

Poker Cheat Sheet

Standard Poker Games — Hand Rankings — Betting — Odds — Beginner Strategy

1. Poker Hand Rankings

Hand	Meaning
Royal Flush	A K Q J 10, same suit
Straight Flush	Five in order, same suit
Four of a Kind	Four same rank
Full House	Three of a kind + pair
Flush	Five same suit
Straight	Five in order
Three of a Kind	Three same rank
Two Pair	Two different pairs
One Pair	One pair
High Card	No made hand

Memory rule: Flush beats straight. Full house beats flush. Four of a kind beats full house.

2. Main Poker Game Families

Type	Basic Idea
Draw	Private cards; replace some cards
Stud	Mix of face-up and face-down cards
Community	Private cards + shared board cards
Lowball	Lowest hand wins
Hi-Lo	High and low hands split pot

3. Common Poker Actions

Action	Meaning
Fold	Quit the hand
Check	Pass without betting
Call	Match current bet
Bet	Put chips in first
Raise	Increase the bet
Re-raise	Raise after a raise
All-in	Bet all chips

Beginner warning: Calling too much is one of the fastest ways to lose chips.

4. Five-Card Draw

Basic flow:

1. Each player gets 5 private cards.
2. First betting round.
3. Players may discard and replace cards.
4. Final betting round.
5. Best 5-card hand wins.

Beginner tips:

- Keep pairs or better.
- With one pair, usually draw 3 cards.
- With four to a flush or straight, draw 1 card.

5. Seven-Card Stud

Basic idea:

- No community cards.
- Each player receives 7 cards total.
- Some cards are face down.
- Some cards are face up.
- Best 5-card hand wins.

Key skill: Watch exposed cards. If cards you need are already visible, your draw is weaker.

6. Community Card Games

Texas Hold'em

- 2 private cards.
- 5 community cards.
- Use any 5-card combination.

Omaha

- 4 private cards.
- 5 community cards.
- Must use exactly 2 private cards.
- Must use exactly 3 community cards.

Omaha rule: You cannot use 1, 3, or 4 private cards. You must use exactly 2.

↓ 7. Lowball, Razz, and Hi-Lo

Razz: Lowest 5-card hand wins.
Best Razz hand:

A, 2, 3, 4, 5

Omaha Hi-Lo:

- Best high hand wins half.
- Best qualifying low hand wins half.
- Lowest hand usually needs 5 cards ranked 8 or lower.

Scoop: Win both high and low.

🎰 8. Betting Structures

Structure	Meaning
Limit	Fixed bet sizes
Pot-Limit	Max bet equals current pot
No-Limit	Bet any amount up to all-in

Examples:

- Limit Seven-Card Stud
- Pot-Limit Omaha
- No-Limit Hold'em

🏠 9. Position

Position means when you act.

- **Early position:** Act first. Hardest.
- **Middle position:** More information.
- **Late position:** Act later. Best.

Simple rule: The later you act, the more information you have.

🎲 10. Pot Odds

Pot odds help decide whether calling is reasonable.

$$\text{Pot Odds} = \frac{\text{Amount to Call}}{\text{Pot After You Call}}$$

Example:

Pot is \$100. Opponent bets \$50. You call \$50.

$$\frac{50}{100 + 50 + 50} = \frac{50}{200} = 25\%$$

You need about a 25% chance to win for the call to break even.

🎴 11. Outs and Draw Odds

An **out** is a card that improves your hand.

Example: You have four hearts and need one more heart.

$$13 - 4 = 9 \text{ outs}$$

Fast shortcut:

$$\text{Flop to river} \approx \text{outs} \times 4$$

$$\text{Turn to river} \approx \text{outs} \times 2$$

Draw	Chance
Flush draw to river	35%
Open-ended straight	32%
Gutshot straight	16%
Pair to trips	8%

🎯 12. Betting Reasons

Good bets usually have a purpose.

- **Value:** Worse hands may call.
- **Bluff:** Better hands may fold.
- **Protection:** Make draws pay.

Bad reason to bet: "I am bored" or "I just want to see what happens."

🎭 13. Bluffing

Good bluff spots:

- Opponent can fold.
- Your story makes sense.
- Board looks scary.
- You have backup outs.
- You are in good position.

Bad bluff spots:

- Opponent never folds.
- Too many players are in.
- Your bet tells no believable story.

🎴 14. Board Texture

Dry board: Few draws possible.

$K \clubsuit 7 \diamond 2 \spadesuit$

Wet board: Many draws possible.

$J \heartsuit 10 \heartsuit 9 \clubsuit$

Wet boards are dangerous because straights, flushes, two pair, and combo draws are possible.

✓ 15. Beginner Strategy

- Learn hand rankings first.
- Play fewer weak hands.
- Fold more often.
- Do not call only from curiosity.
- Bet strong hands for value.
- Respect big bets.
- Watch position.
- Do not chase every draw.
- Avoid emotional all-ins.
- Observe opponents carefully.

⚠ 16. Common Mistakes

- Playing too many hands.
- Calling too often.
- Bluffing players who never fold.
- Ignoring position.
- Overvaluing one pair.
- Chasing draws without pot odds.
- Forgetting Omaha's exact 2-card rule.
- Ignoring visible cards in Stud.
- Betting without a reason.
- Going all-in emotionally.

📖 17. Quick Glossary

Term	Meaning
Pot	Chips being contested
Showdown	Final reveal of hands
Kicker	Side card used to break ties
Nuts	Best possible hand
Draw	Hand needing improvement
Out	Card that helps your hand
Board	Shared community cards
Dead Card	Visible unavailable card
Scoop	Win both high and low
Tell	Behavior revealing strength

Final Rule

Poker is a decision game. You can lose after a good decision and win after a bad decision. Judge yourself by decision quality over many hands.

Best Beginner Advice

Fold more. Call less. Bet with purpose. Learn the specific poker variant before playing.