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Seven-Card Stud Poker Rules

Introduction

Before the start of the Texas hold'em poker boom

a couple of years ago, seven-card stud was one of the most popular poker variations in the United States.

The game can be played with two to eight players,

and the biggest difference between seven-card stud and Texas hold'em or Omaha is that seven-card stud does not involve a flop, and in most cases, it doesn't involve community cards at all.

Here we go over the poker rules for Seven Card Stud.

How to Play Poker for Beginners

Check out the rules and basic strategy to all the popular poker formats.

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Game Play

As you can see in the image above, to begin each hand a player is dealt the first two cards face down and then a third facing up. This is often called third street. The two face-down cards are called the "hole cards" and the face-up card is called the "door card."

Based on these three cards, one would decide whether or not to continue with the hand. Like in any poker variation, starting-hand selection is extremely important in seven-card stud.

Each player gets dealt a total of seven cards, of which three are dealt face down and four are dealt face up. From these seven cards the player has to choose his best five-card combination. The hand rankings are identical to those in Texas hold'em or Omaha; a royal flush is the best possible hand and the worst hand is the high card hand (no pair).

Antes, bring-in and betting

While the blinds are the forced bets in Texas hold'em and Omaha poker, antes are the forced bets placed by every player before receiving any cards. As an example, let's think of a \$10/\$20 seven-card stud game with an ante of \$1 and a bring-in of \$5.

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