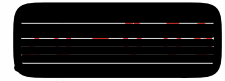


# Boston Billiard Club & Casino

Texas Hold'em  
Version 6  
04/14/2021

## Texas Hold'Em Cash Game Procedures



### Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Section, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise,

"All-in" means a player who has no funds remaining on the poker table to continue betting in a round of play but who still retains the right to contend for that portion of the pot in which the player has already placed a bet.

"Ante" means a predetermined wager, which each player is required to make in some poker games prior to any cards being dealt in order to participate in the round of play.

"Bet" means an action by which a player places gaming chips into the pot on any betting round.

"Betting round" means a complete wagering cycle in a hand of poker where all players get an opportunity to act on their hand (check, bet, call, fold, or raise)

"Blind bet" means a mandatory wager in some poker games which only players sitting in specific betting positions at the poker table shall be required to place prior to looking at any cards.

"Burn card" means a card taken from the top of a deck which is discarded face down, which is not in play and the identity of which remains unknown.

"Button" means an object that is moved clockwise around the table to denote an imaginary dealer and thereby determine the betting and dealing sequence.

"Call" means a wager made in an amount equal to the immediately preceding wager.

"Check" means that a player waives the right to initiate the betting in a betting round but retains the right to act if another player initiates the betting.

"Cover card" or "Cut Card" is a plastic card used during the cut process and then to conceal the bottom card of the deck.

"Fold" means the withdrawal of a player from a round of play by discarding his or her hand of cards during a betting round and refusing to equal a wager.

"Forced bet" means a wager which is required to start the wagering on the first betting round.

"Fouled hand" means a hand that either has an improper number of cards or has come into contact with other cards in such a way as to render it impossible to determine accurately which cards are contained in the hand.

"Hole card" means any card dealt to a player face down.

"Opening bet" means the first bet in a round of play.

"Pot" means the amount which is collected, then awarded to the winning player or players at the conclusion of a round of play and is equal to the total amount anted and bet by the players during the round of play, less any rake extracted.

"Protected hand" means a hand of cards which the player is physically holding or has placed under one or more gaming chips.

"Raise" means a bet in an amount greater than the immediately preceding bet in that betting round.

"Rake" means the amount of gaming chips, gaming plaques or coin collected by the dealer as poker revenue.

"Round of play" means, for any game of poker, the process by which cards are dealt, bets are placed and the winner of the pot is determined and paid in accordance with the rules of this Section.

"Showdown" means the action of revealing the hands of each player in order to determine who shall win the pot.

"Side pot" means a separate pot formed when one or more players are all-in.

"Stub" means the remaining portion of the deck after all cards in a round of play have been dealt.

"Suit" means one of the four categories of cards, that is, diamond, spade, club or heart.

"Table stakes" means the currency and gaming chips on the table is in play and a payer may not subtract from his or her currency/gaming chips at any time during ongoing play.

## **Cards, Number of Decks**

Poker shall be played with one deck of cards with backs of the same color and design and one additional cover card ("Cut Card"). The cut card shall be opaque and in a solid color readily distinguishable from the color of the backs and edges of the playing cards. Each deck maintained at the poker table shall be visually distinguishable in some manner from the other deck. While one deck is in use, the other deck shall be stored in a designated area.

## **Poker Rankings**

- The rank of the cards used in all types of poker other than low poker, for the determination of winning hands, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three and two. All suits shall be considered equal in rank. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a "straight flush" or a "straight" formed with a two, three, four and five (in a five card poker hand).
- The permissible high poker hands in poker games that result in a five card hand, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:
  - "Royal flush" is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and ten of the same suit;
  - "Straight flush" is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with king, queen, jack, 10 and nine being the highest ranking straight flush and ace, two, three, four and five being the lowest ranking straight flush;
  - "Four-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of four cards of the same rank regardless of suit, with four aces being the highest ranking four-of-a-kind and four twos being the lowest ranking four-of-a-kind;
  - "Full house" is a hand consisting of "three-of-a-kind" and a "pair," with three aces and two kings being the highest ranking full house and three twos and two threes being the lowest ranking full house;
  - "Flush" is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit;
  - "Straight" is a hand consisting of five cards of consecutive rank, regardless of suit, with an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 being the highest ranking straight and an ace, two, three, four and five being the lowest ranking straight; provided, however, that an ace may not be combined with any other sequence of cards for purposes of determining a winning hand (e.g., queen, king, ace, two, three);
  - "Three-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank regardless of suit, with three aces being the highest ranking three-of-a-kind and three twos being the lowest ranking three-of-a-kind;
  - "Two pairs" is a hand consisting of two "pairs," with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pair and two threes and two twos being the lowest ranking two pair.
  - "One pair" is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, regardless of suit, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two twos being the lowest ranking pair.
  - "High Card" is any hand that does not make a single pair or other rank listed above (straight, flush). A high card hand is ranked by the highest card in the hand (High card King beats High Card Queen).

