

POKER

The following is a summary of the game rules.

Poker is one of the most skilful and fascinating games ever devised, offering players a chance to test their skills against other players rather than the house (casino). Poker is as much a game of skill as it is strategy. There are many different variations of Poker and The Star offers the following:

Draw Poker

5 and 7 Card Stud

Omaha

Texas Hold 'Em

Manila

This brochure will outline how to play the different variations and how each version differs. For further information on how to play, speak to one of our friendly tables games staff.

HOW TO PLAY

Each variation of Poker available at The Star has different rules and strategies but the object is always the same – to end up with the best possible five-card hand and to beat the other players to win the combined wagers or pot. This is achieved by either obtaining the highest-ranking hand or by making the other players think (bluffing) you have the highest-ranking hand and thereby forcing them to withdraw (fold).

Each Poker game at The Star also has a minimum buy-in amount, which you will find displayed along with the table limits applicable to each particular game.

When you play poker at The Star, the role of the casino is simply one of host. The Star will provide a dealer, the necessary equipment and offer a variety of games in a secure and exciting environment. In return for these services, The Star will take a small fee or commission. This commission may be either: a fee to sit at the table, a percentage of the pot, a fee per hand, or a time charge on each player participating in the game or any combination of these and will be displayed on a sign in the Poker area.

Draw Poker - Ante

In this variation of Poker, a player's cards are hidden until showdown. Prior to receiving cards, you must place an initial wager known as an **ante**.

You are then dealt five cards face down.

You may then pick up your cards, look at them and decide if you want to stay in the game. To stay in the game you must place a bet. After the first round of betting is complete you may choose to

discard any or all of your cards and be dealt alternative ones by the dealer. This is known as **the draw**. Once the draw is complete, a second round of betting takes place.

The winner is the player with the highest-ranking five-card poker hand.

Draw Poker - Blind

Before any cards are dealt, two players at the table place a blind wager. This means that each player in the game will be required to take a turn at placing such a wager(s) at the start of a hand. The game is then continued in the same manner as above (Draw Poker – Ante).

Stud Poker – 5 Card Stud

In this variation of Poker, some of the player's cards are exposed to all players as betting progresses.

Prior to receiving cards, you must place an ante.

You are then dealt two cards, one face down (hole card) and the other face up.

The player with the lowest ranking face up card shall open the betting and other players in turn, starting to the left of the opening player, must call, raise or fold.

Each remaining player is then dealt another card face up and another betting round takes place. This time it is the player with the highest Poker hand showing who opens the betting. Play continues in this manner until all players have five cards, one face down and four face up, or until only one player remains.

The winner is the player with the highest-ranking five-card Poker hand.

Stud Poker – 7 Card Stud

7 Card Stud is played the same way as 5 Card Stud except;

- Players are dealt three cards in the initial deal, two cards face down (hole cards) and one face up.
- Players receive a total of seven cards, three face down and four face up.
- The winner is the player with the highest-ranking five-card Poker hand consisting of any combination of the seven cards dealt.

Manila – 2 Card

Manila is always played with a reduced deck of 32 cards containing 7 through to Ace.

Before any cards are dealt, one player at the table will place a blind wager.

Each player in the game will be required to take a turn at placing such a wager at the start of a hand.

Players are then dealt two cards face down (hole cards) and the dealer then deals one face up in the centre of the table (community card) and a betting round commences. After the betting round is completed, the dealer will deal another community card in the centre of the table. Play will continue

in this manner until there are five community cards on the table followed by one final betting round or until only one player remains.

The winner is the player with the highest-ranking five-card Poker hand consisting of the player's two hole cards and any three of the five community cards.

Manila – 3 Card

Three Card Manila is played the same way as two card Manila except;

- Each player is initially dealt three cards face down (hole cards).
- The winner is the player with the highest-ranking five-card Poker hand consisting of any two of the player's three hole cards and any three of the five community cards.

Texas Hold'Em

Before any cards are dealt, two players at the table place a blind wager.

Each player in the game will be required to take a turn at placing such a wager(s) at the start of a hand.

Players are then dealt two cards face down (hole cards) and a betting round commences.

After the betting round is completed, the dealer will deal three community cards face down and then will simultaneously expose them. This is called the **flop**.

Another betting round takes place after which the dealer deals a fourth community card face up. Play will continue in this manner until there are five community cards on the table followed by one final betting round or until only one player remains.

The winner is the player with the highest-ranking five-card Poker hand consisting of any combination of the player's two hole cards and/or the five community cards.

Omaha

Omaha is played the same way as Texas Hold 'Em except;

- Players are initially dealt four cards face down (hole cards).
- The winner is the player with the highest-ranking five-card Poker hand consisting of any two of the player's four hole cards and any three of the five community cards.

