

TEXAS HOLDEM

Before learning to play Texas, you must know the Card Levels

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|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Pocket Aces | 13. Ace-Jack Offsuit |
| 2. Pocket Kings | 14. Pocket Eights |
| 3. Pocket Queens | 15. Ace-Ten Suited |
| 4. Ace-King Suited | 16. King-Queen Offsuit |
| 5. Pocket Jacks | 17. Pocket Sevens |
| 6. Ace-King Offsuit | 18. King-Jack Suited |
| 7. Ace-Queen Suited | 19. Pocket Sixes |
| 8. Ace-Queen Offsuit | 20. Ace-Ten Offsuit |
| 9. Pocket Tens | 21. Pocket Fives |
| 10. Ace-Jack Suited | 22. King-Ten Suited |
| 11. Pocket Nines | 23. Queen-Jack Suited |
| 12. King-Queen Suited | 24. King-Jack Offsuit |

Blinds

At the start of each hand you need to be aware of where the dealer button is. This indicates which player is the nominal dealer for that hand. Before the dealer begins, the player immediately clockwise from the button puts chips in to pay the “small blind”, this is compulsory. The value of chips required for the blinds is decided by the table limits which are posted for each table. The player immediately clockwise from the small blind posts the “big blind”, which is usually twice the size of the small blind. Blinds can vary so make sure you check before you join a table. In some games, particularly tournaments, each player may also be required to post an ‘ante’ at the beginning of each hand into the pot. This is also compulsory and helps to increase the pot size.

Preflop & Postflop Action

Preflop

Once the dealer has delivered the ‘hole cards’ the first player clockwise to the big blind must decide what to do. They have the option to ‘check’ or ‘bet’. If that player doesn’t bet then all other players have the option to check i.e. not betting but keeping their cards. If that player places a bet (minimum bet is equal to the big blind), then subsequent players can fold, call or raise. To call is to match the amount the previous player has bet. A raise is an increase on the previous bet.

For example, if the big blind was 2, it would cost other players 2 to call, or at least 4 to raise. Action then proceeds clockwise around the table until all preflop betting is complete.

Exactly which options are available at any given time therefore depends on the action taken by the previous player. Each player

The Flop, Turn and River

Next comes the flop, where the dealer places three cards face-up on the board.

These are community cards. They are available to all players still in the hand. Betting on the flop begins with the first remaining player immediately clockwise from the button.

Once betting flop is complete, the turn card is dealt face-up on the board. The turn is also a community card. Another round of betting is available now once again beginning with the active player immediately clockwise from the button. Finally, the river card is dealt face-up on the board. The river is the fifth and final community card and the dealing is now complete for that game.

Betting again

begins with the active player immediately clockwise from the button, and the same betting rules apply as they do for the flop and turn.

So...who won?

If there is more than one remaining player when the final betting round is complete, the last person to bet or raise shows their cards, unless there was no bet on the final round in which case the player immediately clockwise from the button shows their cards first.

The player with the best five-card poker hand wins the pot. In the event of identical hands, the pot will be equally divided between the players with the best hands.

After the pot is awarded, the button moves clockwise to the next player and the next hand is ready to begin. Blinds and relevant antes are placed, and hole cards are dealt to each player.



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