- When comparing two hands which are of identical poker hand rank, as applicable, or which contain none of the poker hands authorized for that game, the hand which contains the highest ranking card, whichever is applicable, which is not contained in the other hand shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of identical rank after the application of this section, the hands shall be considered tied and the pot shall be equally divided among the players with the tied hands.
- In all games of poker, a hand shall be ranked according to the cards actually contained therein and not by the player's opinion or statement of its value.

### **Opening the Table for Gaming & Shuffling**

- After receiving cards at the table, the dealer shall sort and inspect the cards.
- Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer, the cards shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection. The cards shall be spread out according to suit and in sequence.
- Immediately prior to the commencement of play, each deck shall be separately turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a "washing" of the cards and stacked. Each deck of cards shall be shuffled.
- Immediately prior to commencement of play and after the completion of each round of play, the dealer shall shuffle the entire deck of cards. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack.

### **Poker Overview; General Dealing Procedures for All Types of Poker**

- Poker shall be played by a minimum of two players and a maximum of 11 players. Poker shall be dealt by a dealer at a poker table. For all types of poker, the dealer shall not participate in the playing or outcome of the game in any way except as otherwise authorized in this section.
- A player shall wager on the cards that the player holds in his or her hand. All bets by a player shall be placed by the dealer in the designated area of the table known as the pot. A player may be required to ante or place a blind bet prior to the receipt of any cards. After each round of cards is dealt, a betting round shall be conducted. Each player shall decide whether to continue contending for the pot by calling or raising the bet of the other players.
- The object of the game shall be for a player to win the pot either by making a bet that no other player elects to call, or by having the hand of highest rank at the showdown. If two or more players are still in contention for a pot after all cards have been dealt and the final betting round has been completed, there shall be a showdown among the players still in contention to determine which player has the hand of highest rank. Based on the type of poker being played, the winning player may be the player who holds the highest ranking high poker hand, the highest ranking low poker hand or both the highest ranking high and low poker hands.
- The following procedures shall be utilized by the dealer when dealing the game of poker:
  - Players are responsible for following the action and knowing their options, but the dealer should verbalize or physically indicate the action, which is occurring at the poker table with regard to the conduct of the game and instruct each player as to his or her various

turns to act and options,

- All burn cards required by this Section shall be kept separate from the pile of discarded cards.
- At the completion of a round of play, the dealer shall award the pot to the winning player or players after a showdown or to the last remaining player if all other players have folded. Prior to pushing the pot to the winner and collecting the winning hand, the dealer shall first collect the cards from all losing players.
- All side pots should be awarded before the dealer awards the pot in the center of the poker table.
- The dealer shall collect the rake.

## **Wagers**

No single wager by a player, on any game of chance shall exceed the amount of \$10. Provided, however, that in games of poker where the chips have monetary value, play may be conducted under "table stakes" rules where the amount of blinds, antes, and any other type of forced bet shall not exceed \$10 per player but the amount wagered by a player during the play of a hand shall not be limited except by the amount of chips the player has in his or her possession on the table. In any such "table stakes" game where big blind is \$2 the amount of chips a player may purchase during the course of play in said game shall be no greater in value than \$150 with a table maximum of \$1,000. In any such "table stakes" game where big blind is \$10, the amount of chips a player may purchase during the course of play in said game shall be no greater in value than \$150 with a table maximum of \$1,000.

