

# HOW TO PLAY BLACKJACK

YOUR GUIDE TO PLAYING  
CASINO TABLE GAMES



PLAYERS **EDGE**

# PLAYING THE GAME

The dealer starts the game. Every player gets two cards, face up. The dealer gets two cards, but one card is face up and one face down – the “hole” card. Only after all players’ hands are played does the dealer expose the dealer’s “hole” card and play the dealer’s hand.

## **/ STAND OR HIT**

Once you have your two cards in front of you, you can choose to “stand” (draw no more cards), or take a “hit” (drawing one more card at a time until reaching or getting as close to 21 as possible). However, if you go over 21, you “break” and automatically lose. A winning hand pays even money: meaning you are paid the same amount you wagered. If you bet \$5.00, you are paid \$5.00. You may also double-down or split like pairs.

## **/ DEALER’S TURN**

The dealer now turns over their “hole” card and acts on the hand according to the rules of the game. The dealer must draw to 16 and “stand” when 17 or more is reached, or on select games, the dealer will hit a soft 17. A soft total is one that cannot “break” if one more card is taken like a 17 comprised of an Ace and a 6. At the end of the game, if your count is the same as the dealer’s, it is a “push” (neither the dealer or you win). If the player count is greater than the dealer’s but does not exceed 21, or the dealer’s count exceeds 21, the player wins.

## **/ WHAT IF YOU GET BLACKJACK RIGHT AWAY?**

If your first two cards are an Ace and any ten value card, the dealer announces your hand as Blackjack. You will be paid at this time if the dealer does not have an Ace or ten value card as an up card; however, if the dealer’s up card is an Ace or a ten value card, you will not be paid until the dealer checks his hand. If the dealer’s hand is Blackjack, it is a push (tie). A player’s winning Blackjack is typically paid off at odds of 3 to 2 or 6 to 5.

## **/ DOUBLE DECK BLACKJACK GAME VARIATIONS**

Double Deck Blackjack is played with two traditional decks of 52 playing cards. The cards will be hand held by the dealer, dealt face down and “Pitched” to the players who may touch the cards. Players may double down on 8, 9, 10, and 11 only.