

BOSTON 5 STUD POKER

1. Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in the Rules of the Game of Boston 5 Stud Poker, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicated otherwise:

Ante wager-- means the wager placed at the same time as the first wager prior to any cards being dealt in order to participate in the round of play. The amount of the ante wager shall be exactly one-half of the amount of the first wager.

Ante bonus wager hand-- means a player's five-card hand as defined in Section 11(d).

First wager-- means the initial wager placed at the same time as the ante wager prior to any cards being dealt in order to participate in the round of play. The amount of the first wager shall be exactly twice the amount of the ante wager.

Fold-- means the withdrawal of a player from a round of play by discarding his or her hand after the first three cards have been dealt and prior to placing the second wager.

Hand-- means the five-card hand dealt to each player.

Push-- means a tie, as defined in Section 10(f).

Rank-- or "ranking" means the relative position of a card or group of cards as set forth in Section 5.

Round of play-- or "round" means one complete cycle of play during which all players playing at the table have been dealt a hand, have folded or wagered upon it, and have had their wagers paid off or collected in accordance with the Rules of Boston 5 Stud Poker.

Second wager-- means the wager placed after the player has reviewed his or her first three cards but prior to the final two cards being dealt in order to complete the round of play. The amount of the second wager shall be exactly the amount of the first wager and twice the amount of the ante wager.

Stub-- means the remaining portion of the deck after all cards in the round of play have been dealt.

Suit-- means one of the four categories of cards: club, diamond, heart or spade, with no suit being higher in rank than another.

Optional bonus wager-- means the optional wager on the first three cards dealt to a player as defined in Section 6(c).

2. Cards; number of decks

- (a) Except as provided in (b) below, the game of Boston 5 stud poker shall be played with one deck of cards with backs of the same color and design, one additional solid yellow or green cut card and one additional solid yellow or green cover card to be used in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 4. The deck of cards used shall meet the requirements of 205 CMR 146.48.
- (b) If an automated card shuffling device is used, a gaming licensee shall be permitted to use a second deck of cards to play the game, provided that:
 - (1) Each deck of cards complies with the requirements of (a) above;
 - (2) The backs of the cards in the two decks are of different color;
 - (3) One deck is being shuffled by the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being dealt or used to play the game;
 - (4) Both decks are continually alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play; and
 - (5) The cards from only one deck shall be placed in the discard rack at any given time.

3. Opening of the table for gaming

- (a) After receiving a deck of cards at the table in accordance with 205 CMR 146.49, the dealer shall, as applicable, comply with the requirements of either 205 CMR 146.49 and (b) through (d) below or the requirements of 205 CMR 146.50.
- (b) Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer and the verification by the floorperson assigned to the table, the cards shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first player to arrive at the table.
- (c) After the first player is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards shall be turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a “washing” or “chemmy shuffle” of the cards and stacked. Once the cards have been stacked, they shall be shuffled in accordance with Section 4.
- (d) If a gaming licensee uses an automated card shuffling device to play the game and two decks of cards are received at the table pursuant to 205 CMR 146.49 and Section 2, each deck of cards shall be separately sorted, inspected, verified, spread, inspected, mixed, stacked and shuffled in accordance with the provisions of (a) through (c) above.

4. Shuffle of the cards

- (a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play, unless the cards were pre-shuffled pursuant to 205 CMR 146.50, and after each round of play has been completed, the dealer shall shuffle the cards by use of an automated card shuffling device so that the cards are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack, provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the use of an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the shuffling of the cards, inserts the stack of cards directly into a dealing shoe.

- (b) After the cards have been shuffled and stacked, the dealer shall deal or deliver the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in Sections 7-9.
- (c) Whenever there is no gaming activity at a Boston 5 stud poker table which is open for gaming, the cards shall be spread out on the table either face up or face down. If the cards are spread face down, they shall be turned face up once a player arrives at the table. After the first player is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the procedures outlined in Section 3(c) shall be completed.

5. Boston 5 stud poker rankings

- (a) The rank of the cards used in Boston 5 stud poker, for the determination of winning hands, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, ten, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, and two. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a “straight flush” or “straight” formed with a two, three, four and five.
- (b) The permissible five-card poker hands at the game of Boston 5 stud poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:
 - (1) “Royal flush” is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and ten of the same suit;
 - (2) “Straight flush” is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with ace, king, queen, jack and ten being the highest ranking five-card straight flush and ace, two, three, four and five being the lowest five-card straight flush;
 - (3) “Four of a kind” is a hand consisting of four cards of the same rank, with four aces being the highest ranking four of a kind and four twos being the lowest ranking four of a kind;
 - (4) “Full house” is a hand consisting of a “three of a kind” and a “pair” with three aces and two kings being the highest ranking full house and three twos and two threes being the lowest ranking full house;
 - (5) “Flush” is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit, not in consecutive order, with ace, king, queen, jack and nine being the highest ranking five-card flush and two, three, four, five and seven being the lowest ranking five-card flush;
 - (6) “Straight” is a hand consisting of five unsuited cards of consecutive rank, with an ace, king, queen, jack, and ten being the highest ranking five-card straight and an ace, two, three, four and five being the lowest ranking straight; provided however, that an ace may not be combined with any other sequence of cards for purposes of determining a winning hand (for example, queen, king, ace, two and three);
 - (7) “Three of a kind” is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank, with three aces being the highest ranking three of a kind and three twos being the lowest ranking three of a kind;
 - (8) “Two pairs” is a hand consisting of two “pairs,” with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pair and two threes and two twos being the lowest ranking two pair; and
 - (9) “One pair” is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two twos being the lowest ranking pair.

