

## **Online Casino Reports Game Guides**

### **Poker: Playing for the Pot**

#### **About Us**

Online Casino Reports is an essential stopover before entering the world of online gambling. With over 10 years in the business, we really know our stuff so you can feel in safe hands. Our Game Guides series provides a concise run-down of rules, odds, tips and gambling terms. They'll give you a quick snapshot of any given game and bring you up to speed before starting to play for real.

When you're ready to roll, check out our site for reviews of the very best online gambling sites as well as the latest gambling news from around the world. And if this isn't enough, explore our state of the art video content and online sharing community which will bring the world of online gambling to life and keep you coming back for more.

**[www.onlinecasinoreports.com](http://www.onlinecasinoreports.com)**

## **Playing for the Pot**

**With a history dating back over 500 years poker is, undoubtedly, one of the most popular card games in the world.**

*The sociable nature of game play, the many variations and the online poker phenomenon have resulted in millions of players worldwide being gripped by poker fever as the lure of the poker table seems impossible to resist.*

### **Set-up**

Two or more players are seated in a circle with their cards concealed from each other.

### **Objective**

To be the player with the highest ranked hand at the end of one or more rounds of betting, or to be the last remaining player after all others have given up their chances of winning (folded).

### **Game Rules**

There are many variations of poker, all with slightly different rules although the fundamentals are as follows: cards are dealt either face up or face down and the betting round begins. Betting continues until a player challenges (calls) another player's bet. The remaining players have the choice to either equal the bet or raise it to a higher sum.

Players can choose to fold at any point. If no player calls the bet or if the remaining players all fold then the round is over and the betting player wins the pot. Winning hands are determined according to the card rankings below.

### **Playing Online**

The introduction of online poker has led to a dramatic rise in popularity of the game. An appealing house edge as well as low stakes games have attracted millions of players worldwide.

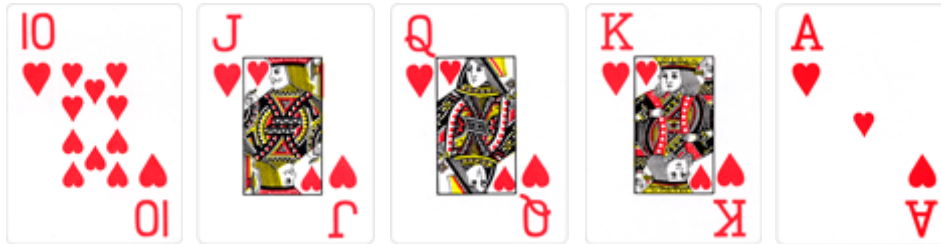
The main difference between real life and online poker is the lack of 'bluffing' as players cannot see their opponents. Online players also have the option to play at several tables simultaneously that they cannot do in real life.

Online poker players should look out for satellite tournaments where they are given the chance to compete for a place at high profile poker tournaments all over the world.

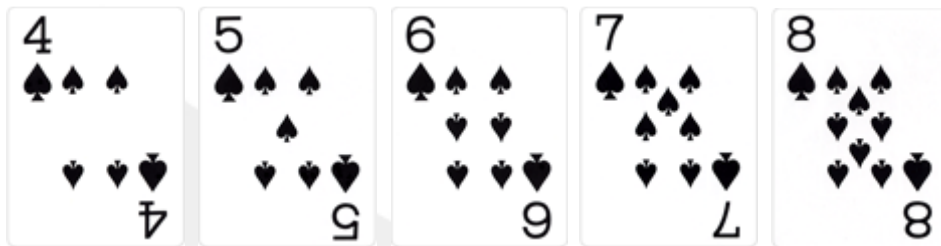
**Poker Card Rankings**

Poker hands in ranked order:

**Royal Flush:** the highest ranking hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and ten all of the same suit.



**Straight Flush:** five cards in numerical sequence with the top card less than the ace.



**Four of a Kind:** four cards of the same rank, such as four queens, four sixes and so on.



**Full House:** three cards of the same rank and two of another, such as three sevens and two fours.



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**Flush:** five cards of the same suit, but not in numerical sequence.