Game Options & Stakes Include, but are not limited to:

Game Name/Stake	Small Blind \$	Big Blind \$	Maximum Bet \$
\$1/\$1 No Limit Hold'em	\$1	\$1	No Max (Table Stakes)
\$1/\$2 No Limit Hold'em	\$1	\$2	No Max (Table Stakes)
\$1/\$3 No Limit Hold'em	\$1	\$3	No Max (Table Stakes)
\$2/\$5 No Limit Hold'em	\$2	\$5	No Max (Table Stakes)
\$5/\$10 No Limit Hold'em	\$5	\$10	No Max (Table Stakes)

\$2/\$4 Limit Hold'em	\$1	\$2	\$4
\$3/\$6 Limit Hold'em	\$1	\$3	\$6
\$4/\$8 Limit Hold'em	\$2	\$4	\$8
\$8/\$16 Limit Hold'em	\$4	\$8	\$16
\$10/\$20 Limit Hold'em	\$5	\$10	\$20

- Only players who are seated at the poker table may be permitted to receive cards and participate in each betting round.
- Depending upon the particular type of poker game being dealt, a player may be required to:
  - Place an ante prior to receiving any cards;
  - Place a predetermined blind bet prior to receiving any cards.
- A player may only participate in the wagering during a round of play with the gaming chips which were already on the poker table in front of the player when the round of play commenced.
  - A player may only add to his or her gaming chips between rounds of play and may not remove any of his or her gaming chips from the poker table at any time during ongoing play unless to pay for food, drink, or massage services less than \$25.
  - A player who depletes his or her funds on the poker table prior to the completion of a round of play shall be deemed to be "all-in."
    - An "all-in" player shall retain financial interest in the outcome of the round of play, but shall only be eligible to win the amount of the pot to which he or she contributed;
    - An "all-in" player shall continue to receive any cards to which he or she would normally be entitled; and
    - Betting shall continue unimpeded among the other players by generating a separate secondary pot (side pot), which only those players shall be eligible to win.
- A verbal statement of "fold," "check," "call," "raise," or an announcement of a specific size wager by a player, assuming it is within the rules of the poker game being played and the minimum and maximum wager limits for the poker table, shall be binding on the player if it is that player's turn to act.
- A player who announces a bet or raise of a certain amount but places a different amount of gaming chips in the pot shall be required to correct his or her bet or raise to the announced amount in accordance with the instructions of the dealer,
- A player shall be considered to have placed a bet if the player:

- Pushes gaming chips forward to indicate the intent of placing a bet;
- Releases gaming chips into the pot; or
- Releases gaming chips at a sufficient distance from the player and towards the pot to make it obvious that it is intended as a bet.
- A player shall not be permitted to make a bet and thereafter attempt to increase the amount of that bet.
  - If the player wishes to add additional gaming chips to the bet, the player must indicate at the time the bet is being made that the bet is not yet complete.
  - A player who puts the proper amount of gaming chips into the pot to call a bet, without indicating his or her intention to raise, may not thereafter raise the previous bet.
- It shall be the dealer's responsibility to ensure that no player touches any of the gaming chips placed into the pot.
- Unless a raise has been verbally announced by that player, a player who puts into the pot a single gaming chip that is larger than required is assumed to have only called the preceding bet and to be awaiting change from the dealer.
- Unless specifically posted to the contrary, a player shall be permitted to raise after he or she has previously checked in a betting round.

**Additional types of accepted bets, raises, & wagers:**

**Straddle:** A straddle is an optional bet placed by a player on the table prior to the start of the hand. This bet is a raise made prior to receiving any cards, and give the player the right to act last in that betting round after all other players have acted (fold, call, raise). The straddle is limited to a set value depending on the game stakes, but may never exceed the maximum bet allowed at the table per the 'Game Options' chart above.

**Bomb Pot Raises:** A Bomb pot raise is an optional raise made by a player before the cards are dealt, and agreed to by other players at the table. When a bomb pot is in effect, all players choose to call the optional raise (or fold by being dealt out). Once the cards are dealt to all players, the dealer will immediately deal the flop – as the bomb pot closes all action before the flop. Bomb pots may be played with either one or two boards. The bomb pot bet is limited to a set value depending on the game stakes, but may never exceed the maximum bet allowed at the table per the 'Game Options' chart above.

