

# Rules of No Limit Texas Hold 'Em

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## The Deal

At the beginning of a new hand each player is dealt two cards face down – their “Hole Cards”. A round of betting takes place. Then three common cards are dealt to the middle of the table – the “Flop”, followed by a second round of betting. A fourth common card is dealt – the “Turn”, then a fifth – the “River”, each followed by a round of betting, for a total of four betting rounds.

The player’s hand consists of their 2 hole cards and the 5 common cards. The player’s best 5 card Poker hand is made from any of those 7 cards.

## Betting: Check, Bet, Call, Raise, Fold

In each betting round, the “action” moves clockwise around the table, starting on the dealer’s left. If no bets have been made by previous players, a player may choose to Check, i.e. not bet, or they may Bet. If a bet has been made by a previous player, then the player may Call, Raise, or Fold. To Call is to match the current bet. To Raise is to increase the current bet. In either case, the player is still in the hand and the “action” moves on to the next player. To Fold is to withdraw from the hand, forfeiting any money the player has already bet.

Check-raising **is** allowed. This means that a player may Check (choose not to bet) when there is no current bet, but then Raise following another player’s bet.

## Blind Bets

A “blind” is a mandatory bet made before any cards are dealt – a blind bet. The player to the left of the dealer is first to receive a card and is required to post a small blind. The player to the left of the small blind is required to post the big blind. The amount of the big blind is always twice the small blind.

In the first round of betting (before the Flop), the small and big blinds are the first two player’s bets, and betting continues with the third player. However, the players in the blinds have the option of calling, raising or folding when the betting action comes back around to their position. After the Flop and for each subsequent betting round, the first active player to the left of the dealer is first to act.

## Progressive Blinds

The concept of a Tournament is for players to be eliminated by losing all their chips as the event progresses. To promote action and progressively increase the possibility of elimination, the size of the blinds is increased at set time intervals during the event.

## No Limit, Minimum Bets

In a no limit game, the amount of each raise may be any amount equal to or greater than the previous bet in that round of betting. For example, if a player bets \$100 dollars, any raise must be an additional \$100 or more. If a player raises by \$500, the next raise must be \$500 or more. The minimum starting bet in each round is equal to the size of the big blind. For example, if the blinds are \$25 and \$50, all bets or raises must be at least \$50.

There is no maximum bet in No Limit poker. A player may bet all their chips at any time. See the next topic - “All In”.

**All In**

If a player chooses to bet all their chips, this is called "All In". Once a player is All In, they can't be forced out of the hand by another player's raise. If other active players wish to raise beyond the amount of the All In bet, these raises create a second "side" pot for only those active players. The All In player is only eligible to win the original pot, where the other players have matched the All In bet.

A player can also call a bet that is greater than their remaining chips by going All In. If no other players are active, the larger bet is reduced to the amount of the All In bet. If other players are active, they can call or raise the larger bet and a side pot is created.

**Dealer Button**

All shuffling and distribution of cards is done by the non-playing dealer. However, the "dealer" position moves around the table clockwise to indicate where the distribution of cards and the sequence of betting will begin. A round disk called the dealer button or simply "the button" is placed in front of the "dealer" position. The player in the dealer position is said to be "on the button" for that hand.

After each hand is completed, the button moves clockwise to the next active player and this player will act last on his/her hand on each betting round.

**Table Etiquette**

- A player must verbally announce their action – Check, Bet, Call, Raise, or Fold. This commits the player to that action.
- If the player bets or raises, they must also announce the amount of the bet or raise. This commits the player to that amount.
- A player places their bet in front of themselves, not into the pot. All bets are moved into the pot by the dealer, but only after the round of betting is completed. This prevents confusion about whether a player has put in the correct amount of chips.
- When a player folds, their hole cards are given to the dealer, face down, and are put in the "muck" or discard pile. Hole cards from folded hands are never exposed.
- No player may show any hole card until the play of the hand is complete, or until all players still active in the hand are All In.
- At the end of the hand, the player who made the last bet or raise shows their cards first. The calling player does not have to show their cards if they have lost the hand.
- If a card is exposed accidentally or if a player who is active at the end of a hand shows their cards, they must be shown to all players.
- A player is allowed an indefinite length of time to decide their play, but any other player active in the hand may call for "Time", at which point the player is allowed one additional minute to act.