



## 2016 World Series of Poker® Official Live-Action Rules Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas, Nevada

### SECTION I – GENERAL HOUSE RULES

1. As used herein, “Rio” means Rio Properties, LLC dba Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino and its parents, affiliates and subsidiaries. Rio reserves the right to refuse anyone entry into the Live-Action Game Area of the Convention Center, in its sole and absolute discretion.
2. Entry into the World Series of Poker (herein “Live-Action” refers to designated poker events at the Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino from May 31, 2016 through July 18, 2016 in the Pavilion room of the Convention Center) is limited to persons 21 years of age and older, with proof of age, that Rio, acting in its sole and absolute discretion, deems appropriate.
3. Individuals who are excluded from casino facilities, either through a government program or by their own request, are not eligible.
4. Participants must show their current, valid and unexpired picture identification (current passport, driver’s license or state or military identification card) acceptable to Rio when registering for a game at a Live-Action podium. If a participant is not a U.S. citizen, a valid and unexpired current passport, foreign government issued Driver’s License (must have a photograph, the date of birth and a valid expiration date), Consular ID or Matricula Consular Card (Mexico only) or alien registration card is required. Participants, known by staff, to already have shown identification may be allowed to play without having card present at time of play.
5. Participants are required to obtain a Total Rewards Card prior to playing in any game located in Live-Action. Total Rewards Cards are available without payment of any kind at the Total Rewards Desk next to registration in the Convention Center or in the casino area of the Casino or the casino of any of Rio’s affiliates. Participants, known by staff, to have already presented a Total Rewards Card may be allowed to play without having card present at time of play.
6. Caesars Entertainment reserves the right to accommodate participants based on special needs.
7. Floor decisions are final. In the event that there is a dispute with a ruling made by someone other than the Live-Action Shift Lead Supervisor on Duty, a participant can opt to request a decision from the Lead Supervisor. Once the Lead Supervisor has made a ruling, this ruling is final.
8. Participants must protect their own hands at all times.
9. Management reserves the right to make decisions which are as fair and equitable as possible. Therefore, under extreme circumstances, it may decide to award a pot or decision to a participant who is clearly entitled to it in the spirit of the rule rather than using the literal interpretation.
10. Discourteous behavior, disrespect towards staff and other participants, or abusive language will not be tolerated, and may result in removal from the room.
11. A minimum buy-in is ten times the minimum bet in limit games unless otherwise specified. Minimum buy-ins are posted on the table placard for all other games.
12. A live “straddle bet” is allowed in all blind games. Action begins with the participant to the left of the straddle if the straddle is to the left of the big blind. Action begins with the under-the-gun participant if the straddle is on the button. The straddle will always act in turn during the betting for any round. The participant who posts the straddle has last action for the first round of betting and is allowed to raise. The amount of the straddle is twice the big blind unless otherwise noted on the game placard. Unless otherwise specified, a participant can straddle from either under-the-gun or from the button, with the button having precedence. The minimum allowed raise after the straddle is three times the big blind. Unless indicated on the game placard, a mandatory straddle will not be enforced, even if every participant at the table agrees; a new participant will not be forced to straddle. The button straddle is not allowed in Limit games.
13. Participants are not permitted to transfer tables without House consent.
14. The House has the right to request a standard of behavior and dress befitting ladies and gentlemen.
15. A participant may only request to see another participant’s hand if collusion is suspected, and then only in the presence of a floor-person.
16. The winning hand must show all cards prior to the pot being pushed, unless that hand is the only live hand remaining. Cards speak for themselves. Dealers will assist in reading hands and assigning the correct value to any tabled hand.
17. A verbal statement of fold, check, call, raise or a specific size bet is binding on an active participant.

18. Action out of turn will be binding if the action to that participant has not changed. A check, call or fold is not considered action changing. If a participant acts out of turn and the action changes, the person who acted out of turn may change their action by calling, raising or folding and may have their chips returned. Participants may not intentionally act out of turn to influence play before them.
19. Conditional statements of future action are strongly discouraged and may be binding i.e. "If-then" statements such as "if you bet, then I will raise."
20. Cards must remain on the table at all times. Games that are an exception to this rule are Open-Face Chinese and Chinese Poker.
21. Only one participant per hand.
22. A boxed card is a card discovered face up in the deck. It will be treated as a meaningless scrap of paper. A boxed card will be replaced by the next card below it in the deck, except when the next card has already been dealt facedown to another participant and mixed in with other down-cards. In that case, the card that was face up in the deck will be replaced after all other cards are dealt for that round. If 2 or more boxed cards appear as any of the cards needed to play the hand, the hand in progress will be void and all monies returned to the participants involved.
  - a. In Open-Face Chinese Poker, the presence of a boxed card is treated differently. During the initial dealing of the participants' five cards, the presence of a boxed card will result in a misdeal. After the participants have set the initial five cards, a participant will be forced to play any subsequent boxed card that appears in the deck. If two or more boxed cards appear before the participants have set the second draw, the hand will be misdealt. After the second draw has been set, participants will be forced to play any boxed cards that appear in the deck. If a misdeal occurs in Open-Face Chinese Poker, a participant who was supposed to be in Fantasyland (see rule #344) for the misdealt hand will still remain in Fantasyland for the re-deal.
23. Foreign cards in a deck void a hand.
24. Foreign cards are not allowed in view in the Poker Room
25. All cell phones and other voice-enabled and "ringing" devices are allowed as long as it does not impede the progress of the game. Participants not involved in a hand (cards in muck) shall be permitted to text/email at the table, but shall not be permitted to text/email any other participant at the table. If Caesars Entertainment, acting in its sole and absolute discretion, believes a participant is communicating with another participant at the table, both parties will be immediately removed from the Poker Room.
24. Participants are allowed to use approved electronic devices, iPods, MP3 and other music participants or noise reduction headsets during Live Action play as long as their use does interfere with play. Approved electronic devices cannot be used to collude, cheat, or communicate with another participant during a hand. No electronic devices will be placed on the poker table in a manner that obstructs view or impedes gameplay.
25. Only English may be spoken at the table while cards are in play. This also applies to those who are watching a game and communicating with a participant in the game. Speaking a foreign language while any hand is in progress is not allowed, regardless of whether a participant has cards or not.
26. No tobacco products of any kind are allowed in the Poker Room. This includes cigarettes and chewing tobacco. Electronic cigarette devices can be used in specifically designated areas but never at the poker table.
27. House Rake is 10%, up to \$5 maximum unless the game is time raked with the rate indicated on the placard. In time raked games, the participants may opt to play a "time-pot" where the entirety of the rake for the half hour is taken from the pot on the hand that is dealt immediately after the time collection announcement made every thirty minutes.
28. Nevada Gaming Regulations allow the use of Shills and Proposition Participants. Shills and Proposition Participants shall be identified by management upon request.

## **SECTION II – PARTICIPANT CONDUCT AND LIVE GAME INTEGRITY**

The following is a list of violations that may result in removal from and probable permanent barring from the poker room.

29. Verbally or physically threatening any patron or employee.
30. Using profanity or obscene language. The occasional outburst may be tolerated, but participants should be given a warning by the dealer regarding profanity. Obscene expletives or lewdness will not be tolerated.
31. Collusion with another participant or any other form of cheating is completely unacceptable and can be grounds for immediate and permanent expulsion from the room.
32. Creating a disturbance by arguing, shouting, or making excessive noise.
33. Throwing, tearing, bending, or crumpling cards.

34. Destroying or defacing property.
35. Using an illegal substance or being too intoxicated.
36. Carrying a weapon.
37. Deliberately acting out of turn.
38. Deliberately splashing chips into the pot.
39. Agreeing to check a hand out when another participant is all-in.
40. Reading a hand for another participant at the showdown before it has been placed face up on the table.
41. Telling anyone to turn a hand face-up at the showdown.
42. Revealing the contents of a live hand in a multi-handed pot before the betting is complete.
43. Revealing the contents of a folded hand before the betting is complete. Do not divulge the contents of a hand during a deal even to someone not in the pot so you do not create any possibility of the information being transmitted to an active participant.
44. Needlessly stalling the action of a game.
45. Deliberately discarding hands away from the muck. Cards should be released in a low line of flight, at a moderate rate of speed; not at the dealer's hands or chip-rack.
46. Stacking chips in a manner that interferes with dealing or viewing cards. Participants are entitled to a reasonable estimation of an opponent's chip count; thus chips should be kept in countable stacks. Clean stacks in multiples of 20 are recommended as a standard. Participants must keep their higher denomination chips visible and identifiable at all times.
47. Making statements or taking action that could unfairly influence the course of play, whether or not the offender is involved in the pot.

### **SECTION III – HOUSE POLICIES**

48. Management reserves the right to make decisions in the spirit of fairness, even if a strict interpretation of the rules may indicate a different ruling. A participant who commits an infraction should not profit from it and, conversely, a participant who has done nothing wrong should not be placed at a disadvantage.
49. The proper time to draw attention to an error or irregularity is when it occurs or is first noticed. Any delay may affect the ruling.
50. If an incorrect rule interpretation or decision by an employee is made in good faith, the establishment has no liability.
51. A request for a ruling must be made prior to the start of the next hand or before the game either ends or changes to another table. Otherwise, the result of the prior hand will stand. The first riffle of the shuffle marks the start for a deal. On tables with shuffle machines the start of a new deal is once the button has been pushed on the shuffle machine. However, in the event that a possible house error occurred, a supervisor will make all necessary efforts to correct the outcome of the hand in question, even if the mistake is brought to light after the next hand has begun.
52. If a pot has been incorrectly awarded and mingled with chips that were not in the pot, and the time limit for a ruling request given in the previous rule has not expired, management may determine how much was in the pot by reconstructing the betting, and then transfer that amount to the proper participant.
53. To keep the action moving, it is possible that a game may be asked to continue even though a decision is delayed for a short period. The delay could be needed to check with surveillance, or get the Shift Lead Supervisor to give the ruling. In such circumstances, a pot or portion thereof may be taken off of the table by the house while the decision is pending.
54. The same action from two different participants may have a different meaning, depending on the participant who commits that action, so it is possible that the intent of an offender will be taken into consideration to make the fairest ruling possible. A participant's past record of behavior may be used to determine participant intent and consequently the outcome of the hand.

### **SECTION IV – PROCEDURES**

These are the standard procedures that are used and generally accepted in card rooms around the U.S. They are subject to Nevada State Gaming Regulations as well as company policies, local customs, participant preferences and security and surveillance considerations.

55. Cash does not play and is not permitted to remain on the table as any part of a participant's stakes. If a participant is buying into a game, re-buying, or adding stakes to an existing buy-in, this participant must proceed to the WSOP Live-Action cage to purchase chips.