**Hold 'em Poker; Dealing Procedures; Completion of Each Round of Play**

- Hold 'em poker shall be played to determine a winning high hand only.
- Each poker table shall be restricted to a maximum of eleven players. Each player who elects to participate in a round of play may be required to place a blind or ante.
- The order in which the cards shall be dealt and the order in which players shall be required or have the option to bet shall be determined as follows:
  - A flat disk called the "button" shall be used to indicate an imaginary dealer;

- At the commencement of play, the button shall be placed in front of the first player to the right of the dealer; and
- Thereafter, the button shall rotate around the table in a clockwise manner after each round of play.
- The player (Player A) to the immediate left of the button shall be required to initiate the first betting round by placing a blind bet (small blind) in accordance with the posted table requirements. The player immediately to the left of Player A will be required to place a blind bet double the size of player A's blind bet (big blind).
- Starting with the player to the immediate left of the button and continuing in a clockwise rotation around the poker table, the dealer shall deal two cards face down to each player one at a time, the player with the button being the last player to receive a card.
- Following the placement of the blind bets, each player shall in turn, in a clockwise rotation around the poker table, either fold, call or raise the bet. The option to raise shall also apply to the player who made the blind bet(s). After the last player has responded to the most recent bet, the betting round shall be considered complete.
- The dealer shall then burn the top card of the deck and proceed to deal three community cards face up in the center of the table. The next betting round shall commence with the option to bet or check belonging to the first player to the left of the button who still had cards. Each subsequent player has the option to check or bet if a bet has not been made yet. If there is a bet, each player has the option to call that bet, raise, or fold their hand.
- Upon completion of the betting round, the dealer shall again burn the top card of the deck and then deal a fourth community card face up in the center of the table. The next betting round shall commence and be completed in accordance with the same process as the previous betting round.
- Upon completion of that betting round, the dealer shall again burn the top card of the deck and then deal a fifth and final community card face up in the center of the table. The final betting round shall commence and be completed in accordance with the same process as the previous betting rounds.
- If two players are all-in, they may agree to play the rest of the current hand twice. If both players agree, the dealer will deal the remaining board cards for the current hand (including burn cards), then will deal an additional set of remaining board cards (i.e. if the players are all-in on the flop, the board would consist of one flop, but two turn cards, and two river cards). This is treated as two hands, so double the rake will be collected by the house/charity. Double promotional rake is not collected, as only the natural board is eligible for any promotions.
- If more than one player remaining in the round of play after the final betting round has been completed, a showdown shall be used to determine the winner of the pot. Each player remaining in the game shall form his or her highest-ranking five-card poker from their two hole cards and the five community cards. The winner of the pot shall be the player with the highest ranking poker hand. If the highest ranking five card high poker hand that each of the remaining players can form is comprised of the five community cards, all players remaining in the round of play shall share equally in the pot.



## **Texas Hold 'Em - Object of the Game**

- In Texas Hold' Em, players receive two cards face down and five community cards are displayed, face up, on the board. Players make the best five-card poker hand out of their two cards and these five board cards. There are four separate betting rounds in Texas Hold 'Em.
- In Texas Hold 'Em there is a "Dealer Button" which is passed around the table. The player at whose seated at the "Dealer Button" has the last action on each betting round.
- There are two "Blind" bets in Texas Hold 'Em. These bets are designed to stimulate action and are placed in the two positions immediately to the left of the "Dealer Button". The second of these "Blind" bets (the "Big Blind") is the larger of the two blinds. Both blinds are considered "live" and a raise may be made when the player's betting turn is reached.

