

7-CARD STUD Rules

7-Card Stud is played with a 52-card deck. You are delivered two down cards and one upcard. There is a round of betting, then three more upcards are delivered (with betting after each round), then a final downcard and a final round of betting. The best 5-card poker hand wins the pot. All 7-Card Stud games at the Canterbury Park Card Club have structured betting. In a structured game, such as \$3-6, the smaller bet is made on the first two betting rounds and the larger bet is made after the fifth, sixth and seventh cards are delivered. If there is an open pair on the fourth card, the players have the option of making the small or larger bet. In all 7-Card games, a bet and four raises are allowed.

HIGH/LOW SPLIT

This is another variation of 7-Card Stud where there can be two winners. The best high hand splits the pot with the best low hand. However, in order to win the low hand, the player must have an 8-low or better. This is said to be a "qualifier". With a qualifier, the betting rules are like 7-Card Stud, where the high hand bets first. The bet on the fourth card is the smaller bet. In an "8 or Better" game, if there is no low, the high hand wins the entire pot.

RULES FOR 7-CARD STUD

The buy-in for all 7-Card Stud games is generally five times the maximum bet. Check and raise is permitted.

The ranking of hands is the same as in Draw Poker except there is no Joker.

An all-in wager of less than half a bet does not reopen the betting for any player who has already acted and is in the pot for a previous bet. A player facing less than half a bet may fold, call or complete the wager. An all-in wager of half a bet or more is treated as a full bet and a player may fold, call or make a full raise.

A bet and four raises are allowed for each betting round. However, completing an opening forced bet does not count as a raise. If only two players remain before the fourth raise is made, then there is no limit on raises. String bets or raises are not allowed. Putting a half-raise or more into the pot must be completed. Anything less is a call only. A player who puts a single chip into the pot that is larger than the bet to him is assumed to have called the bet, unless he announces "raise".

No pot may be awarded until all losing hands have been killed. The winning hand should remain face up until the pot is awarded.

Suits do not count in ranking of hands to determine the winning hand. The ranking of suits is used only to determine the lowest card for a forced bet, drawing for seats in games, etc. Suits are ranked Spades (highest), Hearts, Diamonds and Clubs.

A card that is face up in the deck (boxed card) shall be treated as a "scrap of paper" and is ignored. A Joker, when found in a game that does not use a Joker, is also a scrap of paper. A card being treated as a scrap of paper is replaced by the next card below it in the deck when possible. If not possible, it is replaced at the end of that round. If a player does not call attention to the Joker among his down cards before acting on his hand, then he has a foul hand and forfeits all rights to the pot and all monies involved.

A player who antes and/or asks to be dealt in but is unable to make it back to the table when it is his turn to act on his hand, forfeits his ante and his forced entry bet, if any. His hand is dead and will be discarded in turn.

If a player does not have the correct number of cards on the deal and no action has been accepted, the hand will be a misdeal. If there has been substantial action (defined as two or more players, except the forced opener, acting on their hands in turn) before the mistake is noticed, the player with the incorrect number of cards will have a dead hand. He will receive his money back unless he has forfeited that right by acting on his hand.

If a player folds his hand after making a forced bet or on a round of checking, his seat will continue to receive a card until there is a wager.

If a player's first or second hole card is accidentally turned up, the third card is dealt down. If the player fails to receive two down cards, the player has a dead hand and receives his ante back.

If a dealer burns and deals a card before a round of betting has been completed, that card or cards must be eliminated from play along with an additional card for each remaining player in the hand, after that round of betting has concluded. Play then resumes in a normal fashion.

If a dealer burns two cards or fails to burn a card, if possible, move the cards to the right position to rectify the error. If it happens on a down card and there is no way to tell which card was received, then the player must accept the card.

If the final card dealt to a player is exposed, the following rules apply:

- a. A faceup final card is always treated as a down card in determining who initiates action on the final round.
- b. If the first player (not all in) received a card faceup, all other players receive their cards faceup and the action proceeds as normal.
- c. In heads-up play, if only one player's final card is exposed, there shall be no betting action. If both final cards are exposed, per rule (b), betting is allowed.

d. In multi-handed pots, if a player other than the first player is dealt an exposed card, the remaining cards shall be dealt face down. The player with the exposed card has the option of declaring all-in, the betting proceeds normally among the other players. If he or she does not declare all-in, he or she is subject to all bets and raises on that round, and has the right to bet and raise.

e. An all-in player should receive the final card face down, however, if it is exposed, it must be taken. All remaining players receive their cards facedown.

On all fixed limit games (i.e., 3-6, 5-10, etc.), if a player makes an open pair on the fourth card, that player has the option of betting either \$5 or \$10 (5-10 limit). If he bets \$5, the next player(s) must raise in increments of \$5 or \$10. If a \$10 bet or raise is made, the next raise must be in increments of \$10. (I.e., player "A" bets \$5; player "B" raises to \$15; player "C" has the option of calling the \$15 bet or of raising to \$25; he may not make it \$20.) If that player checks, all other players, in turn, have the option to bet \$5 or \$10.

If there are not enough cards left in the deck for each player

(a) The undealt cards and burn cards are remade when it is determined that there are not enough cards to finish a deal, not when the dealer actually runs out of the legal cards to deal.

(b) If a new deck is made combining undealt cards and burn cards, the dealer MUST burn a card and MAY NOT deal the last cards, therefore, the number of players that can be accommodated by making up a new deck is 2 less than the number of cards available.

(c) If every player can be given a final card in accordance with rules (a) and (b), the dealer mixes the undealt cards and burn cards by scrambling as a shuffling procedure. The dealer then squares up the deck, cuts, burns a card and deals.

(d) If the number of active players is more than the number provided for in rule (b), the dealer should foresee this before the final round is dealt. Instead of dealing any player a final card, the dealer shall burn a card and deal a community card. The player who was high on the previous round still starts the action. If the dealer starts to deal the final round without sufficient cards, the dealer will shuffle in the burn cards with the remaining cards and attempt to give everyone a down card. If there are insufficient cards to give everyone a down card, the dealer will burn a card and deal a community card for those players lacking a down card. If some of the players are lacking a down card, there shall be no betting on the last round.

A player who calls when he is beaten by his opponent's up cards is not entitled to a refund.

A card accidentally dealt off the table must play. If it is the last card, it is to be treated as an exposed River Card. The splitting of pots among players will not be allowed under any circumstances in any game. All hands must be played to completion.

When a player turns any of his up cards over after a bet has been made, he risks losing all rights to the pot.