56. Only chips belonging to RIO will be valid stakes at tables.
57. Chips may be removed for security purposes when leaving the table. The establishment is not responsible for any shortage or removal of chips left on the table during a participant's absence, even though we will try to protect everyone as best we can. All removed funds must be fully restored when returning to the game.
58. If you return to the same game within one hour of cashing out, your buy-in must be equal to the amount removed when leaving that game.
59. If you transfer tables and go to the same game you must bring your full stack with you. If a game has a maximum buy-in, voluntary table transfers will not be allowed to a new game within the first hour if you exceed the maximum buy in for the game.
60. All games are table stakes. Only the chips in front of a participant at the start of a deal may play for that hand. Awareness of the amount in play for each opponent is an important part of poker. All chips must be kept in plain view.
61. Playing out of a rack is not allowed. If a participant decides to put chips in a rack before leaving the game, they must have an effective working stack of chips to play with that is not placed in a rack. Racks will be removed from the table at any time in the event that they obscure vision or impede gameplay.
62. Only one person may play a hand.
63. No one is allowed to play another participant's chips.
64. Playing over is allowed with floor supervisor's permission. The participant will be allowed to play until his or her blind upon the initial participant returning to the game.
65. Pushing bets, "saving" or "potting out" is not allowed. This means that participants are not allowed to retract any bets that have been committed to the pot.
66. Pushing an ante or posting for another person is not allowed.
67. Participants will not be allowed to agree to split pots in any game. Chopping the big and small blind by taking them back when all other participants have folded is allowed in button games.
68. Insurance propositions are not allowed.
69. The game's betting limit will not be changed if one or more participants object. A game's betting limit cannot be changed if there are participants on the waiting list for that game unless there are multiple games of that same type and limit. The supervisor may suggest that the objector(s) move to a similar sized game, if seating is available. Raising the limit is always subject to management approval and a change in rake or collection. In the event that a game's betting limit has been changed without management approval, any necessary rulings will be made considering the original betting limit.
70. To begin a new table of a similar game type when there are multiple games of the same type, the betting limits must be twice the size of the existing game below it and no more than half of the size of the game above it. To begin a new mixed game table of the same betting limit, the game mix must have more than a 50% difference in game variety.
71. Participants must keep their cards in full view. This means above table-level and not past the edge of the table. The cards should not be covered by a participant's hands or hidden behind chips in a manner to conceal them creating confusion or false action. A hand may be ruled dead if a participant's cards are hidden from view and significant action has occurred before that participant brings attention to their hand.
72. Any participant is entitled to a clear view of an opponent's chips. Higher denomination chips must be easily visible to all participants at the table. If a participant requests an accurate chip count for another participant, the dealer is responsible for counting out the chips if the participant does not want to count out their own chips. If a participant's chips are not visible to all participants at the table and a discrepancy arises, a Floor Supervisor's decision may be influenced concerning the bet size.
73. A participant's chips may be picked up if they miss a blind and receive two (2) absent buttons. A participant should receive a missed blind button the first time they miss a blind. An absent button will be given by the next dealer to any empty seat with a missed blind button. Absences may be extended if the supervisor is notified in advance and the situation warrants. Excessive absences may also cause a participant's chips to be picked up from the table.
74. Third-man-walking rule; If two participants are away from the table, a third participant wanting to leave must return in time for his or her next blinds or wait until one of the other absent participants return. If this participant has been warned of this rule and still chooses to leave the table, the participant may be picked up from the game after missing a blind.
75. A new setup may be requested every two hours, unless a deck is defective or damaged and needs to be replaced.
76. Looking through the discards or deck stub is not allowed
77. After a deal ends, dealers are not to show what card would have been dealt next. Rabbit hunting is not allowed.

78. A participant is expected to pay attention to the game and not hold up play. Activity that interferes with play, such as reading, I-pods, cell phones etc., at the table is discouraged, and the participant will be asked to remove such devices from the table or be asked to leave the game if the issue impedes the progress of the game.
79. At Your Seat: A participant must be at his or her seat by the time all participants have been dealt complete initial hands to have a live hand. Participants must be at their seats to call the clock. "At your seat" is defined as being within reach or touch of your chair.
80. Action Pending: participants must remain at their seat if they still have action pending on a live hand. If a participant abandons their seat before they have acted on their hand, the hand will be ruled dead.
81. In non-tournament games, you may have a guest sit behind you if no one in the game objects. It is improper for a guest to look at any hand in action, and may result in the removal of the guest. No participant may have more than one guest observing the game and this guest cannot be seated directly at the table.

## **SECTION V – SEATING**

82. You must sign up at the podium to play in a poker game. Phone-ins are not allowed. It is the participant's responsibility to be in the area to hear their name called. If the participant will not be around when this is happening they should notify the floor.
83. Permission from the floor supervisor is required before taking a seat in a game.
84. Participants holding Diamond or Seven Star tier-level Total Rewards Cards will be given priority on the list with Seven Stars taking precedence.
85. When there is more than one game of the same stakes, and a must-move is not being used, the house will control the seating of new participants to best preserve the viability of existing games. A new participant will be sent to the game most in need of an additional participant. A transfer to a similar game is not allowed if the game being left will then have fewer participants than the game being entered.
86. A lock-up in a new game will be picked up after ten minutes if someone is waiting to play.
87. A participant may not hold a seat in more than one game.
88. Only participants who are active and approved by the supervisor to play in a game may sit at the table.
89. The house reserves the right to require that any two participants not play in the same game.
90. When a button game starts, the dealer will high-card for the button position. The button will be awarded to the highest card by rank and suit. The Ace of Spade is the highest card.
91. In a new game, the participant who arrives at the table the earliest gets first choice of remaining seats. If two participants want the same seat and arrive at the same time, the higher participant on the list has preference. A participant playing a pot in another game may have a designated seat locked up until that hand is finished. Management may reserve a certain seat for a participant for a good reason, such as to assist reading the board for a person with a vision issue.
92. To avoid a seating dispute, a supervisor may decide to start the game with one extra participant over the normal number participating. If so, a seat will be removed as soon as someone quits the game.
93. To protect existing games, a forced move may be invoked when an additional game of the same type and limit is started. The must-move list is maintained in the same order as the original waiting list. If a participant refuses to move into the main game he/she will be forced to quit and cannot play in the must-move game or get on the list for one hour. If a third table is started, the first two games are then considered main games and the newest table becomes the must-move game. If the third table later breaks, the youngest table will then become the must-move table. To establish the order of the must-move list in the instance of a table breaking, the participants will draw cards with the highest card by rank and suit going to the top of the list.
94. If a new game starts and you're on the list, you must play in said new game (or must-move game) to retain your place on the list, if by your playing there would be four or more participants at a nine-handed table or three or more participants at a six-handed table.
95. In all button games, a participant going from a must-move game to the main game must move immediately from any position other than the small-blind or the button. That participant then moves to the main game with the option of waiting to assume any position in the main game, other than best-position, without posting. In all stud games, a participant may play only one more hand before moving.
96. A participant who is already in the game has precedence over a new participant for any seat when it becomes available. However, no change will occur after a new participant has been dealt into the game. For participants already in the game, the one who asks the earliest has preference for a seat change.
97. In all button games, a participant voluntarily locking up a seat in another game must move immediately, except that the participant is entitled to play the button if a blind has already been taken. In a stud game, a participant changing tables may play only the present hand if someone is waiting for the seat being vacated, or one more hand when no one is waiting.

98. When a game breaks, each participant may draw a card to determine the seating order for a similar game. The floor supervisor draws a card for an absent participant as long as the absent participant does not have a missed blind button. If the card entitles the absent participant without a missed blind button to an immediate seat, the participant has until due for the big blind in a button game to take the seat or two hands in a stud game, and will be put first up on the list if not back in time. Participants with missed blind buttons will go to the bottom of the list for that particular game. In some instances, the Floor Supervisor will add a chair to an existing game in order to accommodate all participants from the broken games, i.e., making a 9 handed table 10 handed until a participant opts to leave the game. In the event that a participant has a Diamond or Seven Star tier-level Total Rewards Card, this participant will still have to draw for available seating and will not have precedence on the list over participants from a broken game.

## **SECTION VI – GENERAL POKER RULES**

### **THE BUY-IN**

99. When you enter a game, you must make at least a full buy-in. At limit poker, a full buy-in is ten (10) times the small bet for the game being played unless designated otherwise. Example: For 3-6 Limit, the minimum bet is \$3, a full buy-in is \$30.
- a. New participant entering Limit games will be required to post the big blind to receive a hand. New players entering entering in No-Limit or Pot-Limit games will not be required to post. In Stud games, the ante is considered adequate for posting purposes.
100. Short buys are not allowed.
101. A participant coming from a broken game or must-move game to a game of the same limit will continue to play the same amount of money. If it is less than the minimum buy-in for that game the participant will be allowed to play, with an option to re-buy more chips.
102. A participant voluntarily switching games of the same type must take their entire stack regardless of the maximum buy-in for that game. If a game has a maximum buy-in, voluntary table transfers will not be allowed to a new game within the first hour if you exceed the maximum buy in for the game.

### **MISDEALS**

103. The following circumstances cause a misdeal, provided attention is called to the error before two participants have acted on their hands.
- The first or second card of the hand has been dealt face up or exposed through dealer error.
  - Two or more cards have been exposed by the dealer.
  - Two or more boxed cards are found among the cards needed for the completion of the hand.
  - Two or more extra cards have been dealt in the starting hands of a game.
  - An incorrect number of cards have been dealt to a participant, except the top card may be dealt if it goes to the participant in proper sequence.
  - Any card has been dealt out of the proper sequence, except an exposed card may be replaced by the burn card.
  - The button was out of position.
  - The first card was dealt to the wrong position.
  - A participant has been dealt out who is entitled to a hand. This participant must be present at the table or have posted a blind or ante.
104. Once there is substantial action, a misdeal cannot be called. The deal will be played, and no money will be returned to any participant whose hand is fouled. In button games, substantial action is considered: three folds, three checks, or any two actions consisting of a check/bet/call/fold except for two folds or two checks. In stud games, action is considered to occur when two participants after the forced bet have acted on their hands. In Open-Face Chinese Poker and its variations, substantial action occurs after participants have set their second draw.

### **DEAD HANDS**

105. Your hand is declared dead if:
- You fold or announce that you are folding when facing a bet or a raise.
  - You throw your hand away in a forward motion causing another participant to act behind you even if not facing a bet. Discarding non-tabled cards face down does not automatically kill them; a participant may still table the cards if they remain 100% identifiable. Cards are killed by the dealer when pushed into the muck.
  - In stud, when facing a bet, you pick your up-cards off the table, turn your up-cards facedown, or mix your up-cards and down-cards together.
  - The hand does not contain the proper number of cards for that particular game, except at stud a hand missing the final card may be ruled live, and at lowball and draw high a hand with too few cards before the draw is live.
  - You act on a hand with a joker as a hole-card in a game not using a joker. A participant who acts on a hand without looking at a card assumes the liability of finding an improper card.
  - You have the clock on you when facing a bet or raise and exceed the specified time limit.
  - Due to the unique game play in Open-Face Chinese, dead hands for that game type are described in the rules governing that game.
106. Cards thrown into the muck may be ruled dead. However, a hand that is clearly identifiable may be retrieved and ruled live at management's discretion if doing so is in the best interest of the game. An extra effort will be made to rule a hand retrievable if it was folded as a result of dealer error or incorrect information given to/by a participant.

107. Cards thrown into another participant's hand are dead, whether they are face-up or facedown. A participant throwing hole cards into the hole-cards of a blind may cause a re-deal. The offending participant will receive a hand, but it will be dealt dead.

