



## TOURNAMENT RULES

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The list of rules below are always enforceable and to be done so by the Tournament Director.

Breaking of the rules can result in a 10 minute penalty (stepping away from the table for 10 minutes), elimination from the Tavern and possibly elimination from the League!

**PLEASE NOTE:** There are many players who are new to Texas Hold 'Em and every player must be given a "free pass" if they are obviously unfamiliar with the rules. We are here to have fun and make new players feel welcome!

**REMEMBER!** Rules are different from casino to casino and tournament to tournament. Please do not think that because you played at Caesars in Las Vegas means that those rules apply to every game.

Please be respectful of these rules and the Tournament Directors.

### HERE ARE THE GENERAL RULES

#### **No Gambling**

This rule is taken very seriously. Any Tavern or Player caught wagering cash, property, or anything of value will immediately be terminated from the league. NO EXCEPTIONS!

#### **Starting Chip Count**

The minimum starting chip count for each tournament is 5,000 in chips. However the TD can increase this amount to as high as 10,000 depending on the size of the tournament and time allowed for each game.

#### **Blind Schedule**

Blinds will go up either every 20 - 30 minutes depending on the number of players in the tournament. Every time the deal goes around the table, every player must pay both Little and Big Blinds.

#### **Misdeals**

Any card flipped over during the initial deal is an automatic misdeal. If cards are dealt out of order, attempt to fix them. Anyone who has not yet looked at their cards can call a misdeal if they do not feel the cards were dealt correctly. This means all cards are brought back in, reshuffled and a new hand is dealt.

#### **Cheating**

First, anyone caught cheating in a Free Tournament is simply a loser and cheating will not be tolerated. If you suspect someone of cheating, let the Tournament Director know. Their ruling on the situation is final. This includes colluding with other players, dumping chips or negotiating positions for prizes and/or points/wins.

#### **Age Requirements for Regular Tournaments**

WTP strongly recommends that no one under the Age of 18 be allowed to compete in World Tavern Poker weekly Tournaments, however it is ultimately up to the bar owner as to whom they allow play.



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### Age Requirements for Regional/National Tournaments/Tavern TOC

No one under the age of 21 will be permitted to play in the Tavern Tournament Of Champions, Regional Championships or National Championships. The reason for this is simple, the National Championship is held at a Casino, and thus you need to be 21 to play.

### Sitting at the Table

ONLY Players, still in the tournament, may be seated at a table in the tournament.

### Threatening/Berating

At no time can any player or spectator threaten or berate another player. This will not be tolerated. Remember, we are here to have fun!

### Discrepancies

In the case of a discrepancy, the Tournament Director's ruling is FINAL!

## RULES DURING PLAY

### Betting

A wager is not binding until the chips are actually released into the pot, unless the player has made a verbal statement of action. A verbal statement denotes your action and is binding unless there is a gross misunderstanding of the amount wagered previously.

### Raising

All raises must be equal to or greater than the size of the previous bet or raise on that betting round, except for an all-in wager. Example: Player A bets 100 and player B raises to 200. Player C wishing to raise must raise at least 100 more, making the total bet at least 300. A player who has already checked or called may not subsequently raise an all-in bet that is less than the full size of the last bet or raise. (The half-the-size rule for reopening the betting is for limit poker only.)

Because the amount of a wager at no-limit poker has such a wide range, a player who has taken action based on a gross misunderstanding of the amount wagered may receive some protection by the decision-maker. A "call" or "raise" may be ruled not binding if it is obvious that the player grossly misunderstood the amount wagered, provided no damage has been caused by that action.

### No Splashing the Pot

Splashing the pot means to put chips directly into the pot rather than on the edge of the pot in front of oneself, especially by throwing the chips such that it scatters around. Every player must place their chips in front of them until all players have acted. Then all chips are moved to the center of the table.

### Mucking Your Cards

If you throw your cards into the "muck" (folded cards pile) then your hand is folded. However, a hand that is clearly identifiable may be retrieved and ruled live at Tournament Director's discretion if doing so is in the best interest of the game. Please make an extra effort to rule a hand retrievable if it was folded as a result of incorrect information given to



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the player.

### **Exposed Card(s)**

If a community card(s) is exposed before the round of betting is complete, the card CAN NOT be used. The exposed card(s) are mixed with ONLY the remaining cards in the deck, reshuffled and then dealt out again.

### **No Chopping the Blinds**

If you're not sure what this means, don't worry

### **Turning Up Your Cards - Exposing Your Card(s)**

All hands will be turned face up whenever a player is all-in and the betting action has been completed. If a player accidentally exposes one of their cards before all players have acted, they must turn up both (this is to prevent players purposely doing this to throw off another player). If a player is exposing his/her cards purposely, it is up to the Tournament Director if they would like to give a warning, and then eliminate the player from the tournament if it continues. AGAIN, this is up to the Tournament Director.

### **Not Enough Chips to Cover the Blind**

In the case a player does not have enough chips to cover the blind, they are considered "All In" and cannot win any more from each player than they have in their stack. For example, if a player has only 500 chips left and the blinds are 1,000/2,000, they are all in and can only win 500 chips from each player left in the hand.

### **Only 5 Cards Play**

Each player has 7 cards from which to play (2 hole cards and 5 community cards). The BEST 5 Cards play! So for example, if there is JQKA on the board, and both players have a 10, it is a split pot.

### **Extra Chip In The Pot**

In the case of a split pot, there may be an extra chip left. This chip goes to the first player to the left of the dealer (that was still in the hand).

### **Two Players Go Out at the Same Time**

The player that had more chips at the beginning of the hand receives the higher finishing position. Once in a while, both these players will have the same number of chips at the beginning of the hand (this happens very rarely). In this instance, one hand will be played face up between these players to determine the higher position.

### **Playing Heads Up**

When playing heads up, the Dealer is always the Little Blind, and first to act pre-flop, but last to act after the flop.

### **Combining Tables**

When moving to a new table, attempt to sit in a similar position to the dealer. If 2 or less players move to a new table and sit in the Big Blind, they have the option of sitting out until the deal passes them. If 3 or more move to a new table, first ace will determine the new dealer position.



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### **Equal Players/Table**

The Tournament Director will attempt to keep the number at each table equal. This is not always possible and you cannot stop play because of it. Also, please don't bug the Tournament Director every time you lose a player.

### **Leaving the Table**

If a player leaves the table during play to use the bathroom, get a drink, etc... they are dealt in the hand. If they have not returned by the time it is their turn to act, their cards are mucked and their blinds placed in the pot.

\*\*\*\*\*If a player must leave the table for an extended period of time, please make sure the Tournament Director is notified. We understand that situations may occur that players must leave, however, let's try to be respectful of others. If a player leaves the table for an extended period of time that is deemed excessive (for example, a Blind Level) without informing the Tournament Director, the Tournament Director has the discretion to remove that player's chips from play. Please remember that this is Entertainment.

**Note:** When players are in the Big Blind and everyone checks around, they also check. They do not have to return until it is their turn to act after the flop.

### **Leaving Early**

If a player has to leave the tournament early the chips are taken off the table and given to the Tournament Director. THEY CANNOT SPLIT THE CHIPS AMONGST THE PLAYERS!