- (c) When comparing two hands which are of identical poker rank pursuant to the provisions of this section, or which contain none of the hands authorized in this section, the hand which contains the highest ranking card as provided in (a) above which is not contained in the other hand shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of identical rank after the application of this subsection, the hands shall be considered a push.
- (d) For purposes of the optional bonus wager as defined in Section 6(c), the permissible three-card hands at the game of Boston 5 stud poker recognized for a payout in accordance with Section 11(d) shall be:
 - (1) "Three-card straight flush" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking;
 - (2) "Three-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank;
 - (3) "Three-card straight" is a hand consisting of three unsuited cards of consecutive rank; provided, however, that an ace may not be combined with a king and two;
 - (4) "Three-card flush" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit, not in consecutive order; and
 - (5) "One pair" is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank.

6. Wagers

- (a) All wagers at Boston 5 stud poker shall be made by placing gaming chips or plaques, and, if applicable, a match play coupon on the appropriate betting areas of the table layout. A verbal wager accompanied by cash shall not be accepted.
- (b) All ante and first wagers shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing "No more bets" in accordance with the dealing procedures in Sections 7-9. Except as provided in Section 10, no wager shall be made, increased, or withdrawn after the dealer has announced "No more bets."
- (c) Upon placing an ante and first wager, a player may, at his or her discretion, make an optional bonus wager by placing a gaming chip in the minimum denomination of \$1.00 on the designated betting area of the layout.
- (d) A second wager shall be made in accordance with Section 10.
- (e) Only players who are seated at the Boston 5 stud poker table may place a wager at the game. Once a player has placed a wager and received cards, that player must remain seated until the completion of the round of play.

7. Procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe

- (a) If a gaming licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from a manual dealing shoe, the dealing shoe shall meet the requirements of 205 CMR 146.51 and shall be located on the table in a location as approved by the Commission. Once the procedures required by Section 4 have been completed, the stacked deck of cards shall be placed in the dealing shoe either by the dealer or by the automatic card shuffling device.

- (b) Prior to dealing the cards and once all ante and first wagers and, if applicable, all optional bonus wagers have been placed, the dealer shall announce “No more bets.”
- (c) Each card shall be removed from the dealing shoe with the hand of the dealer that is the closest to the dealing shoe and placed on the appropriate area of the layout with the opposite hand.
- (d) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to his or her left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal the cards as follows:
 - (1) Three consecutive cards face down to each player; and
 - (2) Three consecutive cards face down to an area directly in front of the table inventory container designated for the dealer’s hand in a manner as to not disclose the value of the cards.
- (e) After the final two cards have been dealt to each player who placed a second wager and the area designated for the hand of the dealer in a manner as to not disclose the value of the cards as provided in Section 10(d), the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and, except as provided in (f) below, place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.
- (f) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.
 - (1) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.
 - (2) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player or the area designed for the placement of the dealer’s hand has more or less than five cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands are void pursuant to Section 12. If the cards have not been misdealt, all hands shall be considered void and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table pursuant to 205 CMR 146.49.
- (g) The five cards comprising the dealer’s hand shall be spread in a row and then placed in the designated area directly in front of the table inventory container with the top card to the dealer’s right and the bottom card to the dealer’s left.

8. Procedure for dealing the cards from the hand

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of 205 CMR 146 or this chapter, a gaming licensee may, in its discretion, permit a dealer to deal the cards used to play Boston 5 stud poker from his or her hand.
- (b) Once the procedures required by Section 4 have been completed, the following requirements shall be observed if a casino chooses to have the cards dealt from the dealer’s hand:
 - (1) The dealer shall place the stacked deck of cards in either hand.