### **POKER IRREGULARITIES**

108. In button games, if it is discovered that the button was placed incorrectly on the previous hand, the button and blinds will be corrected for the new hand in a manner that gives every participant one chance for each position on the round if possible.
109. You must protect your own hand at all times. Your cards may be protected with your hands, a chip, or other object placed on top of them. If you fail to protect your hand, you will have no redress if it becomes fouled or the dealer accidentally kills it.
110. If a card with a different color back appears during a hand, all action is void and all chips in the pot are returned to the respective bettors. If a card with a different color back is discovered in the stub, but will not appear in any hand or on the board and substantial action has taken place, all action stands.
111. If two cards of the same rank and suit are found, all action is void, and all chips in the pot are returned to the participants who wagered them.
112. A participant who knows the deck is defective has an obligation to point this out. If such a participant instead tries to win a pot by taking aggressive action, the participant may lose the right to a refund, and the chips may be required to stay in the pot for the next deal.
113. If there is extra money in the pot on a deal as a result of forfeited money from the previous deal, or some similar reason, only a participant dealt in on the previous deal is entitled to a hand.
114. A boxed card is a card discovered face up in the deck. It will be treated as a meaningless scrap of paper. A boxed card will be replaced by the next card below it in the deck, except when the next card has already been dealt facedown to another participant and mixed in with other down-cards. In that case, the card that was face up in the deck will be replaced after all other cards are dealt for that round. If 2 or more boxed cards appear as cards needed to complete the hand, that hand in progress will be void, and all monies returned to the participants involved.
115. A joker that appears in a game where it is not used is treated as a scrap of paper. Discovery of a joker does not cause a misdeal. If the joker is discovered before a participant acts on his or her hand, it is replaced. If the participant does not call attention to the joker before acting, then the participant has a dead hand.
116. If you play a hand without looking at all of your cards, you assume the liability of having an irregular card or an improper joker.
117. One or more cards missing from the deck does not invalidate the results of a hand.
118. Before the first round of betting, if a dealer deals one additional card, it is returned to the deck and used as the burn card.
119. Procedure for an exposed card varies depending on the poker game. A card that is flashed by a dealer is treated as an exposed card. A card that is flashed by a participant will play. To obtain a ruling on whether a card was exposed and should be replaced, a participant should announce that the card was flashed or exposed before looking at it. A down card dealt off the table is an exposed card. A floor supervisor, based on circumstances, may determine whether a participant must take or is entitled to a replacement card.
120. If a card is exposed due to dealer error, a participant does not have an option to take or reject the card. The situation will be governed by the rules for the particular game being played.
121. If you drop any cards out of your hand onto the floor, you may not receive replacements and, at the discretion of the floor supervisor your hand may be ruled dead.
122. If the dealer fails to burn a card or burns more than one card, the error should be corrected if discovered before betting action has started for that round. Once action has been taken on a board card, the card must stand. Whether the error is able to be corrected or not, subsequent cards dealt should be those that would have come if no error had occurred. For example, if two cards were burned, one of the cards should be put back on the deck and used for the burn card on the next round. On the last round, if there was no betting because a participant was all-in, the error should be corrected if discovered before the pot has been awarded.
123. If the dealer prematurely deals any cards before the betting is complete, those cards will not play, even if a participant who has not acted decides to fold.

### **BETTING AND RAISING**

124. Check-raise is permitted in all games, except in certain forms of lowball.
125. In no-limit and pot-limit games, an unlimited number of raises are allowed.
126. In limit poker, for a pot involving three or more participants who are not all-in, these limits on raises apply:

- A game with two or more betting rounds allows a maximum of one bet and four raises in each betting round.
  - A straddle does not count as a bet for the purpose of determining the maximum number of possible pre-flop bets.
  - In a seven card game, i.e. Stud; a completion following the bring-in is not a raise; four raises remain following a completion.
127. Unlimited raises are allowed in limit-play when the betting round begins heads-up. If the round begins with more than two participants and becomes heads-up during the middle of the round the raise maximum still applies.
128. A wager that is not all-in must at least be equal to the Big Blind if the participant is not facing a bet. If facing a bet, a participant's wager that is not all-in must at least be equal to the bet or to the raise that the participant is currently facing.
129. In limit play, an all-in wager of less than half a bet does not reopen the betting for any participant who has already acted and is in the pot for all previous bets. A participant who has not yet acted or had the betting reopened to him by another participant's action, facing an all-in wager of less than half a bet, may fold, call, or complete the wager. An all-in wager of a half a bet or more is treated as a full bet, and a participant may fold, call, or make a full raise. An example of a full raise on a \$20 betting round is raising a \$15 all-in bet to \$35. Multiple all-in wagers, each of an amount too small to individually qualify as a raise, still act as a raise and reopen the betting if the resulting wager size to a participant qualifies as a raise.
130. The smallest chip that may be wagered in a game is the smallest chip used to make the big blind. i.e. Wagers must be made in \$5 increments in \$5-\$10 NL since two \$5 chips are used to make the big blind. A participant going all-in must put all chips into the pot in all games.
131. A verbal statement denotes your action and is binding. If in turn you verbally declare a fold, check, bet, call, or raise, you are forced to take that action. Rapping the table with your hand will be considered a check.
132. Deliberately acting out of turn will not be tolerated. Action out of turn will be binding if the action to that participant has not changed. A check, call or fold is not considered action changing. If a participant acts out of turn and the action changes, the person who acted out of turn may change their action by calling, raising or folding and if folding may have their chips returned. Participants may not intentionally act out of turn to influence play before them.
133. To retain the right to act, a participant must stop the action by calling "time" or an equivalent word. Failure to stop the action before substantial action of two or more participants has acted behind you may cause you to lose the right to act. You cannot forfeit your right to act if any participant in front of you has not acted, only if you fail to act when it legally becomes your turn. Therefore, if you wait for someone whose turn comes before you, and two or more participants act behind you, this still does not hinder your right to act.
134. In limit poker, if you make a forward motion with chips and thus cause another participant to act, you may be forced to complete your action or forfeit your hand and the chips already committed to the pot. If no one acts behind you, you may be forced to these same conditions at the discretion of the Floor Supervisor.
135. A participant who bets or calls by releasing chips into the pot is bound by that action and must make the amount of the wager correct. This applies at the showdown when putting chips into the pot causes the opponent to show the winning hand before the full amount needed to call has been put into the pot. Under certain circumstances such as a lack of proper information, gross misinformation, or if you are unaware that the pot has been raised, you may possibly be allowed to withdraw that money and reconsider your action, provided that no one else has acted after you.
136. String raises are not allowed. To protect your right to raise, you should either declare your intention verbally or place the proper amount of chips into the pot. Putting a full bet plus a half-bet or more into the pot is considered to be the same as announcing a raise, and the raise must be completed. This does not apply in the use of a single chip of greater value and may not apply to multiple chips of the same denomination.
137. If you put a single chip in the pot that is larger than the bet, but do not announce a raise, you are assumed to have only called. Example: In a \$3-\$6 game, when a participant bets \$6 and the next participant puts a \$25 chip in the pot without saying anything, that participant has called the \$6 bet.
138. All wagers and calls of an improperly low amount must be brought up to proper size if the error is discovered before the betting round has been completed. This includes actions such as betting a lower amount than the minimum bring-in, other than going all-in and betting the lower limit on an upper limit betting round. If a wager is supposed to be made in a rounded off amount, and is not, it must be corrected. It shall be changed to the proper amount nearest in size. No one who has acted may change a call to a raise because the wager size has been changed.

#### **THE SHOWDOWN**

139. To win any part of a pot, a participant must show all of his cards face up on the table unless that participant has the only remaining live hand.
140. Cards speak; a tabled hand assigns itself its true value. The dealer assists in reading hands, but participants are responsible for holding onto their cards until the winner is declared and the pot has been awarded. Although verbal declarations as to the contents of a hand are not binding, deliberately miscalling a hand with the intent of causing another participant to discard a winning hand is unethical and may result in forfeiture of the pot.
141. Any participant, dealer, or floor supervisor who sees an incorrect amount of chips put into the pot, or an error about to be made in awarding a pot, has an ethical obligation to point out the error.
142. All losing hands will be killed by the dealer before a pot is awarded.



143. Unless a hand has been exposed, a participant may only request to see another participant's hand if collusion is suspected and then so only in the presence of a floor person.
144. Show one, show all. Participants are entitled to receive equal access to information about the contents of another participant's hand. After a deal, if cards are shown to another participant, every participant at the table has a right to see those cards. During a deal, cards that were shown to an active participant who might have a further wagering decision on that betting round must immediately be shown to all the other participants. If the participant who saw the cards is not involved in the deal, or cannot use the information in wagering, the information should be withheld until the betting is over, so it does not affect the normal outcome of the deal. Cards shown to a person who has no more wagering decisions on that betting round, but might use the information on a later betting round, should be shown to the other participants at the conclusion of that betting round. If a participant shows only some of his/her hole cards, he/she may be required to show all hole cards upon request.
145. If everyone checks on the final betting round, the participant in earliest position is required to show his/her hand first. If there is wagering on the final betting round, the last participant to take aggressive action by a bet or raise is the first to show the hand. In order to speed up the game, the last participant to act or a participant holding a probable winner is encouraged to show the hand without delay. If there is a side pot, participants involved in the side pot should show their hands before anyone who is all-in for only the main pot. In a No Limit poker game if betting has ended on a round prior to the river, the participant who pushed all-in is responsible for turning his/her hand over first.

### **TIES**

146. The ranking of suits from highest to lowest is spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs. Suits never break a tie for winning a pot. Suits are only used to break a tie between cards of the same rank in high-card/odd-chip situations.
147. Dealing a card to each participant is used to determine who moves to another table or who gets the button in a new game. If the cards are dealt, the order is clockwise starting with the first participant on the dealer's left, the button position is irrelevant. Drawing a card is used to determine a participant's seating order coming from a broken game.
148. An odd chip will be broken down to the smallest unit used to make blinds in the game being dealt. i.e. Since dollar chips are used to make the small blind in \$2-\$5 NL, an odd chip will be broken down to dollar units in the event of a tie.
149. If two or more hands tie, an odd chip will be awarded as follows:
- In a button game, the first hand clockwise from the button gets the odd chip.
  - In a stud game, the odd chip will be given to the highest card by suit in all games. When making this determination, only the five cards that make the participant's hand are considered.
  - In high-low split games, the high hand receives the odd chip in a split between the high and the low hands. The odd chip between tied high hands is awarded as in a high type of that poker game, and the odd chip between tied low hands is awarded as in a low type of that poker game. If two participants have identical hands, the pot will be split as evenly as possible.
  - In low-low split games, the odd chip will be awarded to the best five-card draw hand.
  - All side pots and the main pot will be split as separate pots, not mixed together. The side pots are split in reverse order of formation with the last side pot formed being split first.

### **BUTTON AND BLIND USE**

In button games, a non-playing dealer normally does the actual dealing. A round disk called the button is used to indicate which participant has the dealer position. The participant with the button is last to receive cards on the initial deal and has the right of last action after the first betting round. The button moves clockwise after a deal ends to rotate the advantage of last action. One or more blind bets are usually used to stimulate action and initiate play. Blinds are posted before the participants look at their cards. Blinds are part of a participant's bet unless a certain structure or situation specifies otherwise. A blind other than the big blind may be treated as dead, not part of the pot's bet. With two blinds, the small blind is posted by the first participant clockwise from the button, and the big blind is posted by the participant two positions clockwise from the button. With more than two blinds, the smallest blind is normally left of the button, not on it. Action is initiated on the first betting round by the first participant to the left of the blinds. On all subsequent betting rounds, the action begins with the first active participant to the left of the button.

### **RULES FOR USING BLINDS**

150. The minimum bring-in, allowable raise sizes, and blind amounts are specified by the poker game. If a participant does not have enough to post the big blind the participant will post their remaining chips, and will receive full value on those chips. A side pot will then be started for the remaining participants in the hand. Any participant acting after the "all in blind" will have 3 options; fold, call the proper amount of the big blind, or raise at least double the size of the proper amount of the big blind. Participants acting after an "all in blind" do not have the option of calling the "all in blind" amount.
151. Each round every participant must get an opportunity for the button, and meet the total amount of the blind obligations unless all-in. The following method of button and blind placement has been designated to do this:
- Dead button – The big blind is posted by the participant due for it, and the small blind and button are positioned accordingly, even if this means the small blind or the button is placed in front of an empty seat, giving the same participant the privilege of last action on consecutive hands.

