

# Pineapple

2-10 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Medium

Make the best five-card hand after discarding one of your three hole cards.

## SETUP

- 2-10 players with a standard 52-card deck.
- Post small blind and big blind.
- Deal 3 hole cards face-down to each player.

## SCORING

- Standard poker hand rankings apply.
- Best five-card hand wins the pot.

*Tip: Expect stronger hands at showdown than in regular Hold'em and adjust your calling ranges accordingly.*

## ON YOUR TURN

- Pre-flop betting round.
- Discard 1 hole card (before flop in standard, after flop in Crazy).
- Flop, turn, and river with betting rounds as in Hold'em.

Pineapple is a Hold'em variant where each player receives three hole cards instead of two and must discard one before the flop (or after, depending on the variant). The extra card creates stronger starting hands and more action while keeping the familiar community card structure of Hold'em.

## Objective

Make the best five-card poker hand using one or two of your remaining hole cards combined with the five community cards, after discarding one of your three initial hole cards.

## Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 10 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Blinds:** Small blind and big blind are posted as in Hold'em.
4. **Deal:** Each player receives 3 cards face-down.

## Gameplay

1. **Pre-flop:** Players look at their three hole cards and a betting round occurs.
2. **Discard:** In standard Pineapple, each player discards one card before the flop is dealt. In Crazy Pineapple, the discard happens after the flop betting round.
3. **Flop, Turn, River:** Community cards are dealt and betting rounds proceed exactly as in Texas Hold'em.
4. **Showdown:** The best five-card hand wins using standard Hold'em rules (any combination of hole cards and community cards).

## Scoring

- **Hand rankings:** Standard poker hand rankings apply.
- **Card usage:** After discarding, remaining hole cards function exactly as in Hold'em.
- **Pot:** The best five-card hand at showdown wins the pot.

## Variations

- **Crazy Pineapple:** Players keep all three hole cards until after the flop betting round before discarding one, creating even more action.
- **Lazy Pineapple (Tahoe):** Players keep all three hole cards until showdown but may only use two.
- **Open-Face Chinese Pineapple:** A completely different game where players arrange cards into three hands on a board.

## Tips and Strategies

- Having three hole cards means more hands connect with the flop — adjust your expectations for opponents' hand strength upward.
- In Crazy Pineapple, the extra information from seeing the flop before discarding makes for more informed decisions.
- Premium starting hands are more common with three cards, so raise more aggressively with top-tier holdings.

## Tips & Strategy

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The third card dramatically increases starting hand quality, so expect bigger hands at showdown than in regular Hold'em. Choose which card to discard based on community card potential.

Because starting hands are stronger, position and post-flop play become even more important. Players flop big hands more frequently, so be cautious with marginal holdings.