

PAI GOW POKER

If you play poker or even video poker, you will love Pai Gow Poker. And the best part is that you already know the basics.

THE GAME

Pai Gow Poker combines elements of the ancient Chinese game of Pai Gow and the American game of poker. The game is played with a traditional deck of 52 playing cards, plus one joker.

THE JOKER CAN BE USED ONLY TO COMPLETE A STRAIGHT, A FLUSH, A STRAIGHT FLUSH, A ROYAL FLUSH, OR AS AN ACE.

RANKING THE HANDS

Each player at the table is dealt seven cards, which the player arranges to make two hands; a two-card hand and five-card hand. Pai Gow Poker is essentially two separate poker hands according to traditional poker rankings. Thus, the highest two-card hand would be two aces, and the highest five-card hand is five aces (four aces and the joker).

The five-card hand must be higher than the two-card hand.

OBJECT OF THE GAME

Your two-card hand must rank higher than the Banker's two-card hand and your five-card hand must rank higher than the Banker's five-card hand. If the player's hand wins, the player will be paid even money less a 5% commission. The dealer will collect the commission when the winning wager is paid. Should one hand rank exactly the same as your opponent's hand, this is a tie. Ties are also called copy hands, and the banker wins all copy hands.

If you win one hand but lose the other, this is considered a "push." In "push" hands no money is won or lost.



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Each player then arranges their cards into a two-card and a five-card hand. The house dealer does not look at the cards until all players and or player banker have set a high and low hand and placed the two hands face down on the appropriate area of the layout. The player may not touch the cards again. The house dealer then turns their cards over and sets their hand in front of the tray face up.

The players hand is compared to the Banker's hand first (see **OBJECT OF GAME**).

RULES TO REMEMBER

Once the player has set a high and low hand and placed the two hands face down on the appropriate area of the layout, the player may not touch the cards again.

Players are not allowed to show their hands or talk to other players about their hands.

Each player must keep the cards in full view of the dealer at all times.

Any player's hand that is set incorrectly (e.g. the two-card hand ranks higher than the five-card high hand, or player puts three cards in one hand and four cards in the other) is an automatic loser. Players are responsible for arranging their own hand and should do so with care.

The house bank may not set an automatic losing hand. The hand must be reset according to the House Way.

The house dealer will explain the rankings and assist you in arranging your hands the House Way, but is not responsible for wins or losses. The House Way is the Hollywood set of rules determining how the dealer must set his/her hand or those of novice players asking for help.

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