152. A participant posting a blind in the game's regular structure has the option of raising the pot at the first turn to act. Although chips posted by the big blind are considered a bet, the option to raise remains if someone is all-in with a bet of less than the minimum raise.
153. In heads-up play with two blinds, the small blind is on the button.
154. A new participant may be dealt in between the big blind and the button, if the new participant opts to "buy the button". Buying the button means posting a big blind and a dead small blind. On the next hand the participant will get to play their button. A new participant may also post just the big blind in this same position instead of buying the button and on the next hand the button will pass the new participant and be placed with the participant who just posted the small blind.
155. When you post the big blind, it serves as your opening bet. When it is your next turn to act, you have the option to raise.
156. A participant who misses any or all blinds can resume play by either posting all the blinds missed or waiting for the big blind. If you choose to post the total amount of the blinds, only the big blind is live. The remainder is taken by the dealer to the center of the pot and is not part of your bet. When it is your turn to act, you have the option to raise. A participant who has missed a blind also has the option of returning to the game as the under-the-gun live straddle.
157. If a participant who owes a blind, as a result of a missed blind, is dealt in without posting, the hand is dead if the participant looks at it before putting up the required chips, and has not yet acted. If the participant acts on the hand and plays it, putting chips into the pot before the error is discovered, the hand is live, and the participant is required to post on the next deal.
158. Any participant who drew for the button is considered active in the game and is required to make up any missed blinds.
159. In all multiple blind games, a participant may change seats and move past no more than two active participants without posting the amount of the big blind to receive a hand. If a participant moves more than two active participants, the participant must post the amount of the big blind or wait the appropriate number of hands to come in for free. The exception to this rule is draw games where a participant must wait to receive until he/she is in the same relative position prior to moving seats.
160. A participant who "deals off" by playing the button and then immediately getting up to change seats can allow the blinds to pass the new seat one time and re-enter the game behind the button without having to post a blind.
161. A live "straddle bet" is allowed in all blind games. Action begins with the participant to the left of the straddle if the straddle is to the left of the big blind. Action begins with the under-the-gun participant if the straddle is on the button. The straddle will always act in turn during the betting for any round. The participant who posts the straddle has last action for the first round of betting and is allowed to raise. The amount of the straddle is twice the big blind unless otherwise noted on the game placard. Unless otherwise specified, a participant can straddle from either under-the-gun or from the button, with the button having precedence. The minimum allowed raise after the straddle is three times the big blind. Unless indicated on the game placard, a mandatory straddle will not be enforced, even if every participant at the table agrees; a new participant will not be forced to straddle. The button straddle is not allowed in Limit games.
162. In the event that a participant misses a mandatory straddle, it will be treated similar to a missed blind and the participant will be required to post the straddle to receive a hand. This money will be placed in the pot as dead money and will not be considered as part of the participant's pre-flop bet. This participant can also opt to wait until the big-blind and post just the blind in turn to receive a hand.

## **SECTION VII - TEXAS HOLD'EM**

In Texas Hold'Em, each participant receives two down cards as their personal hand, or hole cards, after which there is a round of betting. After action is complete, the dealer burns a card and three board cards, the "flop", are then placed simultaneously and another round of betting occurs. Another card is burnt and the next card, the "turn", is placed out on the board followed by a betting round. Another card is burnt and the final card, "the river", is placed out on the board followed by the final betting round. The board cards are community cards, and a participant may use any five-card combination from among the board and personal cards to make the best possible five-card poker hand. A participant may use all of the board cards and no personal cards to form a hand playing the board. A dealer button is used. The usual structure is to use two blinds, but it is possible to play the game with one blind, multiple blinds, an ante, or combination of blinds plus an ante.

### **TEXAS HOLD'EM IRREGULARITIES**

163. If the flop contains too many cards, it must be re-dealt. To re-deal the flop, the four cards will be scrambled by the dealer and a floor supervisor will randomly select one card to be used as the next burn card and the remaining three cards will become the flop. If more than four cards are exposed, the flop and the stub will be reshuffled and the flop will then be re-dealt.
164. If before dealing the flop, the dealer failed to burn a card, or burned two cards, the error should be rectified if no board cards were exposed. The deck must be reshuffled if any board cards were exposed.
165. If the dealer fails to burn a card or burns more than one card, the error should be corrected if discovered before betting action has started for that round. Once action has been taken on a board card, the card must stand. Whether the error is able to be corrected or not, every effort should be made so that subsequent cards would be those that would have come if no error had occurred. For example, if two cards were burned, one of the cards should be put back on the deck and used for the burn card on the next round. If there was no betting on a round because a participant was all-in, the error should be corrected if discovered before the pot has been awarded.

166. Card(s) may not be used if the dealer burns and turns before the betting round is complete. This still applies if the subsequent participants elect to fold. Nobody has an option of accepting or rejecting the card. The betting is then completed, and the error rectified in the prescribed manner for that situation.
167. A dealing error for the fourth board card is rectified in a manner to least influence the identity of the board cards that would have been used without the error. The dealer burns and deals what would have been the fifth card in the fourth card's place. After this round of betting, the dealer reshuffles the deck, including the card that was taken out of play, but not including the burn cards or discards. The dealer then cuts the deck and deals the final card without burning a card. If the fifth card is turned up prematurely, the deck is reshuffled and dealt in the same manner.
168. If you are playing the board, you must still show your hole cards face up. Otherwise, you may relinquish any claim to the pot.

### **NO LIMIT AND POT-LIMIT**

A no-limit or pot-limit betting structure for a game gives it a different character from limit poker, requiring a separate set of rules in many situations. All the rules for limit games apply to no-limit and pot-limit games, except as noted in this section. No-limit means that the amount of a wager is limited only by the table stakes rule, so any part or all of a participant's chips may be wagered. The rules of no-limit play also apply to pot-limit play, except that a bet may not exceed the pot size. In pot-limit, the maximum amount a participant can raise is the amount that would be in the pot after that participant called. Therefore, if a pot is \$100, and someone makes a \$50 bet, the next participant can announce "Pot", call that \$50 bet and raise the pot \$200, for a total wager of \$250.

### **NO-LIMIT RULES**

169. The number of raises in any betting round is unlimited.
170. All bets must be at least equal to the minimum bring-in, unless the participant is going all-in. A straddle bet sets a new minimum bring-in, and gives the straddling participant last action. The minimum bet remains the amount of the original big blind on all betting rounds.
171. All raises must be equal to or greater than the size of the previous bet or raise on that betting round, except for an all-in wager. A participant who has already acted and is not facing a full-size wager may not subsequently raise an all-in bet that is less than the minimum bet which is the amount of the minimum bring-in, or less than the full size of the last bet or raise. The half-the-size rule for reopening the betting is for limit poker only.
172. "Completing the bet" is a limit poker wager type only, this is not allowed in no-limit poker. For example, if a participant bets \$100 and the next participant goes all-in for \$140, a participant wishing to raise must make the total bet at least \$240 unless going all-in.
173. Multiple all-in wagers, each of an amount too small to qualify as a raise, still act as a raise and reopen the betting if the resulting wager size to a participant qualifies as a raise. Example: Participant A bets \$100 and Participant B raises \$100 more, making the total bet \$200. If Participant C goes all in for less than \$300 total, not a full \$100 raise, and Participant A calls, then Participant B has no option to raise again, because he wasn't fully raised. Participant A could have raised, because Participant B raised.
174. A participant who says "raise" is allowed to continue putting chips into the pot with more than one move, provided an amount has been verbally declared in advance. A participant may declare a raise, call the amount bet to them and then put the raise in with a single motion or simply put the chips into the pot in a single motion, to avoid making a string-bet. It is the dealer's responsibility to call all string bets even during heads-up play. A participant may also call a string bet in the event that the dealer fails to do so.
175. A wager is not binding until the chips are actually released to the felt, unless the participant has made a verbal statement of action. However, a forward motion with chips in hand may result in a participant being forced to leave the minimum amount allowable to call the bet, at the Floor Supervisor's discretion, especially if the forward motion elicits an action from another participant involved in the hand. .
176. If there is a discrepancy between a participant's verbal declaration and the amount put into the pot, the bet will be corrected to match the participant's verbal declaration.
177. If a call is short due to a counting error, the amount must be corrected, even if the hand is beaten or mucked.
178. If a participant is not facing a bet, a bet of a single chip without comment is considered to be the full amount of the chip. However, a participant, acting with a single over-sized chip while facing a bet,, is only calling the previous bet unless that participant makes a verbal declaration to raise the pot. This includes acting on the forced bet of the big blind.
179. If a participant tries to bet or raise less than the legal minimum and has more chips behind, the wager must be increased to the proper size. This does not apply to a participant who has unintentionally put too much in to call unless it is at least a half a bet or more in which case the participant is obligated to make exactly the minimum raise. The wager is brought up to the sufficient amount only. Anything more would constitute a string bet.
180. All wagers may be required to be the same denomination of chip or larger used for the minimum bring-in, even if smaller chips are used in the blind structure or rake. If this is done, the smaller chips play for face value only when going all-in.

181. Calling-for-clock procedures: Once a reasonable amount of time, which is no less than two minutes, has passed and a clock is called, a participant will be given one (1) minute to act. If action has not been taken by the time the minute has expired, there will be a ten (10) second countdown. If a participant has not acted on his hand by the time the countdown is over, the hand will be dead. Live Action Supervisors reserve the right to speed up the amount of time allotted for a clock if it appears that a participant is deliberately stalling. Anyone that was dealt into the hand may call for a clock.
182. Since all of a participant's chips may be put at risk on a hand, the house has the right to set a minimum and maximum amount for the buy-in to help control the effective size of a game. A range of 20 to 40 times the big blind as a minimum and 40 to 100 times the big blind as a maximum is the normal rule of thumb. Variations from the norm will depend on local custom, participant input or competitive market considerations. Participants may not add to their stack or re-buy unless they are under the maximum and if doing so may only add enough chips to reach the maximum buy-in for that game.
183. The card room does not condone "insurance" or any other "proposition" wagers. The management will decline to make decisions in such matters, and the pot will be awarded to the best hand. Participants are asked to refrain from instigating proposition wagers in any form. Running it twice may be permitted and is covered in a separate section of the rules below.

#### **POT-LIMIT RULES**

184. If a wager is made that exceeds the pot size, the surplus will be given back to the bettor as soon as possible, and the amount will be reduced to the maximum allowable. However, if the action is complete (bet made and accepted by all remaining participants) the bet will stand.
185. The dealer or any participant in the game can and should call attention to a wager that appears to exceed the pot size; this also applies to heads-up pots. The oversize wager may be corrected at any point until all participants have acted on it. The pot will stand "as accepted action" once betting action has been completed on any given round pre-flop, flop, turn, or river.
186. In pot-limit play, it is advisable in many structures to round off the pot size upward to produce a faster pace of play. This is done by treating any odd amount as the next larger size. For example, if the pot size was being kept track of with \$25 units, then a pot size of \$85 would be treated as a pot size of \$100.
187. In Live Action pot-limit games, many structures treat the small blind as if it were the same size as the big blind in computing pot size. In such a structure, a participant can open for a maximum of four times the size of the big blind. For example, if the blinds are \$5 and \$10, a participant may open with a raise to \$40. The range of options is to either open with a call of \$10, or raise in increments of five dollars to any amount from \$20 to \$40. Subsequent participants also treat the \$5 as if it were \$10 in computing the pot size, until the big blind is through acting on the first betting round. This rule of treating the small blind as if it were the size of the big blind is especially desirable in a structure where the small blind uses a lower-denomination chip than the big blind, as in using blinds of \$10 and \$25, two \$5 chips and a \$25 chip.
188. In pot-limit, if a chip larger than the pot size is put into the pot without comment and initiates action on a betting round, it is considered to be a bet of the pot size. If there has already been a bet on that betting round, it is only a call. If a participant announces "raise" without an amount and puts out a chip larger than a pot-sized raise, the raise will be a full pot-sized raise.

