7 Card Stud Game Procedures

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Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Section, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"All-in" means a player who has no funds remaining on the poker table to continue betting in a round of play but who still retains the right to contend for that portion of the pot in which the player has already placed a bet.

"Ante" means a predetermined wager, which each player is required to make in some poker games prior to any cards being dealt in order to participate in the round of play.

"Bet" means an action by which a player places gaming chips into the pot on any betting round.

"Betting round" means a complete wagering cycle in a hand of poker after all players have called, folded or gone all-in.

"Blind bet" means a mandatory wager in some poker games which only players sitting in specific betting positions at the poker table shall be required to place prior to looking at any cards.

"Burn card" means a card taken from the top of a deck which is discarded face down, which is not in play and the identity of which remains unknown.

"Button" means an object that is moved clockwise around the table to denote an imaginary dealer and thereby determine the betting and dealing sequence.

"Call" means a wager made in an amount equal to the immediately preceding wager.

"Check" means that a player waives the right to initiate the betting in a betting round but retains the right to act if another player initiates the betting.

"Common card" means, in any game of stud poker, a card which is dealt face upward if there are insufficient cards left in the deck to deal each player a card individually and which can be used by all players at the showdown.

"Cover card" means a yellow or green plastic card used during the cut process and then to conceal the bottom card of the deck.

"Draw" means, in any game of draw poker, an exchange by a player of cards held in his or her hand, after the initial round of betting, for an equal number of new cards from the deck.

"Fold" means the withdrawal of a player from a round of play by discarding his or her hand of cards

during a betting round and refusing to equal a wager.

"Forced bet" means a wager which is required to start the wagering on the first betting round.

"Fouled hand" means a hand that either has an improper number of cards or has come into contact with other cards in such a way as to render it impossible to determine accurately which cards are contained in the hand.

"Hole card" means any card dealt to a player face down.

"Opening bet" means the first bet in a round of play.

"Pot" means the amount which is awarded to the winning player or players at the conclusion of a round of play and is equal to the total amount anted and bet by the players during the round of play, less any rake extracted.

"Protected hand" means a hand of cards which the player is physically holding or has placed under one or more gaming chips.

"Raise," means a bet in an amount greater than the immediately preceding bet in that betting round.

"Rake," means the amount of gaming chips, gaming plaques or coin collected by the dealer as poker revenue.

"Round of play" means, for any game of poker, the process by which cards are dealt, bets are placed and the winner of the pot is determined and paid in accordance with the rules of this Section.

"Showdown" means the action of revealing the hands of each player in order to determine who shall win the pot.

"Side pot" means a separate pot formed when one or more players are all-in.

"Stub" means the remaining portion of the deck after all cards in a round of play have been dealt.

"Suit" means one of the four categories of cards, that is, diamond, spade, club or heart.

"Table stakes" means the currency and gaming chips on the table is in play and a payer may not subtract from his or her currency/gaming chips at any time during ongoing play.

"Up-card," means, in a game of stud poker, any card dealt to a player face up.

Cards, Number of Decks

Poker shall be played with one deck of cards with backs of the same color and design and one additional cover card. The cover card shall be opaque and in a solid color readily distinguishable from the color of the backs and edges of the playing cards. Two decks of cards shall be maintained for use at each poker table at all times. Each deck maintained at the poker table shall be visually distinguishable in some manner from the other deck. While one deck is in use, the other deck shall be stored in a designated area.

Poker Rankings

(1) The rank of the cards used in all types of poker other than low poker, for the determination of winning hands, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three and two. All suits shall be considered equal in rank. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a "straight flush" or a "straight" formed with a two, three, four and five (in a five card poker hand).

(2) The permissible high poker hands in poker games that result in a five card hand, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

(i) "Royal flush" is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and ten of the same suit;

(ii) "Straight flush" is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with king, queen, jack, 10 and nine being the highest ranking straight flush and ace, two, three, four and five being the lowest ranking straight flush;

(iii) "Four-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of four cards of the same rank regardless of suit, with four aces being the highest ranking four-of-a-kind and four twos being the lowest ranking four-of-a-kind;

(iv) "Full house" is a hand consisting of "three-of-a- kind" and a "pair," with three aces and two kings being the highest ranking full house and three twos and two threes being the lowest ranking full house;

(v) "Flush" is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit;

(vi) "Straight" is a hand consisting of five cards of consecutive rank, regardless of suit, with an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 being the highest ranking straight and an ace, two, three, four and five being the lowest ranking straight; provided, however, that an ace may not be combined with any other sequence of cards for purposes of determining a winning hand (e.g., queen, king, ace, two, three);

(vii) "Three-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank regardless of suit, with three aces being the highest ranking three-of-a-kind and three twos being the lowest ranking three-of-a-kind;

(viii) "Two pairs" is a hand consisting of two "pairs," with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pair and two threes and two twos being the lowest ranking two pair; and

(ix) "One pair" is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, regardless of suit, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two twos being the lowest ranking pair.

