

Texas Hold'em

PLAYERS 2 to 10 DECK 52 cards, no jokers TYPE Poker LEVEL Medium

THE GOAL

Make the best five-card hand from your two cards and five shared cards, or make everyone else fold.

SETUP

Two to ten players, one 52-card deck without jokers, and chips. A dealer button moves one seat left every hand.

THE DEAL

The player left of the button posts the small blind, the next player the big blind (usually twice as much). Then everyone gets two hole cards face down.

A TURN

- On your turn: fold, check (only if nobody has bet), call, bet or raise.
- The first betting round starts left of the big blind.
- The flop: three shared cards, then a betting round starting with the first active player left of the button.
- The turn (a fourth card) and the river (a fifth), each followed by a betting round.

SPECIAL CARDS

- Your hand is the best five of seven cards: you may use both, one or none of your hole cards.

SCORING

- High to low: royal flush, straight flush, four of a kind, full house, flush, straight, three of a kind, two pair, one pair, high card.
- If more than one player is left after the last bet, the best hand at the showdown takes the pot. Equal hands share it.

WINNING

In a tournament, play until one player has all the chips; at home, stop at an agreed time and count.

HOUSE RULES

- **No-limit.** You may bet any amount up to all your chips at any time. The most common form today.
- **Fixed limit.** Bets and raises come in set amounts, usually doubling for the turn and river.
- **Pot-limit.** You may bet or raise up to the size of the pot.