#### **HOLD-EM VARIATION: PINEAPPLE**

All of the rules of Hold'em apply to Pineapple except that each participant receives three down cards as his/her personal hand, however, each participant must discard one of the three down cards after the first round of betting is complete and before the flop is exposed.

#### **HOLD-EM VARIATION: CRAZY PINEAPPLE**

All of the rules of Hold'em apply to Crazy Pineapple except that each participant receives three down cards as his/her personal hand, however, each participant must discard one of the three down cards after the second round of betting is complete and before the turn card is exposed.

### **SECTION VIII – OMAHA**

In Omaha, each participant receives four down cards as their personal hand, hole cards, after which there is a round of betting. After action is complete, the dealer burns a card and three board cards, the "flop", are then placed simultaneously and another round of betting occurs. Another card is burnt and the next card, the "turn", is placed out on the board followed by a betting round. Another card is burnt and the final card, "the river", is placed out on the board followed by the final betting round. The board cards are community cards. A participant may only use three board cards combined with any two of the participant's four hole cards to make the best possible five-card poker hand. A dealer button is used. The usual structure is to use two blinds, but it is possible to play the game with one blind, multiple blinds, an ante, or combination of blinds plus an ante.

#### **OMAHA HIGH-LOW (OMAHA 8/O)**

Omaha can be played as a high-low split pot game with a Limit, No Limit, or Pot Limit structure. The participant must use any combination of two hole cards and three board cards for the high hand and either a different or the same combination of two hole cards and three board cards for the low hand.

189. All the rules of Omaha apply to Omaha high-low split. This game is played with a split-pot format. Half of the pot is awarded to the participant or participants with the highest 5-card poker hand. The other half of the pot is awarded to the participant or participants holding the lowest 5-card poker hand.
190. A qualifier of 8-or-better for the low hand is used. This means to win the low half of the pot, a participant's hand at the showdown must have five cards of different ranks that are an eight or lower in rank. An ace can be played as either high or low. Straights and flushes do not count against a low hand so the best possible low hand is 5-4-3-2-A, also known as a WHEEL.
191. The best high poker hand wins the entire pot if there is no qualifying hand for low.

#### **OMAHA HIGH LOW REGULAR**

192. All of the rules of Omaha High Low 8/O apply, except that there is no qualifier for low.

#### **OMAHA HIGH-LOW VARIATION - 5 CARD - "THE BIG O" ( 8 Participant maximum )**

All the rules of Omaha High-Low apply to Omaha "The Big O" with the following change; all participants are dealt 5 cards in their initial starting hand.

#### **OMAHA HIGH-LOW VARIATION – 5+ CARD - "THE BIG EASY" ( 7 Participant maximum )**

All the rules of Omaha High-Low apply to Omaha "The Big Easy" with the following change; all participants are dealt at least 5 cards in their initial starting hand. More starting cards are allowed based on the number of participants dealt into the hand; however, all participants must begin the hand with the same number of starting cards.

#### **KILL POTS**

To kill a pot means to post an extra blind that increases the betting limit. A full kill is double the amount of the big blind, and doubles the betting limits. A half kill is one-and-a-half times the big blind, and increases the betting limits by that amount. A kill may be optional in a game, and is often used at lowball when a participant wants to be dealt in right away instead of waiting to take the big blind. A kill may be required in a game for any time a specified event takes place. In high-low split games using a required kill, a participant who scoops a pot bigger than a set size (5 times the upper limit of the game) must kill the next pot. In other games using a required kill, a participant who wins two consecutive pots must kill the next pot. In this type of kill game, a button called a "kill button" indicates which participant has won the previous pot, a 'leg up', and the winner keeps this button until the next hand is completed. If the participant who has the kill button wins a second consecutive pot and it qualifies monetarily, that participant must kill the next pot.

193. The kill button is neutral, belonging to no participant, if:
- It is the first hand of a new game.
  - The winner of the previous pot has quit the game.
  - The previous pot was split and neither participant had the kill button.
194. In all games, the kill will act in turn. Once the kill has acted, action then continues in sequence to the left of the kill.
195. There is no pot-size requirement for the first pot or "leg" of a kill. For the second "leg" to qualify for a kill, you must win at least one full bet for whatever limit you are playing; it cannot be any part of the blind structure, unless otherwise agreed. For this purpose, the kill blind is **not** considered part of the blind structure.
196. If a participant with one "leg up" splits the next pot, that participant still has a "leg up" for the next hand. If the participant who split the pot was the kill in the previous hand, then that participant must also kill the next hand.
197. A person who leaves the table with a "leg up" toward a kill still has a "leg up" along with the current "leg up" upon returning to the game.
198. A participant who is required to post a kill must do so even if wishing to quit or be dealt out. A participant who fails to post a required kill blind will not be allowed to participate in any game until the kill money is posted. In the same fashion, if a participant has earned a "leg up" and decides to leave the table; this participant can only return to the action by claiming the "leg up" on the next hand.
199. When a participant "scoops" both the high and the low pot in a split-pot game with a kill provision, the next hand will be killed only if the pot is at least five times the size of the upper limit of the game.
200. If a participant is unaware that the pot has been killed and put in a lesser amount, and it has been announced as a kill pot with the kill button face up, the participant must correct the amount or forfeit the chips already in the pot. If the kill has not been properly announced, the participant may withdraw the chips and reconsider his/her action. It is the dealer's responsibility to announce a kill and place the kill button appropriately.
201. If for some reason, the participant who is responsible for posting a kill misses his/her opportunity to post on that hand, the participant will be obligated to post the kill at the first opportunity where that participant is not on the button or in one of the blinds. In the event that the participant was a blind when responsible for the missed kill, this participant can wait until the next round of blinds to post the kill in the same position. If a kill is already active on that particular hand, the participant will then have to kill at the first opportunity after the button passes.

- 202. Only one kill is allowed per deal.
- 203. A straddle will not be allowed in a kill pot.
- 204. A new participant has the option of sitting down into a kill pot or waiting for the next appropriate opportunity to begin play.
- 205. A participant who is posting or a new participant entering the game can buy the button to enter the game as long as the kill is not on one of the blind positions.
- 206. Broken game status is allowed only for participants of the same limit and game type. For this purpose, a game with a required kill is considered a different type of game than an otherwise similar game without a required kill.

#### **RUNNING IT TWICE**

- 207. Running it twice is an agreement with participants involved in the immediate hand to run a second complete board, a second turn and river card, or a second river card.
- 208. Participants may opt to run it three times instead of twice in which case a second board and third board will be dealt. The dealer will deal a complete board based off of the agreement before dealing the next board. i.e. If participants agree to run the turn and river "three times", the dealer will put out one flop which will be used by all three boards. The dealer will then put out a turn and river for the first board following the same dealing pattern as other flop games. At this point, the dealer will put out a turn and river in the same fashion to create a second board. Then the dealer will put out a third turn and river in the same fashion to create the third board.
- 209. Participants are allowed to run it twice or three times in all time raked flop games and \$5-\$10 No-Limit Hold'Em games, if suggested by a participant and agreed to by all participants remaining in the pot. In the instance that participants have agreed to deal the community cards more than once and a dispute arises, the Floor Supervisor will make a ruling concerning only the first set of community cards if no clear ruling exists for the hand when all sets of community cards are considered.
- 210. At least 1 participant must be all in.
- 211. The participants cannot make an agreement to stop betting or "check it down" on the first board before running it twice.
- 212. The first board will be run to completion as normal dictated by the rules of the game being played. The second board will be dealt below the first board. If necessary, a third board will be dealt below the second.
- 213. In the circumstance that there is only one card left on the dealers stub going into the river on the second board, that card will be shuffled with the burn cards for the second board, then cut, and a burn card and the second river card will be put out.
- 214. In the event that there is only card left in the stub and this card combined with the burn cards can complete all boards necessary to fulfill the participants' agreement, the dealer will shuffle in the burn cards and will use the last card in the stub. In the event that participants have agreed to run multiple boards and there are not enough cards after combining the burn cards and stub, the dealer will shuffle all the cards remaining in the stub, the burn cards, and the cards in the muck to complete all boards.
- 215. All other standard flop game rules apply to the second board and third board.

#### **SECTION IX – 7 CARD STUD**

In seven-card stud, each participant first receives two down cards followed by one up card to start the hand. After each participant receives their three cards, there is the first round of betting. There are then three more up-cards and a final down card, with a betting round after each, for a total of five betting rounds on a deal played to the showdown. The best five-card poker hand wins the pot. In all fixed-limit games, the smaller bet is wagered for the first two betting rounds, third and fourth street, and the larger bet is wagered for the last three betting rounds, on the fifth, sixth, and seventh street. If there is an open pair on fourth street, any participant has the option of making the smaller or larger bet. Deliberately changing the order of your up-cards in a stud game is improper because it unfairly misleads the other participants; a participant deliberately changing the order of the up-cards may have a dead hand.

#### **SEVEN-CARD STUD**

- 216. If your first or second hole card is accidentally turned up by the dealer, then your third card will be dealt down. If the dealer exposes all three initial cards of any participant, the hand will be misdealt.
- 217. The first round of betting starts with a forced bet, the bring-in, by the lowest card by rank and suit. On subsequent betting rounds, the high hand on board initiates the action, a tie is broken by position, with the participant who received cards first acting first.
- 218. The participant with the forced bet has the option of opening for a full bet.
- 219. If the participant with the low card is all-in for the ante, the person to that participant's left acts first. If the participant with the low card has only enough chips for a portion of the bring-in, the wager is made. All other participants must enter for at least the bring-in amount in the structure.