(3) When comparing two hands which are of identical poker hand rank, as applicable, or which contain none of the poker hands authorized for that game, the hand which contains the highest ranking card, whichever is applicable, which is not contained in the other hand shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of identical rank after the application of this section, the hands shall be considered tied and the pot shall be equally divided among the players with the tied hands.

(4) In all games of poker, a hand shall be ranked according to the cards actually contained therein and not by the player's opinion or statement of its value.

Opening the Table for Gaming

(1) After receiving two decks of cards at the table, the dealer shall sort and inspect the cards.

(2) Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer, the cards shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection. The cards shall be spread out according to suit and in sequence.

(3) Immediately prior to the commencement of play, each deck shall be separately turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a "washing" of the cards and stacked. Each deck of cards shall be shuffled.

Shuffle and Cut of the Cards

Immediately prior to commencement of play and after the completion of each round of play, the dealer shall shuffle the entire deck of cards. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack.

Poker Overview; General Dealing Procedures for All Types of Poker

(1) Poker shall be played by a minimum of two players and a maximum of 11 players. Poker shall be dealt by a dealer at a poker table. For all types of poker, the dealer shall not participate in the playing or outcome of the game in any way except as otherwise authorized in this Section.

(2) A player shall wager on the cards that the player holds in his or her hand. All bets by a player shall be placed by the dealer in the designated area of the table known as the pot. A player may be required to ante or place a blind bet prior to the receipt of any cards. After each round of cards is dealt, a betting round shall be conducted. Each player shall decide whether to continue contending for the pot by calling or raising the bet of the other players.

(3) The object of the game shall be for a player to win the pot either by making a bet that no other player elects to call, or by having the hand of highest rank at the showdown. If two or more players are still in contention for a pot after all cards have been dealt and the final betting round has been completed, there shall be a showdown among the players still in contention to determine which player has the hand of highest rank. Based on the type of poker being played, the winning player may be the player who holds the highest ranking high poker hand, the highest ranking low poker hand or both the highest ranking high and low poker hands.

(4) The following procedures shall be utilized by the dealer when dealing the game of poker:

(i) The dealer shall choose the hand in which he or she will hold the cards. Once the dealer has chosen a hand, the dealer must use that hand whenever holding the cards. The cards held by the dealer shall, at all times, be held in front of the dealer, as level as possible and over the poker table.

(ii) The dealer shall verbalize or physically indicate the action, which is occurring at the poker table with regard to the conduct of the game and instruct each player as to his or her various turns to act and options.

(iii) All burn cards required by this Section shall be kept separate from the pile of discarded cards.

(iv) At the completion of a round of play, the dealer shall award the pot to the winning player or players after a showdown or to the last remaining player if all other players have folded. Prior to pushing the pot to the winner and collecting the winning hand, the dealer shall first collect the cards from all losing players.

(v) All side pots shall be awarded before the dealer awards the pot in the center of the poker table.

(vi) The dealer shall collect the rake.

Wagers

(1) Only players who are seated at the poker table may be permitted to receive cards and participate in each betting round.

(2) Depending upon the particular type of poker game being dealt, a player may be required to:

(i) Place an ante prior to receiving any cards;

(ii) Place a predetermined blind bet prior to receiving any cards.

(3) A player may only participate in the wagering during a round of play with the gaming chips which were already on the poker table in front of the player when the round of play commenced.

(i) A player may only add to his or her gaming chips between rounds of play and may not remove any of his or her gaming chips from the poker table at any time during ongoing play.

(ii) A player who depletes his or her funds on the poker table prior to the completion of a round of play shall be deemed to be "all-in."

(A) An "all-in" player shall retain financial interest in the outcome of the round of play, but shall only be eligible to win the amount of the pot to which he or she contributed;

(B) An "all-in" player shall continue to receive any cards to which he or she would normally be entitled; and

(C) Betting shall continue unimpeded among the other players by generating a separate secondary pot, which only those players shall be eligible to win.

(4) A verbal statement of "fold," "check," "call," "raise," or an announcement of a specific size wager by a player, assuming it is within the rules of the poker game being played and the minimum and maximum wager limits for the poker table, shall be binding on the player if it is that player's turn to act.

(5) A player who announces a bet or raise of a certain amount but places a different amount of gaming chips in the pot shall be required to correct his or her bet or raise to the announced amount in accordance with the instructions of the dealer.

