

The **DEFINITIVE** **ONLINE POKER** **STRATEGY**



The essential facts you need to know about playing

TEXAS HOLD'EM **ONLINE**



where you take in the cash
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INTRODUCTION

There are many different styles of poker games you can play in live casinos and online, but of all the styles played today, none is more popular than Texas Hold'em.

Texas Hold'em has received much of its popularity from certain hit TV shows such as the Traveler's Channel *World Poker Tour*, and ESPN's *World Series of Poker*. However, aside from these exciting shows, Hold'em has gained popularity because it is one of the easiest games to learn, the hands are fast, and the stakes are high. Thus, many novice players have come to realize that as long as one masters the skill of the game, there is a lot of money waiting to be won in the world of Texas Hold'em poker.

If you are interested in such money making opportunities, or a chance to improve upon your Texas Hold'em poker game, this book is exactly what you need to get started in the right direction. Nevertheless, understand that although this book will provide you with the basic rules, as well as strategies for you to keep in mind and apply to your game, playing Texas Hold'em, or any poker game for that matter, takes much more than luck – it takes dedication.

The skill you need to become a good poker player can only be learned through practice, patience and observation. Therefore, if you ever hope to win at poker or become a champion, you're going to need to learn how to play like the pros.

So what's their secret? For starters, not only have they developed their own poker strategies, but they understand that although knowing how to play their cards is important, the real talent is playing the other players. Professionals study their fellow opponents, and come to know how the other players will react during game play. This gives them an advantage over the other players, because a pro will know how to weed conservative players out of the pot, or keep the juvenile player in the hand for as long as they can, so he can milk these hot-heads for all they're worth.

Since that is the case, how you gain the advantage over your fellow opponents will vary depending on if you are playing poker live or online. One of the biggest problems many players who engage in online poker fail to realize, is that while

the games follow the same rules and similar strategies of live play, the fact that you can not see the other players makes gaining the upper hand over them difficult, especially if you don't know how to apply the right psychology.

Why? Think about it: In a live poker game you can see the facial expressions, and the reactions of the other players. This allows you to gain a pretty good idea of the type of player they are, as well as how they play their cards by simply observing their body language. However, when playing online, you do not have the luxury of relying on the reactions of your opponents, which means that in order to figure out the type of players you are up against, you need to mentally pay attention to the decisions they make in the game, and observe how they communicate when you converse with them online.

For the purpose of this guide, we will be focusing primarily on the tactics related to online Texas Hold'em game play. This focus will help you gain a better understanding of how to not only effectively play against other online players by learning the online psychology of good game play, but also how to use these skills to win.

Taking your online Texas Hold'em poker playing abilities to the next level is possible, and this book is here to show you how you can make this goal a reality. Within its pages you will find the rules, strategies and fantastic tips related to online poker and Texas Hold'em. You will even discover the different types of players you should watch out for, as well as fantastic strategy tools that can help you uncover the odds, providing you with a better shot at winning the pot.

So without taking up anymore of your precious time, let's get started.

Relax, get comfortable and get ready, because it's time to take your online Texas Hold'em game to the next level.

Have fun, and good Luck!

(but if you read this book you'll realize luck really isn't a major factor when it comes to being a killer poker player!)

ADVANTAGES OF ONLINE POKER

Before we turn our attention towards Texas Hold'em and the strategies you can apply to your online poker experiences, it is important that you understand the differences between online and live poker, as well as the advantages of playing online.

Now more than ever, people are choosing to take part in online poker instead of going to a casino. One of the major reasons is because visiting an online poker site is far easier and handier than going to a live casino. Imagine, instead of having to travel outside of your home to a busy, noisy casino, you can relax and experience just as much poker enjoyment in the virtual world with a simple "click" of your mouse.

Here are just a few main highlights of the advantages of online poker:

-  You can play at any time of the day or night from the comfort of your own home or place of choosing at your convenience.
-  You can play against players from all over the world.
-  You can play for fun.
-  You can use special strategy tools to assist you when you play.
-  You don't have to worry about the other opponent's seeing your expression or hearing your comments during a hand.

To further appreciate the advantages of playing online, we'll take a closer look at the differences between live and online poker. Following are some notable distinctions:

PHYSICAL Vs. VIRTUAL

Perhaps the single most obvious difference between live and online poker is the fact that at a live poker table, players are physically present and can therefore see the moves of their opponents, their emotions, as well as their reactions. This makes playing live poker far more challenging than online, because players always need to be conscious of what their opponents are doing, and if they are being watched. Moreover players need to have control over their body language,

emotions and expressions, as sudden reactions or nervous gestures or movements can often be a dead giveaway to an experienced player.

When playing poker online, however, players do not need to concern themselves with physical control. You can scream, yell, laugh and make any expression you want, because even though your family, pets or neighbors may hear or see you and possibly think you're crazy, your opponents can only judge you by the way you converse over a chat dialogue, and by the moves you make in the game.