**Straight:** five cards in numerical sequence from different suits.



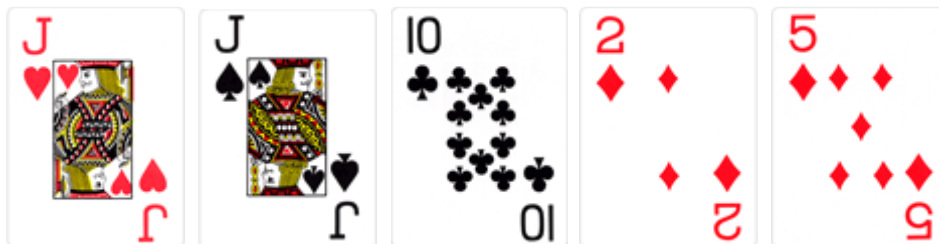
**Three of a Kind:** three cards of the same rank, such as three kings, three eights, and so on.



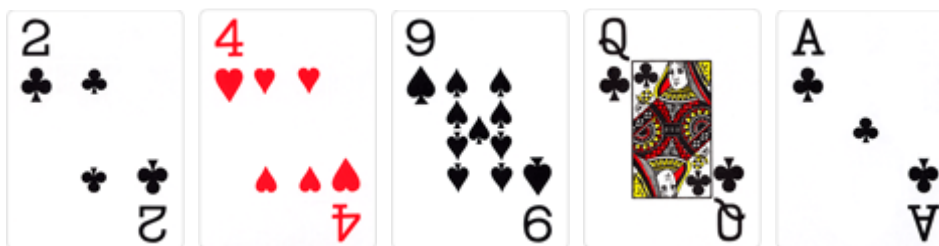
**Two Pairs:** two cards of the same rank from two different suits, such as two fours and two aces, and so on.



**Pair:** two cards of the same rank, such as two fives or two threes and so on.



**High Card:** the highest card in the hand.



### Game Variations

The three main variations of poker are as follows:

#### ***Stud Poker***

All players post an initial bet and are dealt three cards each. The first two cards are dealt face down (hole cards) and the last one face up (door card). Play continues with five rounds of betting with the amount in the pot increasing with each round. Each player is dealt a further card face up, with the seventh and final card dealt face down. Once the betting round is over the cards are revealed and the winner is the player holding the best ranked hand.

#### ***Draw Poker***

Each player receives five cards face down. Players check their cards and discard any they don't want receiving new ones in their place. Draw poker is the most common poker variant.

#### ***Community Poker***

Players are dealt cards face down with a pile of cards left face up in the center of the table (community cards). These cards can be used by any player to complete their five-card hand. Texas Hold Em is the most famous version of community poker.

## **Bluffing**

The expression 'poker face' originates from the bluffing element of any poker game. This involves making your opponents think you have a good hand, when the true situation may be quite the opposite. The best bluffers are those players that can win even with disastrous hands.

## **Tips and Tricks**

- Don't play every hand. Be selective.
- Don't fold or bluff every bad hand. Mix up your game to keep your opponents guessing.
- Think about position. Players close to the dealer should play cautiously whereas those playing later have more time to assess the table before making a decision.
- Don't reveal your folded hand. It's within your rights not to show your cards so keep your game strategy to yourself.

## **Glossary**

- A. **Ante:** the initial bet or token wager made before the cards are dealt.
- B. **Blind Bet:** a bet made without seeing the cards in a hand. Also known as a Forced Bet.
- C. **Buy-In:** the minimum amount that players must bet to enter a game.
- D. **Call:** a nonzero bet equal to the preceding bet that keeps the player in the running to win the pot.
- E. **Cash Game:** a regular poker game where players can cash out at any point. Also known as a Ring Game.
- F. **Flop:** the three cards dealt up in the first stage of a game, namely in Texas Hold Em.
- G. **Fold:** To surrender the hand as well as the chance to win the pot. Also known as a Pass.
- H. **Pocket Cards:** cards that are dealt face down.

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- I. **Pot:** the pool of money that accumulates during the course of a poker game that is awarded to the winning player.
- J. **Raise:** to bet a sum higher than the previous bet forcing all players to match it, raise it more or forfeit the pot. Also known as a Bump.
- K. **River:** the final card dealt to players to complete a hand.
- L. **Showdown:** the conclusion of a game where remaining players reveal their cards determining the winner of the game and the pot.
- M. **Tournament:** a multi-player contest where only one player walks away with any chips although other top players may be compensated. Cashing out is not permitted during a tournament game.

*Check out the rest of our Game Guides series for an essential introduction to whichever game takes your fancy. Learn the basics, hone your strategy and get gambling online!*