(6) A player shall be considered to have placed a bet if the player:

(i) Pushes gaming chips forward to indicate the intent of placing a bet;

(ii) Releases gaming chips into the pot; or

(iii) Releases gaming chips at a sufficient distance from the player and towards the pot to make it obvious that it is intended as a bet.

(7) A player shall not be permitted to make a bet and thereafter attempt to increase the amount of that bet.

(i) If the player wishes to add additional gaming chips to the bet, the player must indicate at the time the bet is being made that the bet is not yet complete.

(ii) A player who puts the proper amount of gaming chips into the pot to call a bet, without indicating his or her intention to raise, may not thereafter raise the previous bet.

(8) It shall be the dealer's responsibility to ensure that no player touches any of the gaming chips placed into the pot.

(9) Unless a raise has been verbally announced by that player, a player who puts into the pot a single gaming chip that is larger than required is assumed to have only called the preceding bet and to be awaiting change from the dealer.

(10) Unless specifically posted to the contrary, a player shall be permitted to raise after he or she has previously checked in a betting round.

Seven-Card Stud Poker, Procedures for Dealing of Cards; Completion of Each Round of Play

(1) Each poker table shall be restricted to a maximum of eight players as determined by the poker room. Each player who elects to participate in a round of play may be required to place an ante.

(2) Starting with the first player to the left of the dealer and continuing in a clockwise rotation around the poker table, the dealer shall deal two rounds of cards face down and one round of cards face up to each player.

(3) Once each player has received three cards in accordance with (2) above, the first betting round shall commence by comparing the up card of each player. For the purposes of this section only, in the event that two or more up-cards are of the same rank, the up-cards shall then be ranked by suit, with the highest to lowest ranked suits in order as follows: spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs. Betting shall be commenced by:

(i) For high poker, the player with the lowest ranked up-card; and

(ii) For high-low split eight or better poker, the player with the lowest ranked up-card. For this purpose, an ace shall be considered the highest-ranking card.

(4) Following the placement of the forced bet required by (3) above, each subsequent player may, proceeding in a clockwise rotation from the player who placed the forced bet, fold, call or raise the bet. After the last player has responded to the most recent bet, the betting round shall be considered complete.

(5) Upon completion of the first betting round, the dealer shall burn the top card of the deck and then, starting with the first remaining player to his or her left, deal a fourth card face up to each player who has not folded. The next betting round shall commence as follows:

(i) The player with the highest ranking poker hand showing shall be required to bet or check;

or

(ii) If the highest ranking poker hand showing is held by two or more players, the player closest to the left of the dealer shall be required to bet or check.

(6) Following the initial bet or check required by (5) above, each subsequent player, proceeding in a clockwise rotation, may fold, call, raise or, if the preceding players have not made a bet, check. Each player may check until a bet has been made. Once a bet has been made, the next player in a

clockwise rotation may fold, call or raise. After the last player has responded to the most recent bet, the betting round shall be considered complete.

(7) The dealer shall then deal two additional rounds of cards face up and one round of cards face down to each player who has not folded, with each such round followed by a betting round conducted in accordance with the provisions of (5) and (6) above. Prior to each round of cards being dealt, the dealer shall burn the top card of the deck. If insufficient cards remain in the deck to give each remaining player a seventh and final card, the top card of the deck shall be burned and a common card shall be dealt face up in the center of the table. If there is one or less cards remaining in the deck, the dealer shall shuffle the burn cards, burn a card and then deal the common card.

(8) If more than one player remains in the round of play after the final betting round has been completed, a showdown shall be used to, determine the winner of the pot, Each player remaining in the game shall form a five card poker hand from the seven cards which he or she was dealt. This five card hand shall constitute the poker hand of that player at the showdown. The winner of the pot shall be:

(i) In high poker, the player with the highest ranking five card high hand;

(ii) In high-low split eight or better poker, the player with the highest ranking five card high hand and the player with the highest ranking five card low poker hand, who shall divide the pot equally.

(A) If a pot cannot be divided equally, the excess amount, shall be given to the player with the highest-ranking high hand.

(B) If a tie exists between two or more players for the highest-ranking high hand, the high hand share of the pot shall be divided equally among the tied players. If the high hand share of the pot cannot be divided equally among the tied players, the excess, shall be given to the player with the highest ranking high poker card by suit.

(C) If a tie exists between two or more players for the highest-ranking low hand, the low hand share of the pot shall be divided equally among the tied players. If the low hand share of the pot cannot be divided equally among the tied players, the excess, shall be given to the player with the lowest ranking low poker card by suit.

(D) For purposes of this section, the cards shall be ranked by suit with the highest to lowest ranked suit in order as follows: spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs.