220. When the wrong person is designated as low and bets, if the next participant has not yet acted, the action will be corrected to the real low card, who now must bet. The incorrect low card takes back the wager. If the next hand has acted after the incorrect low card wager, the wager stands, action continues from there, and the real low card has no obligations.
221. Increasing the amount wagered by the opening forced bet up to a full bet does not count as a raise, but merely as a completion of the bet. For example: In \$15-\$30 stud, the low card opens for \$5. If the next participant increases the bet to \$15, completing the bet, four raises are then allowed.
222. In all fixed-limit games, when an open pair is showing on Fourth Street, the second up card, any participant has the option of betting either the lower or the upper limit. For example: In a \$5-\$10 game, if you have a pair showing and are the high hand, you may bet either \$5 or \$10. If you bet \$5, any participant then has the option to call \$5, raise \$5, or raise \$10. If a \$10 raise is made, then all other raises must be in increments of \$10. If the participant high with the open pair on fourth street checks, then subsequent participants have the same options that were given to the participant who was high.
223. If you are not present at the table when it is your turn to act on your hand, you forfeit your ante and your forced bet, if any. If you have not returned to the table in time to act, the hand will be killed when the betting reaches your seat.
224. If a hand is folded when there is no wager, that seat will continue to receive cards until the hand is killed as a result of a bet so the fold does not affect who gets the cards to come.
225. If you pick up your up cards without calling when facing a wager; this is a fold and your hand is dead. This act has no significance at the showdown because betting is over; the hand is live until discarded.
226. A card dealt off the table is treated as an exposed card.
227. The dealer announces the low card bring-in by rank and suit. On subsequent rounds, the dealer announces the high hand, all raises, and all pairs. Dealers do not announce possible straights or flushes.
228. If the dealer burns two cards for one round or fails to burn a card, the cards will be corrected, if at all possible, to their proper positions. If this should happen on a final down card, and either a card intermingles with a participant's other hole cards or a participant looks at the card, the participant must accept that card.
229. If the dealer burns and deals one or more cards before a round of betting has been completed, the card(s) must be segregated from play as well as an additional card for each remaining participant still active in the hand. After that round of betting has concluded, the dealer burns a card and play resumes. The removed cards are held off to the side and will be shuffled back in along with the remaining stub before the last card, Seventh Street is dealt to any participant; no muck or burn cards should be reshuffled in this case. If the prematurely dealt card is the final down card and has been looked at or intermingled with the participant's other hole cards, the participant must keep the card, and on sixth street that participant may not bet or raise but can only call during that betting round because the participant now has all seven cards.
230. Before dealing 7<sup>th</sup> street, the dealer will count the number of participants remaining and add two to that number. This is the number of cards needed in the stub to finish dealing the hand. The dealer will then count the stub, taking care not to expose any cards to the participants. If there are a sufficient number of cards, the dealer will complete the hand. If there are not enough cards, the dealer will determine if adding the three burn cards will allow for a sufficient number of cards. If the answer is yes, then the dealer will scramble the stub and the three burn cards together and finish the hand. If the answer is no and there is more than two cards in the stub, the dealer will burn and deal a community card. If the answer is no and there are two or less cards in the stub, the dealer will scramble the stub and the burn cards together, burn a card, and deal a community card.
231. An all-in participant should receive hole cards dealt facedown, but if the final hole card to such a participant is dealt face up, the card must be kept, and the other participants receive their normal card.
232. If the dealer turns the last card face up to any participant, the hand that began action on 6<sup>th</sup> street will again start the action on 7<sup>th</sup> street. The following rules apply to the dealing of cards:
- If there are more than two participants and any participant other than the first participant receives an exposed down card, all remaining participants receive their last card facedown. A participant whose last card is face up has the option of declaring, in advance of any action, either all-in for the existing pot or to continue for all subsequent action at his/her discretion. If there are more than two participants and the first participant's card is exposed, all remaining participants receive their cards up and the betting round proceeds as normal.
  - If there are only two participants remaining and the first participant's final down card is dealt face up, the second participant's final down card will also be dealt face up, and the betting proceeds as normal. In the event the first participant's final card is dealt face down and the opponent's final card is dealt face up, the participant with the face up final card has the option of declaring, in advance of any action, either all-in for the existing pot or in for all subsequent action at his/her discretion.
233. A hand with more than seven cards is dead. A hand with less than six cards at the showdown is dead.
234. A participant who calls a bet even though beaten by an opponent's up cards is not entitled to a refund. The caller receives information not available for free.

### **SEVEN-CARD STUD LOW (RAZZ)**

The lowest-ranking hand wins the pot. Aces are low only, and two aces are the lowest pair. The format is similar to seven-card stud high, except that the high card, with the king of spades being the highest card by rank and suit, is required to make the forced bet on the first round. The low hand acts first on all subsequent rounds. Straights and flushes have no ranking, so the best possible hand is 5-4-3-2-A, known as a wheel. An open pair does not affect the betting limit.

- 235. All rules for seven-card stud apply to Razz with the exception the paired fourth street bet. If a door card is paired on Fourth Street, there is no option to choose the higher bet.
- 236. The lowest hand wins the pot. Aces are low, and straights and flushes have no effect on the low value of a hand. The best possible hand is 5-4-3-2-A, except in Kansas City Razz where 7-5-4-3-2 is the best hand; a straight or flush in Kansas City Razz is a high hand.
- 237. The highest card by suit starts the action with a forced bet. The low hand acts first on all subsequent rounds. If the low hand is tied, the first participant clockwise from the dealer starts the action.
- 238. Fixed-limit games use the lower limit on third and fourth streets and the upper limit on subsequent streets. An open pair does not affect the limit.

### **SEVEN-CARD STUD/8 (STUD 8/O)**

Seven-card stud/8 is a stud game which is played both high and low. A qualifier of 8-or-better for low applies, unless a specific posting to the contrary is displayed. This means to win the low half of the pot, a participant's hand at the showdown must have five cards of different ranks that are an eight or lower in rank. An ace is the highest card and also the lowest card. If there is no qualifying hand for low, the best high hand wins the whole pot. A participant may use any five cards to make the best high hand, and the same or any other grouping of five cards to make the best low hand.

- 239. All rules for seven-card stud apply to Seven-Card Stud/8 with the exception the paired fourth street bet. If a door card is paired on Fourth Street, there is no option to choose the higher bet.
- 240. A participant may use any five cards to make the best high hand and any five cards, whether the same as the high hand or not, to make the best low hand.
- 241. An ace is the highest card and also the lowest card.
- 242. The low card by suit initiates the action on the first round, with an ace counting as a high card for this purpose. On subsequent rounds, the high hand initiates the action. If the high hand is tied, the first participant in the tie clockwise from the dealer acts first. If the high hand is all-in, action proceeds clockwise as if that person had checked.
- 243. Straights and flushes do not affect the value of a low hand.
- 244. Fixed-limit games use the lower limit on third and fourth streets and the upper limit on fifth, sixth and seventh streets.
- 245. Splitting pots is determined only by the cards, and not by agreement among participants.
- 246. When there is an odd chip in a pot, the chip goes to the high hand. If two participants split any portion of the pot by tying for either the high or the low, that portion of the pot shall be split as evenly as possible, and the participant with the highest card by suit receives the odd chip. When making this determination, only the five cards used by the participant at showdown are considered.

### **SEVEN CARD STUD HIGH LOW REGULAR**

- 247. All rules of Seven Card Stud/8 apply except there is no qualifier for low.

### **SUPER STUD/SUPER STUD 8/O**

In Super Stud, each participant first receives four down cards followed by one up card to start the hand. After each participant receives their five cards, there is the first round of betting. Then two cards are discarded by each participant. There are then three more up cards and a final down card, with a betting round after each, for a total of five betting rounds on a deal played to the showdown. The best five-card poker hand wins the pot. In all fixed-limit games, the smaller bet is wagered for the first two betting rounds, third and fourth street, and the larger bet is wagered for the last three betting rounds, on the fifth, sixth, and seventh street. If there is an open pair on the fourth card, any participant has the option of making the smaller or larger bet. Deliberately changing the order of your up cards in a stud game is improper because it unfairly misleads the other participants. Super Stud is played with as many as six participants.



248. All rules for Seven Card Stud or Seven Card Stud 8/O apply once the participants discard 2 cards after the first betting round. However, unlike Seven Card Stud 8/O, in Super Stud 8/O the initial forced bet is made by the high card.
249. In the event that the dealer gets to the last card in the deck and participants still need cards to complete their hands, the dealer will then shuffle the last card in the stub, and the muck together and finish dealing the hand using the same process as previously described for stud games. The dealer will never use a community card in Super Stud since the muck is used in the reshuffle.

#### **MEXICAN POKER/MEXICAN STUD**

Mexican Poker is similar to 5-card stud and is played with a standard 52-card deck that has been reduced to 41 cards. The 8's, 9's and 10's are removed, and one Joker is added to make 41 cards. To receive a hand, each participant posts an ante before the dealer begins dealing the hand. The cards are dealt clockwise, beginning to the left of the dealer button. The dealer button rotates clockwise after each hand is complete. Each participant receives a total of 5 cards, of which 1 and only one card must be face down during all betting rounds. After the first two cards are dealt (first card is dealt down and the second one up), a betting round begins. The participant with the high card clockwise of the dealer button is obligated to post a "bring-in" bet, of either the smaller or larger betting limit, to start the action. After the betting round is complete, each participant still remaining in the hand has to decide whether or not to expose his/her down card. These decisions must be complete prior to the deal of the third card and follow the same order-of-action as the betting. Each participant then receives his/her next card, which may be delivered up or down depending on whether or not previously dealt down cards have been opened. If a participant already has a down card, the dealer then deals the participant's next card up. If a participant has no down card, the dealer will deal the next card facedown. When the third card has been delivered, betting then occurs. The fourth and fifth cards are dealt and played according to the same format described above. At showdown, the participant with the highest ranking hand wins the pot.

250. The Joker is "wild". If a participant has a joker as a down card, the joker can assume any value needed to make that participant's best possible five-card poker hand. In the instance that the Joker is an up card, it can assume the value of an Ace or any card needed, by the participant holding the Joker, to complete a Flush or Straight.
251. The participant with the high card clockwise of the dealer button is obligated to post a "bring-in" bet, of either the smaller or larger betting limit, to start the action. (When the Joker is dealt face up, it will be considered an Ace for purposes of the opening bet.)
252. The highest poker hand will start the action on all subsequent rounds. Hands are considered to be of equal value whether or not one hand may include the Joker. The closest of such hands to the dealer, in a clockwise order, acts first.
253. If any down card is exposed by the dealer, that participant will receive his next card down and will be permitted to declare "all-in" for that hand or remain active in the remaining betting rounds. If the Joker is inadvertently exposed, it will play as if it had been dealt face down, for determining its "wild" value", and the participant will have the option of declaring "all-in".
254. Before dealing 5<sup>th</sup> street, the dealer will count the number of participants remaining and add two to that number. This is the number of cards needed in the stub to finish dealing the hand. The dealer will then count the stub, taking care not to expose any cards to the participants. If there are a sufficient number of cards, the dealer will complete the hand. If there are not enough cards, the dealer will determine if adding the two burn cards will allow for a sufficient number of cards. If the answer is yes, then the dealer will scramble the stub and the two burn cards together and finish the hand.
255. Because the 8's, 9's, and 10's are removed from the deck, the 7's and J's become consecutive, so that **5-6-7-J-Q** is a straight.
256. **A flush beats a full house** (with fewer cards of each suit, they are harder to get). The standard ranking of all other poker hands are the same. A five-of-a-kind is the highest hand in Mexican Poker/Mexican Stud.
257. If cards on the initial deal are dealt out of sequence, a misdeal will be declared. Substantial action, however, will indicate acceptance, in which case there will be no misdeal. The hand missed will be fouled. Because cards on 3rd, 4th or 5th streets are dealt either face up or face down, any cards dealt out of sequence on those streets will be moved face up to their correct position. The deal of the affected street will be completed if necessary. No betting will be permitted on the affected street. Any following street will then be dealt and betting will resume. Any bets made by participants who receive out of sequence cards, which had not yet been returned to their correct position will be denied and returned to the participant.
258. If a participant exposes a card, at any point other than at prescribed times, it is not considered an exposed card and will be required to play it as a down card.
259. A card will be burned after the completion of betting each round and before the first participant remaining in the hand has his/her next card delivered.
260. After the last round of betting, any remaining participants will go to showdown to determine the winner of the pot.
261. The previous mentioned rules concerning the Joker still apply at showdown. The participant with the highest poker hand at showdown will win the pot.

