

Texas Hold'em

2-10 players

52 cards

Difficulty: Medium

Duration: Long

Make the best five-card hand from your two hole cards and five community cards, or bluff everyone else into folding.

SETUP

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

SCORING

- Standard poker hand rankings from high card to royal flush.
- Best five-card hand at showdown wins the pot.

Tip: Play fewer hands but play them aggressively, especially from late position.

ON YOUR TURN

- Bet, call, raise, or fold in each betting round.
- Flop: 3 community cards dealt, then bet.
- Turn: 4th community card dealt, then bet.
- River: 5th community card dealt, then final bet.

Texas Hold'em is the most widely played poker variant in the world, featured in the World Series of Poker and countless casino poker rooms. Each player receives two private hole cards and shares five community cards, aiming to make the best five-card hand. The game combines deep strategic betting with calculated risk, making it appealing to both casual players and seasoned professionals.

Objective

Make the best five-card poker hand using any combination of your two hole cards and the five community cards, or force all other players to fold through strategic betting.

Setup

1. **Players:** 2 to 10 players.
2. **Deck:** Standard 52-card deck.
3. **Blinds:** The two players to the left of the dealer post the small blind and big blind to seed the pot.
4. **Deal:** Each player receives 2 cards face-down (hole cards).

Gameplay

1. **Pre-flop:** After receiving hole cards, a round of betting begins starting with the player left of the big blind. Players may fold, call, or raise.
2. **The Flop:** Three community cards are dealt face-up in the center of the table, followed by a betting round starting with the first active player left of the dealer.
3. **The Turn:** A fourth community card is dealt face-up, followed by another betting round.
4. **The River:** A fifth and final community card is dealt face-up, followed by the last betting round.
5. **Showdown:** If two or more players remain after the final betting round, they reveal their hands and the best five-card hand wins the pot.

Scoring

- **Hand rankings:** Standard poker hand rankings apply, from high card up to royal flush.
- **Pot:** The player with the best hand at showdown wins the entire pot. In case of a tie, the pot is split equally.
- **Side pots:** If a player is all-in with less than the full bet, a side pot is created for the remaining players.

Variations

- **No-Limit:** Players may bet any amount up to all their chips at any time. This is the most popular format.
- **Pot-Limit:** The maximum bet is the current size of the pot.
- **Fixed-Limit:** Bets and raises are restricted to predetermined amounts.

Tips and Strategies

- Play tight in early position and expand your range in late position where you have more information.
- Pay attention to pot odds and implied odds when deciding whether to call a bet with a drawing hand.
- Observe opponents for betting patterns and tendencies rather than relying on physical tells alone.

Tips & Strategy

Position is everything in Hold'em — playing in late position lets you see how opponents act before making your decision. Focus on starting hand selection and avoid chasing draws without proper pot odds.

The concept of position advantage is central to Hold'em strategy — acting last gives you maximum information about opponents' hand strength. Aggression is generally favored over passive play.