ORDER OF POKER HANDS



1. ROYAL FLUSH
Ace, King, Queen Jack
and 10 of the same suit



2. STRAIGHT FLUSH
Any five cards from the
same suit in sequence



3. FOUR OF A KIND
Four cards of the same
rank, with one other card



4. FULL HOUSE
Three cards of the same rank
combined with a pair of another rank



5. FLUSH
Five cards of the same suit



6. STRAIGHT
Five cards in numerical
sequence not all of the same suit



7. THREE OF A KIND
Three cards of the same rank



8. TWO PAIRS
Two cards of the same rank
combined with two cards of
another rank, plus one other card



9. ONE PAIR
Two cards of the same rank



10. NO PAIR
Five unmatched cards. The highest
card in the hand designates the
relative value of the hand

NB. In a reduced deck (32 cards) a Flush beats a Full House.

PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT

The Star may offer a progressive jackpot on selected Poker tables. The tables where players may be eligible to win a jackpot shall have a sign at the table indicating participation in the jackpot.

Players are not required to make a specific jackpot wager to have a chance of winning the jackpot. They must check or bet as required to stay in the round of play to completion, and meet the conditions of the jackpot, which shall be displayed in the Poker Pit.

GLOSSARY OF POKER TERMS

Ante a pre-determined contribution to the pot placed by all players prior to the first card being dealt in a round of play;

Bet means a player's wager, or the action of a player making a wager;

Betting Round a period of play during which each active player, in order, has the option to check, bet or fold until all wagers have been matched or reached the maximum number of raises;

Blind a pre-determined contribution to the pot placed by a selected player or players before the first card is dealt. The blind is a live wager, which can win the pot if no further contributions to the pot are made;

"buy-in" means a required amount necessary to enter a game or tournament;

Call a wager made in an amount equal to the immediately preceding wager;

Check to abstain from wagering but continue to stay in contention for the pot by retaining the right to re-enter the betting after all other players have either bet or folded;

Community Card(s) a card or cards dealt to the centre of the table, which may be used by all players to complete their best possible hand;

"dead hand" means a hand that is ineligible to win the pot. A hand shall be declared dead if a specified time limit for decision making is exceeded or if cards are thrown in and touch the muck;

Fold a decision by a player to no longer continue with their hand for that particular round of play;

Hole Cards a player's concealed cards;

"live cards" means cards that are still active in a round of play and have not been mucked. A player's live cards may be indicated by the placement of that player's hand on top of their cards;

Pot the sum of the antes, blinds and bets wagered;

Raise means a bet within the table limits that is an implicit call plus an amount in excess of the previous bet or raise by at least as large an amount, except in the case of an all-in raise;

Round of Play the period of play at a table commencing with the dealing of the first card by the dealer and concluding when the dealer announces a result and passes the pot to the winning player.

POKER CODE OF CONDUCT

The Star management has established a Poker Code of Conduct to establish and maintain a pleasant environment for our customers and employees.

The management reserves the right to refuse any person from participating in any game and may ask any player to leave a game, if their conduct is considered to be unacceptable.

The etiquette tips on this page are offered to assist you to feel comfortable at the table among the other players. A more comprehensive Poker Code of Conduct is located in the Poker area and you should familiarise yourself with its contents before you commence play.

Poker Etiquette

All Poker players should endeavour to play to these standards:

Play at a Reasonable Speed

Once in a while, a decision may take significant thought, however consistently taking time to make decisions frustrates other players. It is also reasonable to expect players to follow the game, know when it is their turn and what the action is.

Players must protect their own hand

When handling your cards, every attempt must be made to conceal them. If you show your cards to another player, you have a duty to show your cards to the rest of the table. If a dealer mucks a player's hand in error, the player will have no recourse as it is the player's responsibility to protect their own hand. The dealer may enforce this.

The Removal of Chips

An active player shall not add to or reduce their table stake during any round of play. A player not in a hand may add to their stake as per the table limits, but shall not remove chips from the table; except for the purchase of goods and services from a casino employee, (food and drinks). Chips shall remain in full view at all times in neat stacks of each denomination with the largest denomination at the front.

If you're not in the hand keep quiet

Unruly and continual chatter can cause those players in the hand to lose concentration. Never make comments about the hand in progress. While the hand is in progress, avoid body language or gestures that may signal your intentions.

Player Integrity

Any player who sees an error made or about to be made has an obligation to point out the error to the dealer. Colluding with other players or cheating will not be tolerated. English only must be spoken whilst a game is in play. Obscene or profane language will not be tolerated.

Announce your intentions

If raising you should announce, “raise.” If going all-in you should announce, “all-in.” All bets and raises, unless verbally declared, should be placed in one hand motion. Placing bets and raises in a delayed motion is known as string betting or string raising and is deemed to be unacceptable conduct.

See table games staff for further information on how to play.

**Think! About your choices.
Call Gambling Help 1800858 858
www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au.**