## SECTION X LOWBALL

Lowball is draw poker with the lowest hand winning the pot. Each participant is dealt five cards facedown, after which there is a betting round. Participants are required to open with a bet or fold. The participants who remain in the pot after the first betting round now have an option to improve their hand by replacing cards in their hands with new ones. This is the draw. The game is normally played with one or more blinds, sometimes with an ante added. Some betting structures allow the big blind to be called; other structures require the minimum open to be double the big blind. In limit poker, the usual structure has the limit double after the draw. The most popular forms of lowball are ace-to-five lowball, also known as California lowball, and deuce-to-seven lowball, also known as Kansas City lowball. Ace-to-five lowball gets its name because the best hand at that form is 5-4-3-2-A. Deuce-to-seven lowball gets its name because the best hand is 7-5-4-3-2, not suited. There are two variations of these games, Single Draw and Triple Draw. Single is as described above and Triple draw is a variation that allows participants to draw three times. In Triple draw, the participants will have a betting round with the first five cards, after the first draw, after the second draw, and again after the third draw. Triple draw is played generally as a limit poker structure. Single draw is generally played Pot Limit or No Limit. Limit, Pot Limit and No Limit rules apply. In the event of a re-shuffle, meaning the dealer has gotten down to the last card of the deck while participants still need cards, the discards from the previous rounds and any mucked cards will be shuffled together to complete the remaining draws. This means that the dealer will not use the discards from the round in progress. If the dealer can complete the final draw for the last participant by using the last card in the stub, the dealer will use this card but only if the last card will complete all draws for the hand.

### LOWBALL

262. The following circumstances cause a misdeal, provided attention is called to the error before two participants have acted on their hands:

- The first or second card of the hand has been dealt face up or exposed through dealer error.
- Two or more cards have been exposed by the dealer.
- Two or more extra cards have been dealt in the starting hands of a game.
- An incorrect number of cards have been dealt to a participant, except the button may receive one more card to complete a starting hand.
- The button was out of position.
- The first card was dealt to the wrong position.
- Cards have been dealt out of the proper sequence.
- Cards have been dealt to an empty seat or a participant not entitled to a hand.
- A participant has been dealt out who is entitled to a hand. This participant must be present at the table or have posted a blind or ante.

263. In limit play, a bet and four raises are allowed in multi-handed pots.

264. As a new participant, you have three options:

- Wait for the big blind.
- Post the big blind, except in single blind game.
- Kill the pot for double the amount of the big blind.

265. In a single-blind game, a participant who has less than half a blind may receive a hand. However, the next participant is obligated to take the blind. If the all-in participant wins the pot or buys in again, that participant will then be obligated to post a big blind, kill or sit out until due for the big blind.  
(see #267)

266. In single-blind games, half a blind or more constitutes a full blind.

267. In single-blind games, if you fail to take the blind, you can only wait for blind or kill.

268. In multiple-blind games, if for any reason the big blind passes your seat; you may either wait for the big blind or kill the pot in order to receive a hand. This does not apply if you have taken all of your blinds and changed seats. In this situation, you may be dealt in as soon as your position relative to the blinds entitles you to a hand. The button may go by you once without penalty.

269. All exposed cards during the deal or any subsequent drawing round will be replaced. WSOP dealer procedure is to push and pull a participant's draw cards. If the participant elects to have the draw cards pitched by the dealer it will be so at the participant's risk and any exposed card in that circumstance will be kept by the receiving participant.

270. A participant may draw up to five consecutive cards.

271. Five cards constitute a playing hand; more or less than five cards after the draw constitute a fouled hand. Before the draw, if you have fewer than five cards in your hand, you may receive additional cards, provided no action has been taken by the first participant to act, unless that action occurs before the deal is completed. The dealer position may still receive a missing fifth card prior to the draw, even if action has taken place. If action has been taken, participants are entitled on the draw to receive the number of cards necessary to complete a five-card hand.

272. You may change the number of cards you wish to draw, provided:

- No card has been dealt off the deck in response to your request, including the burn card.

- No participant has acted, in either the betting or indicating the number of cards to be drawn, based on the number of cards you have requested.
273. If you are asked how many cards you drew by another active participant, the participant and dealer must respond until there has been action after the draw. Once there is any action, you are no longer obliged to respond and the dealer cannot respond.
274. Rapping the table in turn constitutes either a pass or the declaration of a pat hand that does not want to draw any cards, depending on the situation.
275. Cards speak; a tabled hand assigns itself a value. However, you are not allowed to claim a better hand than you hold. If a participant calls an "8", that participant must produce at least an "8" low or better to win. But if a participant erroneously calls the second card incorrectly, such as "8-6" when actually holding an 8-7, no penalty applies. If you miscall your hand and cause another participant to foul his or her hand, your hand may be ruled dead. If both hands remain intact, the best hand wins. If a miscalled hand occurs multi-handed causing a foul, the miscalled hand is dead, and the best remaining hand wins the pot. For your own protection, always hold your hand until you see your opponent's cards.
276. Any participant spreading a hand with a pair in it must announce "pair" or risk losing the pot if it causes any other participant to foul a hand. If two or more hands remain intact, the best hand wins the pot.

#### **ACE-TO-FIVE LOWBALL**

In ace-to-five lowball, the best hand is any 5-4-3-2-A. Straights and flushes do not count against your hand.

277. If a joker is used, it becomes the lowest card not present in your hand. Jokers are not in use unless otherwise posted.
278. Check-raise is permitted.
279. In limit ace-to-five lowball, before the draw, all exposed cards will be replaced after the deal has been completed. This first exposed card is used as the burn card.
280. Ace to Five Lowball is played with as many as six participants.

#### **DEUCE-TO-SEVEN LOWBALL**

281. In deuce-to-seven lowball, sometimes known as Kansas City lowball, in most respects, the worst conventional poker hand wins. Straights and flushes count against you. The ace is used only as a high card. Therefore, the best hand is 7-5-4-3-2, not all of the same suit. The hand 5-4-3-2-A is not considered to be a straight, but an ace-5 high, so it beats other ace-high hands and pairs, but loses to king-high. A pair of aces is the highest pair, so it loses to any other pair. The rules for deuce-to-seven lowball are the same as those for ace-to-five lowball.
282. The best hand is 7-5-4-3-2 of at least two different suits. Straights and flushes count against you, and aces are considered high only.
283. All exposed cards during the deal or any subsequent drawing round will be replaced. WSOP dealer procedure is to push and pull a participant's draw cards. If the participant elects to have his/her draw cards pitched by the dealer it will be so at the participant's risk and any exposed card in that circumstance will be kept by the participant.
284. Deuce-to-Seven Lowball is played with as many as six participants.

#### **NO-LIMIT AND POT-LIMIT LOWBALL**

285. All the rules for no-limit and pot-limit poker apply to no-limit and pot-limit lowball.
286. All exposed cards during the deal or any subsequent drawing round will be replaced. WSOP dealer procedure is to push and pull a participant's draw cards. If the participant elects to have his/her draw cards pitched by the dealer it will be so at the participant's risk and any exposed card in that circumstance will be kept by the participant.
287. After the draw, a participant may check any hand without penalty.
288. Check-raise is allowed.

#### **SECTION XI - BADUGI**

Badugi is a form of lowball draw. A button and blind structure will be used in this game. Each participant is dealt four cards face down, then acting in turn clockwise of the blinds. The participants who remain in the pot after the first betting round now have an option to improve their hand by

replacing cards in their hands with new ones. When played limit stakes, this game will usually be played with three draws. There will be a betting round after each draw. A participant is entitled to draw up to four cards on each round as they choose to make the best four-card Badugi.

289. A Badugi consists of four cards of different suits and ranks. For example, the best hand consists of A-2-3-4 club, diamond, heart, spade in any sequence.
290. A hand can still be a winner if at the show down none of the remaining participants have a Badugi, in this case the best three, two, or even one card Badugi will be awarded the pot. Ad-2c-3h-6h vs. Ac-3d-4h-5h, the winning hand would be Ad-2c-3h-6h because that hand consists of the three lowest, unsuited cards, Ad-2c-3h.
291. The rules governing misdeals for lowball and other button games will be used for Badugi.
292. A participant may receive four consecutive cards off the deck.
293. As a new participant you must wait for the big blind or post a full big blind. If an existing participant has missed a blind, they must wait for the big blind to come around before they can receive a hand.
294. All exposed cards during the deal or any subsequent drawing round will be replaced. WSOP dealer procedure is to push and pull a participant's draw cards. If the participant elects to have his/her draw cards pitched by the dealer it will be so at the participant's risk and any exposed card in that circumstance will be kept by the participant.
295. Check raise is allowed, on any round after any draw.
296. If you are asked how many cards you drew by another active participant, the participant and dealer must respond until there has been action after the draw. Once there is any action, you are no longer obligated to respond and the dealer cannot respond.
297. You may change the number of cards you wish to draw, provided:
  - No card has been dealt off the deck in response to your request, including the burn card.
  - No participant has acted, in either the betting or indicating the number of cards to be drawn, based on the number of cards you have requested.
298. Badugi can be played with as many as eight participants.

### **BADUCI**

Baduci is a form of Badugi and Deuce-to-Seven lowball draw. Baduci is a split pot game where half of the pot will be awarded to the best Deuce to Seven hand and the other half will be awarded to the best Badugi hand excluding the Ace since the Ace is considered as a high card in Baduci. A button and blind structure will be used in this game. Each participant is dealt five cards face down, then acting in turn clockwise of the blinds. The participants who remain in the pot after the first betting round now have an option to improve their hand by replacing cards in their hands with new ones. When played limit stakes, this game will usually be played with three draws. There will be a betting round after each draw. A participant is entitled to draw up to five cards on each round as they choose to make the best five card Baduci.

299. The best hand would be 2, 3, 4, and 5 of different suits with a 7 of any suit. Aces are considered high in this game.
300. The rules governing misdeals for lowball and other button games will be used for Badugi.
301. A participant may receive five consecutive cards off the deck.
302. As a new participant you must wait for the big blind or post a full big blind. If a participant has missed a blind, they must wait for the big blind to come around before they can receive a hand.
303. All exposed cards during the deal or any subsequent drawing round will be replaced. WSOP dealer procedure is to push and pull a participant's draw cards. If the participant elects to have his/her draw cards pitched by the dealer it will be so at the participant's risk and any exposed card in that circumstance will be kept by the participant.
304. Check raise is allowed.
305. If you are asked how many cards you drew by another active participant, the participant and dealer must respond until there has been action after the draw. Once there is any action, you are no longer obligated to respond and the dealer cannot respond.
306. You may change the number of cards you wish to draw, provided:
  - No card has been dealt off the deck in response to your request, including the burn card.
  - No participant has acted, in either the betting or indicating the number of cards to be drawn, based on the number of cards you have requested.

307. Baduci can be played with as many as six participants.

#### **BADACI (Badacey)**

Badaci is a form of Badugi and Ace-to-Five lowball draw. Badaci is a split pot game where half of the pot will be awarded to the best Ace-to-Five hand and the other half will be awarded to the best Badugi hand. A button and blind structure will be used in this game. Each participant is dealt five cards face down, then acting in turn clockwise of the blinds. The participants who remain in the pot after the first betting round now have an option to improve their hand by replacing cards in their hands with new ones. When played limit stakes, this game will usually be played with three draws. There will be a betting round after each draw. A participant is entitled to draw up to five cards on each round as they choose to make the best five card Badaci.

308. The best hand would be A, 2, 3, 4 of different suits with a 5 of any suit.

309. Most commonly the pot will be split between the best Badugi hand and the best Ace to Five hand.

310. The rules governing misdeals for lowball and other button games will be used for Badaci.

311. A participant may receive five consecutive cards off the deck.

312. As a new participant you must wait for the big blind or post a full big blind. If a participant has missed a blind, they must wait for the big blind to come around before they can receive a hand.

313. All exposed cards during the deal or any subsequent drawing round will be replaced. WSOP dealer procedure is to push and pull a participant's draw cards. If the participant elects to have his/her draw cards pitched by the dealer it will be so at the participant's risk and any exposed card in that circumstance will be kept by the participant.

314. Check raise is allowed.

315. If you are asked how many cards you drew by another active participant, the participant and dealer must respond until there has been action after the draw. Once there is any action, you are no longer obligated to respond and the dealer cannot respond.

