the dealer button. The first betting round then commences with the person to the left of the big blind. Once the first betting round is complete, the dealer burns a card, deals three community cards (called "the flop") and turns them up. There is a betting round, and the dealer burns and turns the fourth community card (called "the turn"). There is a betting round, and the dealer burns and turns a final community card (called "the river"). There is a final betting round followed by a showdown and the pot is awarded to the player with the best five card hand. The five card hand can be comprised of any combination of the seven cards, their two cards dealt to them plus the five community cards in the center of the table.

# Betting

There are two types of betting available for Texas Hold'em: limit games and no-limit games. Both of these games have various limits within them.

**Limit Games** have established betting structures for the amount each player can bet and the number of raises allowed.

**Example: \$3/6 limit:**

1st & 2nd betting round: Bets & Raises of \$3

3rd & 4th betting round: Bets and raises of \$6

Only 3 raises are allowed in each betting round.

**Exception:** *unlimited raises in head-to-head play*

No Limit Games are much like the poker you see on TV. Players may raise as many times as they like, unless of course all players have called the raise. The amount players raise is also unlimited provided they have met the minimum raise required.

# Player Options

When it comes to your turn to act, you have up to five options depending on the game and the previous players action.

**FOLD:** Folding means you have thrown your cards into the middle and you have given up your rights for the current pot.

**CHECK:** If the previous player has not made a bet (a big blind is considered a bet) or you are the first player to act, you may "check" your hand. You are still in contention for the pot.

**CALL:** To match the wager of the previous player. The end of a betting round is determined if all players have "called" the bet.

**RAISE:** To make a bet larger than the previous bet. The first raise after the big blind must be at least the size of the big blind. Following raise must be a minimum of the previous raise.

**ALL IN:** Means that you have bet all of your chips in front of you. Two different situations can occur. An "all-in" bet in which you do not have enough money to call the previous bet. In which case a side pot would be created for the other players. You would only have claim to the main pot. Or the second situation is when a player has a strong hand or is "bluffing" that they have a strong hand.

# Rake and Session Fees

Depending on the limit of the game a commission is removed from each pot to pay for supplying a dealer and the equipment. The commission can be in the form of a "rake" in which chips are removed from each pot or a "session fee" in which each player pays a fee every half an hour.

# Signing Up

If you think you are ready to play, see the Poker Room Manager and sign up for the game you are interested in. If you have any questions, the manager will be more than willing to explain any details of the game you require.

**BET WITH YOUR HEAD NOT OVER IT!**

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Addictions Foundation of Manitoba 24 Hour Gambling Helpline Toll Free: 1-800-463-1554