

## The rules of Texas Hold `Em

Texas Hold `Em is primarily a game of skill but, like in life, luck plays its part. It can be played with up to 23 players but is commonly played with up to 10 players per table.

Typically in each round, before the hand is dealt, the player to the immediate left of the dealer places a compulsory bet known as the small blind and the player to their immediate left places a bet twice the size of the small blind, known as the big blind.

The game begins with each player receiving two cards face down (known as `hole cards`). There is a round of betting where each player either folds their cards or bets on the strength of their holding.

When the first round of betting is finished three cards are dealt face up in the centre of the table (known as `the flop`).

Another round of betting takes place. Players can fold their cards, call a previous bet or raise a previous bet. Players can also re-raise. Betting finishes when all remaining bets are matched.

A fourth card is dealt face up in the centre of the table (known as `the turn`) and a further round of betting takes place.

When all bets are matched a fifth and final card is dealt face up in the centre of the table (known as `the river`).

A final round of betting takes place. When all bets are matched the players must then make the best five card hand available using any combination of their two hole cards and the five community cards in the centre of the table.