

TEXAS HOLD'EM

RULES OF THE
GAME



SPIELBANKEN BAYERN

THE HISTORY

Poker, the great American game, is a multinational mixture of various card games from Asia and Europe.

The name probably comes from the French game “poque”, which was played at the end of the 17th century. To be a good poker player, you need an excellent strategy and nerves of steel. Anyone who can bluff convincingly at a crucial moment has already practically won.

THE GAME

Texas Hold'em is one of the best-known types of poker. Texas Hold'em can be played by a minimum of two and a maximum of ten people per table.

Each poker player receives two cards of their own, which are hidden from the other players, the “hole cards”. Five cards are laid on the middle of the table face-up, the “board”. At the showdown, five of these seven cards will be selected with the aim of creating the best possible hand.

The aim of the game is to win the pot which is constituted of the sum of all the stakes. There are two ways to achieve this. Either the best hand at showdown wins, or a player can, by playing cleverly, make all the other players fold before the showdown.

The value of the stakes, the blinds and the table stake are stated at the table or via a notice.

LIKELIHOOD OF A WIN:

Essentially, the win and loss probabilities are dependent on the number of players playing against each other and the tactics of all players.

The mathematical probability, for a total of 133,784,560 hand combinations, is as follows for Texas Hold'em Poker:

Name of hand	Combinations	Description	Probability
Royal Flush	4,324	Five consecutive cards from 10 to ace in one suit	0.0032%
Straight Flush	37,260	Five consecutive cards in one suit	0.0279%
Four of a Kind	224,848	Four cards of the same rank	0.1681%
Full House	3,473,184	Three cards of the same rank and a pair of a different rank	2.5961%
Flush	4,047,644	Five cards in one suit	3.0255%
Straight	6,180,020	Five consecutive cards	4.6194%
Three of a Kind	6,461,620	Three cards of the same rank	4.8299%
Two Pair	31,433,400	Two pairs	23.4955%
Pair	58,627,800	Two cards of the same rank	43.8323%
High Card	23,294,460	The highest single card	17.4119%

THE RULES OF THE GAME

Texas Hold'em is played with a deck of 52 cards. The game is led by a dealer (croupier).

A requirement for participation in the game is that a table stake is wagered. During the game, only the table stake may be used to place bets.

Any player can fold during a round and put down their hand without showing it to anyone, wait and pass on the right to speak (check), match the bets of the other players (call) or increase the bet amount (raise).

The limits on how much can be bet, or whether there is no limit at all, will be declared before the start of the poker game. This can only be changed when all players agree to it.

The stakes must be placed with chips from the Bavarian Casinos. Euro notes can be exchanged at the table.

How is the game played?

At the start of the game, a "button" is determined. This person is identified, because they will hold the "dealer button". The dealer button moves after every game: It moves clockwise, one place at a time. The button is used as an orienting device to dictate blind bets (Blinds).

Before the cards are dealt, the player to the left of the "dealer button" places the "small blind". The next player places the "big blind".

Dealing the cards/Betting rounds

Between the betting rounds, the dealer takes the uppermost card (Burn Card) out of the deck and discards it face-down.

The hole cards

After the blinds have been placed, each player receives his two cards face-down. These are the hole cards. Then the first betting round is played, in which the players which remain in the game must place bets worth at least as much as the "big blind".

The flop

Then the dealer places the first three face-up cards, called the flop, in the middle of the table. Then the second betting round takes place.

The turn card

The dealer then places a fourth card face-up next to the flop. This is the "turn card". Now, the third betting round takes place.

The river card

Finally, the dealer places the fifth card face-up next to the turn card, the "river card". The fourth and final betting round now takes place.

The showdown

If, following the last betting round, there are still at least two players in the game, the player with the best hand out of the remaining players wins. The best hand is judged as the best possible combination of the face-up cards (board) and the hole cards.

The rake

The rake is stated on the notice and will be deducted by the dealer before the showdown.



Royal Flush (highest hand)
Ace, King, Queen, Jack, 10 of the same suit



Straight
e.g. 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, any suit



Straight Flush
e.g. 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen of the same suit



Three of a Kind
e.g. 3 tens



Four of a Kind
e.g. 4 Queens



Two Pairs
e.g. 2 Jacks and 2 sevens



Full House
e.g. 8, 8, 8 with 2 Kings



Pair
e.g. 2 nines



Flush
5 cards of the same suit, no matter the value



No combination (the highest card counts)
e.g. the ace