## **Poker Revenue**

- The poker room shall derive its poker revenue at all poker tables by extracting a commission known as the "rake."
- The poker room uses the following procedure in determining and extracting the rake:
  - A rake which shall be taken in incremental amounts, pursuant to which:
    - Assessments of predetermined amounts shall be extracted from the pot and any side pots as certain predetermined dollar levels have been achieved;
    - Upon collection, the amount to be raked shall be placed into the designated rake area; and
    - Upon completion of a round of play, the rake shall be immediately placed by the dealer into the table inventory container.
  - A Timed Rake, which is a pre-determined amount paid by each player for playing for a consistent period of time (typically 30 minutes segments). Rake may be collected for playing any portion of the time period.
- A sign describing the type and amount of rake to be collected pursuant to the house rules and posted notices in the room.
- An uncalled final bet shall not be considered part of the pot for purposes of calculating the amount of rake pursuant to a raked pot (N/A for timed rake)
- Once the dealer has extracted the rake and the pot and any side pots have been collected by the winning player or players, no additional rake shall be taken by the poker room.

## **General Operating Rules for All Types of Poker; Handling of Irregularities**

- It shall be the responsibility of each player to ensure that his or her hand has lost to the other hands at the table before discarding the hand.
- In all disputes in which a ruling, interpretation clarification or intervention is required, the decision of management shall be final.
- Each player shall be required to keep all cards dealt to the player in full view of the dealer at

all times. The dealer shall ensure compliance with this requirement.

- At the showdown, a "winning hand must be clearly displayed in its entirety and property identified. The player initiating the final wager shall be the first player to show his or her hand at the showdown; all other players who have not folded shall then reveal their hands in a clockwise rotation. Any player holding hand may concede his or her rights to the pot and discard the hand; provided, however, that the poker room may require the disclosure of any discarded hands.
- Misdeals shall cause all the cards to be returned to the dealer for a reshuffle. The following errors shall be cause for a misdeal:
  - Failure to shuffle and cut the cards;
  - Dealing to an incorrect starting position if the error has been detected prior to two players voluntarily placing wagers into the pot;
  - If more than one card is found face-up in the deck; and
  - Failure to deal to an eligible seated player, if the error has been detected prior to two or more players voluntarily placing wagers into the pot.
- If one or more cards are mistakenly dealt to an ineligible player, only those cards dealt to that player shall be discarded and the round of play shall be continued.
- If at any time during a round of play, missing cards are discovered or additional cards are sound, the round of play shall be called dead, all gaming chips in the pot shall be returned to the appropriate player and the deck shall be replaced. Any hands potentially impacted prior to this point will be disregarded as all players played the hand under equal pretenses.
- A card found face-upwards in the deck (a "boxed card") shall not be used in the game and shall be placed with the pile of discarded cards. If two or more boxed cards are exposed, the hand will be terminated, and all players will be refunded.
- A player who fails to take reasonable means to protect his or her hand shall have no redress if his or her hand becomes a fouled hand or the dealer accidentally collects the hand.
  - If a protected hand comes into contact with discarded cards, every effort shall be made to reconstruct the hand and complete the round of play.
  - A player who has a protected hand collected by the dealer or fouled by discarded cards shall be entitled to a refund from the pot of all monies that he or she put in the pot if the player has been a victim of and not a contributor to the error.
  - A player who leaves the table without comment and has an unprotected hand shall be assumed to have no interest in the pot, and his or her cards shall be collected and discarded
- Verbal statements which are clearly audible by and directed to the dealer shall always have precedence over actions and gestures and are considered binding on the player whose turn it is to act.
  - A player shall be deemed to have folded if, when faced with making or calling a wager, he or she discards his or her hand face-down towards the pile of discarded cards, the pot, or the dealer.
  - If a player is obligated to place a wager by virtue of a verbal statement or forced betting situation, throwing away his or her cards does not relieve the player of that

obligation.

- If a card is accidentally dealt off the table on the initial deal, it shall not be used in that round of play and shall be treated as the first burn card.

### **Conduct of Players**

- Each player in a poker game shall play the game solely to improve his or her chance of winning and shall take no action to improve another player's chance of winning. No player may communicate any information to another player, which could assist the other player in any manner respecting the outcome of a poker game.
- A poker room which has reasonable cause to believe that a player has acted or is acting in violation of the above may ask the player to leave the game.

### **Waiting List**

A casino may maintain a list of players who have requested to be seated at a particular type of poker table. All vacant seats shall be filled on a first come first served basis. The casino shall be permitted to announce only those seating vacancies for which an individual has been placed on a waiting list.