(9) In seven-card stud high-low split eight or better poker, a winning low hand may not contain any pairs or a nine, 10, jack, queen or king. This defines the qualifying clause known as "eight or better." In the event that none of the hands of the remaining players satisfies this requirement, the entire pot shall be awarded to the player with the highest-ranking high hand.

(10) In seven card stud high-low split eight or better poker, the player may form two different hands of five cards each out of the player's seven available cards, enabling that player to contend for both the high hand and low hand share of the pot. A player may use the same five-card grouping to make a high poker hand and a low poker hand. For example:

(i) A hand consisting of a two, three, four, five and six would qualify as a straight for purposes of the high hand and as a high ranking low hand; or

(ii) A hand consisting of five cards of the same suit, none higher than an eight, would qualify as a flush for purposes of the high hand and as a high ranking low hand.

(11) In seven-card stud high-low split eight or better poker, an ace may be used concurrently as a low card to satisfy a low hand and as a high card to satisfy a high hand.

(12) Seven-Card Stud Low Razz is a variation of Seven-Card Stud with the following exceptions:

(i) Aces are low cards only.

(ii) Straights and flushes do not impair the value of a hand for low.

(iii) On the first round, the high card, by suit, is required to initiate action. On subsequent rounds, the lowest hand on board initiates betting action. If hands are tied, the first player to the left of the dealer acts first.

(iv) Split limit games use the lower limit until fifth, sixth, and seventh street are dealt, unless a pair hits on fourth street and the upper limit thereafter. The presence of an open pair will not affect the limit.

(v) All other rules of Seven-Card Stud will also apply to Seven-Card Stud Low.

General Operating Rules for All Types of Poker; Handling of Irregularities

(1) It shall be the responsibility of each player to ensure that his or her hand has lost to the other hands at the table before discarding the hand

(2) In all disputes in which a ruling, interpretation clarification or intervention is required, the decision of the poker shift supervisor shall be final.

(3) Each player shall be required to keep all cards dealt to the player in full view of the dealer at all times. The dealer shall ensure compliance with this requirement.

(4) At the showdown, a "winning hand must be clearly displayed in its entirety and property identified. The player initiating the final wager shall be the first player to show his or her hand at the showdown; all other players who have not folded shall then reveal their hands in a clockwise rotation. Any player holding hand may concede his or her rights to the pot and discard the hand; provided, however, that the poker room may require the disclosure of any discarded hands.

(5) Misdeals shall cause all the cards to be returned to the dealer for a reshuffle. The following errors shall be cause for a misdeal:

(i) Failure to shuffle and cut the cards;

(ii) Dealing to an incorrect starting position if the error has been detected prior to two players voluntarily placing wagers into the pot;

(iii) If more than one card is found face-up in the deck; and

(iv) Failure to deal to an eligible seated player, if the error has been detected prior to two or more players voluntarily placing wagers into the pot.

(6) If one or more cards are mistakenly dealt to an ineligible player, only those cards dealt to that player shall be discarded and the round of play shall be continued.

(7) If at any time during a round of play, missing cards are discovered or additional cards are found, the round of play shall be called dead, all gaming chips in the pot shall be returned to the appropriate player and the deck shall be replaced.

(8) A card found face-upwards in the deck shall not be used in the game and shall be placed with the pile of discarded cards.

(9) A player who fails to take reasonable means to protect his or her hand shall have no redress if his or her hand becomes a fouled hand or the dealer accidentally collects the hand.

(i) If a protected hand comes into contact with discarded cards, every effort shall be made to reconstruct the hand and complete the round of play.

(ii) A player who has a protected hand collected by the dealer or fouled by discarded cards shall be entitled to a refund from the pot of all monies that he or she put in the pot if the player has been a victim of and not a contributor to the error.

(iii) A player who leaves the table without comment and has an unprotected hand shall be assumed to have no interest in the pot, and his or her cards shall be collected and discarded

(10) Verbal statements which are clearly audible by and directed to the dealer shall always have precedence over actions and gestures and are considered binding on the player whose turn it is to act.

(i) A player shall be deemed to have folded if, when faced with making or calling a wager, he or she discards his or her hand face-down towards the pile of discarded cards or the pot.

(ii) If a player is obligated to place a wager by virtue of a verbal statement or forced betting situation, throwing away his or her cards does not relieve the player of that obligation.

(11) If a card is accidentally dealt off the table, it shall not be used in that round of play and shall be placed with the pile of discarded cards after a thorough examination by the dealer.

Conduct of Players

(1) Each player in a poker game shall play the game solely to improve his or her chance of winning and shall take no action to improve another player's chance of winning. No player may communicate any information to another player, which could assist the other player in any manner respecting the outcome of a poker game.

(2) A poker room which has reasonable cause to believe that a player has acted or is acting in violation of (1) above shall require the player to leave the game.