316. You may change the number of cards you wish to draw, provided:

- No card has been dealt off the deck in response to your request, including the burn card.
- No participant has acted, in either the betting or indicating the number of cards to be drawn, based on the number of cards you have requested.

317. Badaci can be played with as many as six participants.

#### **RAZZDUGI**

Razzdugi is dealt like seven card razz. It is a split pot game where half of the pot will be awarded to the best Razz hand and the other half will be awarded to the best Badugi hand. In Razzdugi, each participant first receives two down cards followed by one up card to start the hand. After each participant receives their three cards, there is a first round of betting. There are then three more up cards and then a final down card, with a betting round after each, for a total of five betting rounds on a deal played to the showdown. The smaller bet is wagered for the first two betting rounds (third and fourth street), and the larger bet is wagered for the last three betting rounds, (fifth, sixth, and seventh street). Deliberately changing the order of your up cards is improper because it unfairly misleads the other participants.

318. The best hand would be A, 2, 3, 4 of different suits with a 5 of any suit.

319. Most commonly the pot will be split between the best Badugi hand and the best Razz hand.

320. The rules governing misdeals for stud type games will be used for Razzdugi.

321. Check raise is allowed.

322. Razzdugi can be played with as many as eight participants.

323. If there is an odd chip left after the split, it will be awarded to the best Razz hand since there is no true five-card hand.

#### **RAZZDUCI (Razzdeucey)**

Razzdugi is dealt like seven card razz. It is a split pot game where half of the pot will be awarded to the best Razz hand and the other half will be awarded to the best Deuce to Seven hand. In Razzdugi, each participant first receives two down cards followed by one up card to start the hand.

After each participant receives their three cards, there is a first round of betting. There are then three more up cards and then a final down card, with a betting round after each, for a total of five betting rounds on a deal played to the showdown. The smaller bet is wagered for the first two betting rounds (third and fourth street), and the larger bet is wagered for the last three betting rounds, (fifth, sixth, and seventh street). Deliberately changing the order of your up cards is improper because it unfairly misleads the other participants.

324. The best hand would be A, 2, 3, 4, 5 of different suits with a 7 of any suit. Straights and flushes count against you for the deuce to seven portion of the hand.
325. Most commonly the pot will be split between the best Deuce to Seven hand and the best Razz hand.
326. The rules governing misdeals for stud type games will be used for Razzduci.
327. Check raise is allowed.
328. Razzduci can be played with as many as eight participants

### **SECTION XII – CHINESE POKER**

329. Chinese Poker is usually played with 4 participants.
330. The Dealer deals 52 cards into four stacks of 13 cards each.
331. When the participants have completed the hand they are playing, they will toss all cards to the center of the table.
332. The Dealer will muck those cards, move the button and distribute the next hand of cards accordingly:
- The first stack is pushed to the participant directly following the Dealer button, small blind, then clockwise around the table.
  - The big blind participant receives the second stack,
  - The participant following him gets the third stack,
  - The participant with the Dealer button gets the fourth stack.
333. Chinese Poker can be played with:
- 2 participants:  
Two hands each: The first participant receives the first and third stack. The other participant receives the second and fourth stack.
  - 3 participants:  
Fourth stack is mucked.
  - 5 participants:  
Participant in the Dealer Button position does not receive a hand.
334. While the participants are playing the hand, the Dealer washes, shuffles, cuts and deals the cards for the next hand. Participants will table their hands and pay each other accordingly.
335. The Dealer will not get involved in the play or paying out of this game.
336. In the event that a participant receives 14 cards and another only receives 12, the participant with 14 cards will spread his hand face down on the table and the participant with 12 will select one randomly and play will continue. There is no misdeal.

### **CHINESE POKER VARIATION: CHINESE DRAW POKER**

337. All the rules of Chinese Poker apply to Chinese Draw Poker except that the participants' cards are distributed in increments and each participant must ante and or post blinds to receive a hand. After each incremental distribution of cards, the participants engage in a betting round. The final betting round occurs after the remaining participants have received all thirteen of their cards and each hand is set. If a showdown occurs the pot is distributed to the remaining participants according to the typical scoring system of Chinese poker. Typical distribution increments are 5 cards, 3 cards, and 5 cards and when using this format participants would engage in three betting rounds.

### **CHINESE POKER VARIATION: OPEN-FACE CHINESE POKER**

#### **338. Paying Out:**

After each participant has completed a thirteen card hand, the participants will compare sub-hands to determine the winner based off of a pre-determined payout table. Comparisons will begin with the participant on the button and that hand will be compared to each of the opponent's hands moving in a clockwise direction. As the hands are compared and scored, the participant on the button will exchange payouts with the other three participants. At this point, the next participant, in a clockwise direction, will compare hands with the two remaining participants (the participant on the button has already completed the scoring for this hand). Again once these hands are compared and scored, this participant

will exchange payouts. Then the second participant from the button will compare hands with the cut-off position and the final payout will be exchanged.

- a. As a participant nears the end of a buy-in, a situation may arise when the participant either wins or loses more points than this participant has remaining. If this occurs, the participant may only lose a total number of points equal to the number of points that this participant began the hand with. In addition, if a participant loses points in the first comparison, the participant can only receive a payoff no larger than the number of points that the participant has to begin the next comparison. No single comparison pay-off will ever be larger than the number of points that the participant began the hand with. If a participant wins points, these points will not receive action in subsequent comparisons for the hand in progress. However, the participant will carry all starting points to the next comparison.

339. **Dealing:** To begin, all participants will receive five cards dealt in the same fashion as any draw game, starting from the left of the button. The participants will then put each card in a sub-hand deemed the front, middle, or back. Each participant then shows the setting of his/her starting five cards, beginning with the participant to the left of the button. After the initial hands are set, each participant gets one card at a time from the dealer and continues placing the cards in their sub-hands until each participant has a complete thirteen card Chinese poker hand with three cards in the front, five in the middle, and five in the back.

340. **Scoring:** Participants compare each of their three sub-hands (front, middle, and back) to each of the other participants. One point is awarded to the participant who wins each comparison. If a participant wins all three against another participant, he is awarded three extra points for the scoop.

341. **Fouled hand:** A hand is considered fouled if the front is a higher ranking poker hand than the middle or the middle is higher ranking than the back. A fouled hand is considered scooped against a non-fouled hand.

- a. In the event that a participant has the incorrect number of cards set at any point during the hand, this participant's hand will be ruled fouled and the participant will be responsible for any payouts and royalties incurred during the hand. This means that if a participant has more than or less than the exact number of cards that should be set at that stage of the hand the hand is fouled.

342. **Bonuses or royalties** only count in non-fouled hands. However, bonuses don't get cancelled out if beaten by an opponent's higher bonus as in regular Chinese poker. An example of a bonus structure is as follows:

ROYALTIES			
TOP HAND			
66		1 point	
77		2 points	
88		3 points	
99		4 points	
TT		5 points	
JJ		6 points	
QQ		7 points	
KK		8 points	
AA		9 points	
222		10 points	
333		11 points	
444		12 points	
555		13 points	
666		14 points	
777		15 points	
888		16 points	
999		17 points	
TTT		18 points	
JJJ		19 points	
QQQ		20 points	
KKK		21 points	
AAA		22 points	
MIDDLE HAND		BOTTOM HAND	
Trips	2 points	Straight	2 points
Straight	4 points	Flush	4 points
Flush	8 points	Full House	6 points
Full House	12 points	Quads	10 points
Quads	20 points	Straight Flush	15 points
Straight Flush	30 points	Royal Flush	25 points
Royal Flush	50 points		

343. **Calling the clock:** Any participant may call the clock after 30 seconds have lapsed. The slow participant will be given 30 seconds to act. If no action is taken at that time, the card is placed in the front-most sub-hand that doesn't cause a guaranteed foul.

344. If a participant scores beyond a certain royalty threshold, that participant is said to have gone into "Fantasyland".

- a. The dealer will distribute the cards as follows:
  1. Each participant receives one card at a time starting to the left of the button. After each participant receives five cards, the dealer then deals a book of eight to the participant that is in Fantasyland.
  2. If there is more than one participant in Fantasyland, each participant will receive five cards and then the dealer will then deal a book of eight cards to the first participant to the left of the button that



- b. The participant that is in Fantasyland can bring his/her cards past the rail to set the hand for protection purposes. This participant cannot leave the table with the cards to set his/her hand.
- c. If a participant enters into Fantasyland the button will advance to the next position. The Fantasyland hand in progress is not an extension of the previous hand.
  - 1. Any participant entering into Fantasyland may not add stakes to the game. Participants may only add stakes in between hands and if not playing in Fantasyland on the subsequent hand.
- d. If a participant is in Fantasyland and receives the improper number of cards from the dealer, the participant is responsible for bringing it to the attention of the dealer before substantial action has occurred. Failure to do so may result in the participant's hand being fouled.
  - 1. If attention is brought to the error before substantial action has occurred, the dealer will call the floor supervisor to determine the most fair and integral way to rectify the error.
- e. A participant will remain in Fantasyland for the next hand by scoring any of the following and not fouling:
  - 1. Quads or better in the back row.
  - 2. Full House or better in the middle.
  - 3. Trips in the front.

**CHINESE POKER VARIATION: TURBO OPEN-FACE CHINESE POKER**

345. Turbo Open Face Chinese begins in the same manner as normal open face, with each player dealt 5 cards. After that, each player is dealt 4 cards at a time. There are only 3 rounds of dealing: 5+4+4. All cards are set and scoring is the same as regular Open-Face.

**CHINESE POKER VARIATION: PINEAPPLE OPEN-FACE CHINESE POKER**

346. **Dealing:** To begin, all participants will receive five cards dealt in the same fashion as any draw game, starting from the left of the button. The participants will then put each card in a sub-hand deemed the front, middle, or back. Each participant shows the setting of his/her starting five cards, beginning with the participant to the left of the button. Unlike regular Open-Face Chinese Poker, after the initial hands are set, each participant gets three cards at a time from the dealer and then the participant must choose two of the three cards to place in his/her sub-hand. This process is repeated until each participant has a complete thirteen card Chinese poker hand with three cards in the front, five in the middle, and five in the back.

- a. If a participant had reached Fantasyland in the previous hand, this participant will receive 14 cards in the dealing fashion described above for Fantasyland but will receive a book of 9 cards instead of 8 cards and will need to discard one of these cards, facedown, before the other participants begin the draw.

347. All previously mentioned rules of Open-Face Chinese Poker apply after each participant has a complete thirteen card hand.

**CHINESE POKER VARIATION: PINEAPPLE OPEN-FACE CHINESE (2-7 MIDDLE)**

348. The middle row is changed to lowball.

- a. 10-high is the 'best' hand that doesn't foul; in other words, any J, Q, K, A, pair or better is a foul. 65432, 76543 or any straights or flushes are also fouls.
- b. Examples of good middle rows:
  - i. T9732 / 96543 / 85432 / 76432

- c. The middle row must fall into the lowball range, and the back row must beat the front for the hand to be non-fouled.

An example of a good hand: AA3-87436-TT99K

Examples of a fouled hand: AA3-8743J-TT99K or AA3-87436-TT9QK

- d. Middle row royalties are as such:

10 high: 1 point - 9 high: 2 points - 8 high: 3 points - 7 high: 4 points - Perfect lowball 75432: 6-10 points (TBD by players at the start of the game)

Compensation for losing the possible royalties of the middle row flush (8 points) or full house (12 points) is given with the completion of the perfect lowball.

349. All previously mentioned rules of Pineapple Open-Face Chinese Poker other than the scoring of the middle hand described above.