

No Limit Texas Hold'em rules



Number of players in a table: 2-9

Cards: Standard deck of 52 playing cards

Actually, the game of Texas Hold'em is very easy to understand. Each player is dealt two face-down poker cards, the so called hole cards. After this a total of five cards are dealt face-up on the table; first three cards, then one more and finally the last one. These are called community cards, because everyone can use them in conjunction with their own two cards to form a hand. In between the dealing of these cards, there are four rounds of betting in which you can either bet chips, or fold your hand.

Buy-in

In no limit Texas Hold'em cash games: The minimum and maximum buy-in amounts are decided by the house (casino, online poker room, home game host, owners of clubs). In usual, there is no limit for buying amount. A standard buy-in amount is 50 big blinds. The game goes well with enough chips of different denominations, so players can bet any amount they want (until all-in, all chips from a player's stack are in the pot). The small blind often determines the smallest chip denomination. Players can bring additional chips to the table (Top-up) in between hands but not during a hand.

Dealer button

Every hand one player receives the dealer button, which means as much as that this player is assigned the function of dealer. When starting a new game, every player is dealt random two cards face up. The person with the highest card receives the button. The ranking of the cards from lowest to highest is 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, J, Q, K, A. For similar cards the suits are ranked from lowest to highest as clubs, diamonds, hearts and spades. Every next hand the dealer button is moved 1 player clockwise. If the players do not actually deal themselves or if one player does all the dealing, then the dealer button (function of dealer) keeps being assigned to one of the players as explained.

Blinds

Every hand the two players directly left to the dealer have to make a forced bet before the cards are dealt. These bets are called the blinds. The player directly left to the button pays the small blind. The player directly left from the small blind pays the big blind, which usually is twice the small blind. In cash games the blinds are pre-determined and stay the same throughout the game. In tournaments the blinds can go up following a pre-determined blind-schedule in which the size of the blinds and the duration of each level (usually a certain amount of time or number of hands) are stated. In cash games, the blinds determine the stakes of the game.

Dealing of the cards

After the blinds have been paid, every player is dealt random two cards face down starting with the person directly left from the dealer (small blind) going clockwise. Every player receives one card at a time (two rounds of dealing).

Actions

Whenever it's a player's turn, he or she can choose from the following actions:

- **Check:** the player continues to play his cards without betting. This option is only opens to a player when nobody has bet or risen yet.
- **Fold:** the player does not continue in the hand and 'mucks' his or her cards (returns the cards face down to the dealer, these cards are not used until the next hand).
- **Bet:** if no other players have bet yet, then the player can bet any amount with a minimum of the big blind and a maximum of his whole stack. The big blind is considered a bet in the first betting round.
- **Call:** if another player has bet earlier in the hand, calling will match this bet and the player continues with his hand.
- **Raise:** if another player has bet earlier in the hand, raising will make it more expensive for all the players to continue in the hand (to call). The minimum amount one can raise with is the initial bet. If a player's stack is too small for this, than a player can go all-in.

Both a bet and a raise are said to 're-open the betting'. This means that the last player who has not folded yet to the right of the player who last bet or raise is the last to act. There is no limit for the amount of times the action can come back to a certain player in no limit hold'em when, for example, players keep re-raising each other with minimal raises. The only exception here is the big blind in the pre-flop betting round. Although the big blind is

considered a bet, the small blind will never be last to act. The big blind always gets a chance to act.

Betting rounds

In Texas hold'em there are four betting rounds or streets: pre-flop, the flop, the turn (also called Fourth Street) and the river (also called Fifth Street). A betting round is closed when all players have acted, either once or multiple times if the betting gets re-opened by a bet or a raise, or when a player has won the hand. If two or more players get all-in on a betting round before the river and no other players are left to bet, then all five community cards have to be dealt before a winner can be decided.

- **Pre-flop:** betting starts as soon as the blinds are paid and the cards have been dealt. The first player to act is the player directly seated left to the big blind (the player 'under the gun'). The big blind is considered a bet and therefore players can only call or raise. The player in the big blind always gets a chance to act (also see 'Actions').
- **On the flop:** the top card of the deck (being face down) is burned (mucked) after which three community cards are dealt face up. Then a round of betting starts in which the player directly seated to the left of the dealer button (the small blind) is first to act.
- **The turn and the river:** follow the same rules as the flop with the exception that only one card gets dealt instead of three.

Deciding a winner

A player has won the hand when all other players have folded or when this player holds the best hand when it comes to a showdown on the river. At showdown, the last player who bet or rose on the river has to show his hand first after which other players can choose to muck (discarding their hand unseen) or show going clockwise. If all players checked on the river, then the player left to the dealer has to show his hand first. A player must pick exactly 5 cards from the 2 hole cards and the 5 community cards together to form the best hand (even if that means playing all the community cards and no hole cards). If multiple players have the same best hand, than they equally split the pot ('it's a split pot'). In no limit Texas hold'em the four different card suits are not ranked. The poker hand rankings are provided on another page and are also included with these no limit Texas hold'em rules in the PDF document is available for download at the top of this page.

The ranking of hands in Hold'em or Omaha is the same as in almost every other poker variant:

Poker Ranking of the Hands (From highest to lowest)

	1. Royal Flush: Ace, King, Queen, Jack, 10 in the same suit.		6. Straight: Five cards in sequence, but not in the same suit.
	2. Straight Flush: A five card sequence in the same suit.		7. Three of a Kind: Three cards with the same value.
	3. Four of a Kind: Four cards of the same value.		8. Two Pair: Two pairs of cards.
	4. Full House: One pair and three of a kind.		9. One Pair: One pair of cards.
	5. Flush: Five cards of the same suit, but not in sequence.		10. High Card: If the hand has no other combination, its worth is determined by the highest card in the hand.