



HOW TO PLAY

TEXAS HOLD 'EM

Get ready to play! The Clearwater Casino would like to introduce you to the exciting world of poker, Texas Hold 'Em style. Look over these rules carefully then get on over to the poker tables to give America's most popular card game a try!



RANK OF HANDS

In poker the rank of hands from highest to lowest is:



1. ROYAL FLUSH

Straight flush to the Ace. The highest hand possible.



2. STRAIGHT FLUSH

All five cards are both in sequence and of a common suit.



3. FOUR OF A KIND

Four cards of the same rank.



4. FULL HOUSE

Three cards of one rank and two of another rank.



5. FLUSH

Five cards of the same suit.



6. STRAIGHT

Five cards in sequence. Aces may be used as high or low.



7. THREE OF A KIND

Three cards of the same rank.



8. TWO PAIR

Two groups of two cards of the same rank.



9. ONE PAIR

Two cards of the same rank.



10. HIGH CARD

The rank of hands containing no pair or better is determined by the highest card or cards in hand.

TEXAS HOLD 'EM ♣ ♥ ♠ ♦

Summary:

Each player receives two cards face down. Five cards, referred to as community cards, are turned up in the center of the table and used by all players. Players may use any combination of their two hole cards plus the five community cards to make the best five-card poker hand possible. Different levels of Texas Hold 'Em are identified by their betting structure. The game most commonly played at Clearwater is \$4/\$8 Texas Hold 'Em. This means that the betting rounds are either \$4 or \$8. Other levels of Texas Hold 'Em are also played including \$6/\$12, \$10/\$20, and even \$1-\$3 No Limit (\$100 max bet). Be sure to ask what games are being offered and what the minimum buy-in is for any game before you play. The minimum buy-in for a \$4/\$8 game is \$40.

Play:

The first thing you will notice is a white disk with the word "Dealer" printed on it. This is the "button" and the cards are dealt clockwise from this spot as if the person with the button in front of them is dealing the cards. The button moves clockwise, one space each hand so every player has a turn at the button.

Before any cards are dealt, the first two players clockwise from the button must bet "in the blind". There are two blinds: the SMALL blind and the BIG blind. In a \$4/\$8 game the blinds are \$2 and \$4. After the blinds are posted, each player receives two cards face down. These are your "hole" cards. Play begins with the player clockwise from the big blind. They may either call the big blind (match it), raise the big blind (double it by making it \$8), or fold their cards by leaving them face down and pushing them towards the dealer. Each player, in turn, has the opportunity to call, raise or fold until the action gets back to the big blind. The player in the big blind has already made a bet "in the blind". Even so the dealer will offer them an option to raise by saying "option". They may either check or raise. Once the betting round is completed the play will progress to "the flop".

The dealer will place three cards face up in the center of the table. These are community cards shared by all the players still in the hand and is called the flop. After the flop each player beginning with the first player clockwise from the button may check (choose not to bet but continue to play), bet, raise, or fold. In a \$4/\$8 game this betting round is a \$4 round. Each player must bet or raise in increments of \$4. Once this betting round is complete play will continue to "the turn." The dealer will place an additional community card in the center of the table. This card is known as the turn. After the turn each player beginning with the first player clockwise from the button, may as before bet, raise, or fold. In this betting round the stakes are doubled to \$8 - each player must bet or raise in increments of \$8. Once this betting round is complete play will continue to "the river".

The dealer will place a fifth and final community card in the center of the table. This card is known as the river. After the river each player beginning with the first player clockwise from the button, may as before bet, raise, or fold. This is the final betting round and is also an \$8 round. Now it's time for "the showdown".

Once all bets are called the players remaining in the hand will expose their hole cards by turning them face up for the dealer. It is important to retain control over your cards by turning them face up directly in front of you so they don't become confused with any other cards on the table. The dealer will read your cards in combination with the five community cards and award the pot to the player

with the best ranking five cards out of the seven available.

The pot is then pushed to the winning player, the button is moved one position clockwise, blinds are posted, the cards are shuffled and a new hand begins. That's all there is to it!

IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER

Always act in turn. Play always proceeds clockwise from the button and it is important to the integrity of the game that all players act (check, bet, raise, fold) in turn.

Raises are always double the bet. If a bet is \$4 than you may raise to \$8, not \$6 or \$12 or any other amount.

Ask, ask, ask. The dealer is there for you. If you have any questions just ask. The dealer can't tell you how to play your hand but he or she will tell you what your options are at any point during the play of the hand.

POKER TERMINOLOGY

All-In: A situation where a player has placed all of his or her chips into the pot before the hand is completed is considered all-in. That player retains a chance to win the portion of the pot to which he or she has contributed. The dealer will make a separate pot for the other players.

Bet: Placing chips into the pot. Initiating a wager.

Blind: A forced bet, before the cards are dealt, to start the betting action.

Buy-In: The minimum amount of chips a player must place on the table in order to begin play. The minimum buy-in requirement is usually five times the maximum bet.

Call: A wager made in an amount equal to the proceeding wager.

Check: To waive the right to initiate the betting in a round, but retaining the right to act if another player initiates a bet.

Dealer Button: A disk moved clockwise around the table to denote an imaginary dealer thereby determining the dealing and betting sequence.

Fold: To surrender a hand by pushing it, face down, towards the dealer instead of calling a bet.

Pot: The combined total of the chips bet and called during a particular hand.

Raise: To make a bet by increasing the size of a previous wager by doubling it.

Rake: The amount of money from the pot of each hand collected by the house as poker revenue.

String Bets: An illegal raise made in two distinct motions, unless the player has declared their intention to raise before placing any chips into the pot.

Table Stakes: Includes all chips a player has on the table before a hand is dealt. Cash does not play. All poker games at Clearwater are table stake games. This means that a player must play only with the chips in front of them at the beginning of an individual hand for the duration of the hand. It also means that you may not take chips off the table while you are active in a game. In order to remove chips from the game a player must cash out and cease playing for that particular session.

Token: A gratuity given to the dealer. A tip. Usually a dollar, more if you receive an extra large pot, less if minimal.