

## BLACKJACK

Blackjack, also known as 21, is a popular casino card game in which players compare their hand of cards with that of the dealer. To win at Blackjack, a player must create a hand with a higher total than that of the dealer, but without exceeding 21.

## RULES OF THE GAME

Make better decisions. Learn the rules of the game before you play.

A Blackjack (two cards that equal 21) beats all other combinations of cards that equal 21. A two-card 21 on split hands is not a Blackjack.

At the beginning of each game, players must place their bets in the betting area in front of the position they sit at the table. After the bets are placed, each player is dealt two cards face up. The dealer receives one card face up and one card face down. The dealer's hand is completed once all players have finished drawing cards.

Determining your hand's value is as follows: face cards (Kings, Queens and Jacks) have a value of 10. Numbered cards are worth their face value, and Aces count as either 1 or 11.

If your first two cards total 21, you win because you have a Blackjack which pays 3 to 2 on your bet. If the dealer also has a Blackjack, you would Push (tie).

On your turn, you must choose whether to Hit (to take card) or Stand (do not choose to take another card) in order to create a hand totaling as close to 21 as possible, without Busting (exceeding 21).

If the dealer exceeds 21, all players who have 21 or less win. Otherwise the dealer's point total is compared to each player's. All winning bets are paid even money (1 to 1).

*Please see Red Shores Blackjack house rules for more information.*

## PAYOUTS

All winning bets are paid even money except for Blackjack, which pays 3 to 2. When a Push occurs, you keep your original bet.

## WORDS TO KNOW

**Blackjack:** When the first two cards dealt to a hand total 21 (*either an Ace and a 10 or an Ace and a face card*).

**Soft hand:** A hand that includes an Ace and has two possible totals (depending on whether the Ace has a value of 1 or 11) neither of which exceeds 21.

**Hard hand:** A hand with no Aces or one in which the Ace has the value of 1.

**Hit or draw:** You want another card; draw one or more cards to improve your hand.

**Stand:** You are satisfied with your hand and don't want any more cards.

**Double down:** Double your original bet and receive one additional card.

**Splitting pairs:** If you have two cards of equal value in one hand you can split them into two separate hands. When splitting a hand, you must place an additional bet equal to your original wager. If you split Aces, you get only one hit on each Ace.

**Insurance:** If the dealer's face-up card is an Ace, you can insure your bet against the possibility of the dealer's final hand being a Blackjack. You can wager a sum equal to one-half of your original bet. If the dealer draws a Blackjack, the insurance bet pays 2 to 1. If the dealer's hand is not a Blackjack, you lose your insurance bet.

**Bust or broke:** Cards add up to 22 or more.

## BLACKJACK MYTHS

**When playing Blackjack, the playing styles of others impact your long term cost of play.**

**False** - Although the decisions other players make may impact your short term results, the house advantage and long term cost of play are dependent solely on your own play.

*Further Information: Although a player may tend to remember instances when the plays of others have negatively impacted them, they will also gain from the perceived “wrong” play of others an equal amount of times over the long term.*

**Table games players’ chances of winning improve when certain dealers are on shift.**

**False** - The results in all table games are random. House advantage and the long term cost of play will

remain consistent regardless of which dealer is on shift as long as the player’s betting and playing strategy remains the same.

*Further Information: This is due to the fact that all dealers work with a predetermined set of rules; all dealers are required to make the same decisions based solely on the circumstances of the game.*

**Understanding how some table games work and playing “basic strategy” will decrease my losses over time.**

**True** - Understanding the games and consistently playing in a manner which gives you the highest statistical chance of winning will result in less frequent losses.

*Further Information: Even if a player plays perfect “basic strategy” a house advantage will still exist resulting in long term costs for the player, therefore not guaranteeing a win.*

**You should avoid choosing the last position at the table.**

**False** – Seating position at a Blackjack table does not influence individual game outcomes.

*Further Information: The results in all table games are random. House advantage and the long term cost of play will remain consistent regardless of which position a player is seated at the table.*

**Always assume that the Dealer has a 10 in the hole.**

**False** – There are 4 times as many cards in a deck that are worth a value of 10 than any other card. However, only 30% of the cards in the deck are worth 10, so there is really only a 3:7 chance in any given round that the Blackjack dealer actually has a 10 in the hole.

## WANT TO KNOW MORE?

Drop by the PlayWise Information Centre at Red Shores. You’ll find a wide range of interactive and educational tools and gambling related literature. Our friendly representatives are happy to help answer all of your gambling related questions.

### FIND OUT ABOUT:

- How the games work
- The cost of play, randomness and house advantage related to all table games
- Tips to keep gambling fun
- Available community resources and services should you or someone you know be experiencing problems with gambling



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