What's more is when you play online you don't have to worry about following a dress code, which is required at many live casinos. Therefore, whether you feel inspired to dress to the nines, wear your pajamas or –heaven forbid- your birthday suit, the point is you can wear whatever you want...just try not to freak out your neighbours too much!

TABLE LIMITS

Generally there are lower limits in online poker rooms than in live casinos. Of course, there are certain internet casinos that offer tables with higher limits, but there is usually enough diversity in table limits, to suit the budget of any player. Furthermore, the lower limit tables makes online poker an ideal environment for players to learn, develop, and try out new strategies without feeling as though they are taking a huge gambling risk. Thus, there is no worry of losing a substantial amount of money when practicing your skills online.

VARIETY

When it comes to choosing poker games and betting limits, no live casino can provide you with the variety you will find online. Choosing a desired poker table is important for all players, because it is essential that you feel comfortable while playing. Online poker rooms allow you the chance of selecting a table with a betting limit that you deem most suitable for your budget and expertise. You will also discover that finding a seat at an online poker table of your choosing is far easier and more probable than in a live casino. Just check out the hundreds of tables to choose from at www.pokerrewards.com

GAME CONDUCT

It is not possible for any players participating in online poker to break the rules of conduct that apply to the game. Due to computer technology and gaming

software, no player has the ability to see their opponent's cards, show their cards to other players, place string bets or act out of turn during a hand. The software will only permit the conduct that has been programmed to occur, and for the standard online casino or poker site, this means that you are entitled to see the number of players taking part in the hand, the money amount of each player, and the total sum of money that accumulates in the pot. On the other hand, in a live casino, players can break conduct rules, cause disruptions and stall the hand.

PLAYER SUPPORT

Due to the fact that online poker can be played in the comfort and privacy of your own home or place of choosing, you can use a variety of special tools and programs such as calculators, charts and tables when playing a game. The purpose of these devices is to assist you in finding out the best odds in the hand. Although they are not considered cheating, and while some are even permitted in a live casino, the beauty of using these helpful tools online is that no one else can see you, and therefore no one can judge your actions or intimidate you when you play.

TIME CONTROL

When it comes to fast hands, live poker doesn't even compare to online poker. Online poker games are substantially shorter than those played in a live casino. The major reasons are due to the fact that internet players continually hop from table to table, and hands are much shorter as rounds are quick because of computer software, and players can not see their opponents. This allows online players the freedom to participate in games for as long or as little as they wish. Therefore, while one player may only be interested in playing a single game for a few minutes, another may wish to spend an hour or longer.

A live poker game, however, may last for hours, and this is because the average round during a hand can last anywhere from 10-20 minutes depending on the number of players involved in the hand.

Overall, the experiences provided by both live and online poker tables are equally social, enjoyable and rewarding for players. Furthermore, each environment requires players to adapt to a different style of game play that is often challenging and involves skill. However, when it comes down to it, nothing beats the advantages of comfort, convenience and choice that you will only find with online poker.

BASIC POKER RULES

Have you ever caught yourself racking your brain every now and again trying to remember the basic rules of poker hands, or forgetting what poker hand beats what? Don't worry; this is a common concern among many novice players and even effects intermediate players from time to time.

Regardless of what player category you fit into, let's face it; you need to know the basics of poker in order to really dig your heels into the sport of Texas Hold'em, or any other style of poker game for that matter. Thus, whether this is your first time learning about the possible winning poker hands, or you are simply in need of a little refresher course, here is what you need to know.

First and for most, a standard 52-card deck is used in every poker game, regardless of the number of players, or the style of game that is being played. The standard deck features the following cards starting with the highest rank to the lowest as listed below:

- * **Ace**
- * **King**
- * **Queen**
- * **Jack**
- * **10**
- * **9**
- * **8**
- * **7**
- * **6**
- * **5**
- * **4**
- * **3**
- * **2**
- * **Ace** (an ace can count as both a low or high card)



Each rank is featured in the same 4 equal suits:

♠ Spade

♦ Diamonds

♥ Hearts

♣ Clubs

The object is to achieve the highest hand by obtaining one of the winning card combinations listed below in the table. **Note, the following list begins with the highest and ends with the lowest possible winning hand:**



Royal Flush

Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 10 of the same suit
(A♠, K♠, Q♠, J♠, 10♠)



Straight Flush

5 consecutive cards of the same suit
(5♦, 6♦, 7♦, 8♦, 9♦)



Full House

3 of a kind and a pair, with the 3 of a kind valued first
(7♦, 7♣, 7♥ - 4♠, 4♣)



Four of a Kind

4 cards with the same value
(8♥, 8♣, 8♦, 8♠)



Straight

5 cards of any suit in consecutive order
(7♣, 8♦, 9♣, 10♥, J♠)



Two Pair

2 sets of pairs
(2♣, 2♥ - 6♥, 6♦)



Flush

Any 5 different cards of the same suit
(3♥, 5♥, 7♥, 9♥, J♥)

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