

Blackjack

The Goal

The goal of blackjack, also known as “21”, is to have the sum of your cards be as close to 21 as possible without going over. Having more than 21 is known as a “bust”, and counts as a loss.

All Values

The cards 2 through 10 are worth the number on the card. The cards Jack, Queen, and King all have a value of 10. Aces are worth either 1 or 11, whichever value is more beneficial to the player that holds it. A hand value that is using an ace as an 11 is known as a “soft” value. Any hand value that is not a soft value is known as a “hard” value.

Kicking off the Game

Unlike in traditional blackjack, players do not make a wager at the start of play. First, the dealer will deal two cards to each player, including himself. Players’ cards will both be dealt face up, while the dealer’s cards will be dealt one face up and one face down. The dealer’s face down card will not be turned up until it is the dealer’s turn to play.

Earning a Natural Blackjack

A natural blackjack is when a player is dealt exactly 21 with their first two cards (it is not required that one of the two cards be a jack.) If the dealer is not dealt a natural blackjack but a player is, the dealer will inform the player that they have a blackjack. That player is paid a \$5 reward, and their cards are reclaimed. That player does not participate in card draws or wagers during that hand.

New Cards

After any natural blackjacks are paid, all players will have an opportunity to draw cards, known as taking a “hit”. The player may keep drawing until they have 5 cards at which point they are not allowed to draw any more cards. (Unlike in traditional blackjack, the dealer will not inform players when they have exceeded 21.) Once the player has the desired number of cards, they should tell the dealer they wish “stand” and the next player may choose to draw more cards.

Official Dealer Rules

Once all players are done drawing cards, the dealer will reveal their face down card and hit or stand based on the following rules:

- If the dealer ever has value of 18 or more they must stop drawing cards
- If the dealer ever has 5 cards, the dealer must also stop drawing cards
- If the dealer has 17, they will hit if and only if it is a soft 17
- For all other values the dealer must hit

Taking Bets

Once all cards are dealt, players have three bets they can make. One bet is whether the dealer or the player has won. If the dealer and player have tied, this is a “push” and no money can be lost or won on this bet. The player may also bet on what they believe the value of their hand is and what they believe the value of the dealer’s hand is, but may only bet on one value for each.

Expected Payout

All winning bets pay exactly \$1. However, if a player wins all three bets, that player is paid a \$1000 bonus.

Supplemental Information

To save time, the dealer will give players the following information:

- Whether their bet on who wins is correct or incorrect
- Whether their bet on dealer/player value is correct or incorrect
- If the player or dealer has busted
- If the player or dealer has a “natural” 21

Players should infer all other information.