- (2) Once the dealer has chosen the hand in which he or she will hold the cards, the dealer shall use that hand whenever holding the cards during that round of play.
 - (3) The cards held by the dealer shall at all times be kept in front of the dealer and over the table inventory container.
 - (4) The dealer shall then announce “No more bets.”
 - (5) The dealer shall deal each card by holding the deck of cards in the chosen hand and using the other hand to remove the top card of the deck and place it face down on the appropriate area of the layout.
- (c) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to his or her left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal the cards as follows:
- (1) Three consecutive cards face down to each player; and
 - (2) Three consecutive cards face down to an area directly in front of the table inventory container designated for the dealer’s hand in a manner as to not disclose the value of the cards.
- (d) After the final two cards have been dealt to each player who placed a second wager and the area designated for the hand of the dealer in a manner as to not disclose the value of the cards as provided in Section 10(d), the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.
- (e) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still in the deck. The dealer shall count the stub in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.
- (f) The five cards comprising the dealer’s hand shall be spread in a row and then placed in the designated area directly in front of the table inventory container with the top card to the dealer’s right and the bottom card to the dealer’s left.

9. Procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe

- (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of 205 CMR 146 or this chapter, a gaming licensee may, in its discretion, choose to have the cards used to play Boston 5 poker dealt from an automated dealing shoe which dispenses cards in stacks of three cards, provided that the shoe, its location and the procedures for its use are approved by the Commission.
- (b) If a gaming licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from an automated dealing shoe, the following requirements shall be observed:
- (1) Once the procedures required by Section 4 have been completed, the cards shall be placed in the automated dealing shoe.
 - (2) The dealer shall then announce “No more bets.”
- (c) The dealer shall deliver the first stack of three cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe face down to the player farthest to his or her left who has placed a wager in accordance with Section 6. As the remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe, the dealer shall, moving clockwise around the table, deliver a stack face down to each

of the other players who has placed a wager in accordance with Section 6. The dealer shall then deliver a stack of three cards face down to the area designated for the dealer's hand in a manner as to not disclose the value of the cards.

- (d) After each stack of three cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with this subsection and all second wagers have been placed, the dealer shall remove the remaining cards from the automated dealing shoe and then shall place these cards in either hand and shall deal the final two cards in accordance with Section 10(d) and the provisions of Section 8(b). After all final cards have been dealt, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards and the round of play shall proceed in accordance with Section 10.
- (e) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still in the deck. The dealer shall count the stub in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.
- (f) Notwithstanding the provisions of (e) above, the counting of the stub shall not be required if an automated card shuffling device is used that counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are still present. If the automated card shuffling device reveals that an incorrect number of cards are present, the deck shall be removed from the table in accordance with the provisions of 205 CMR 146.49.
- (g) The stack of five cards comprising the dealer's hand shall be spread in a row and then placed in the designated area directly in front of the table inventory container with the top card to the dealer's right and the bottom card to the dealer's left.

10. Boston 5 stud poker second wagers; procedure for completion of each round of play; collection and payment of wagers

- (a) After the dealing procedures required by Sections 7-9 have been completed but before the final two cards are dealt as provided in (d) below, any player who has placed an optional bonus wager may elect to expose those cards in order to qualify for the optional bonus payout as defined in Section 11. The dealer shall collect all losing optional bonus wagers from players with three-card hands who elect not to expose three-card hands or from players who elect to expose three-card hands that do not qualify for the optional bonus wager payout. The dealer shall then pay all winning optional bonus wagers as set forth in Section 11(d).
- (b) After the resolution of all optional bonus wagers, each player shall either place a second wager equal in amount to the first wager in the designated betting area or fold and forfeit the ante and first wager. If a player folds, the entire ante and first wager shall be collected by the dealer and placed in the table inventory container. A folded hand of a player shall then be collected by the dealer and placed in the discard rack without exposing the cards.
- (c) Each player who makes a second wager shall be responsible for his or her own hand and no other person other than the dealer may touch the cards of that player. A player may withdraw his or her second wager at any time prior to the deal of the final two cards pursuant to (d)

below. Each player shall be required to keep all cards in full view of the dealer at all times.

- (d) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to his or her left who has placed and not withdrawn a second wager and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal the cards as follows:
 - (1) Two consecutive cards face down (the fourth and fifth cards) to each player who has placed a second wager; and
 - (2) Two consecutive cards face down (the fourth and fifth cards) to the area designated for the dealer's hand.
- (e) The dealer shall then turn over and reveal all five cards of his or her hand simultaneously and shall set the highest ranking poker hand.
- (f) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to his or her right and continuing counterclockwise around the table, turn over each player's cards. The wagers of each player shall be resolved in order, regardless of outcome.
 - (1) Losing wagers shall immediately be collected by the dealer and placed in the table inventory container. Losing hands shall then be immediately collected by the dealer and placed in the discard rack. Ante, first and second wagers shall lose if the hand of the dealer has a hand rank higher than that of the player.
 - (2) If the hand rank of the player ties with that of the dealer, the hand of the player shall be a push. The dealer shall not collect or pay the wagers, but shall immediately collect the cards of that player.
 - (3) Winning wagers shall be paid in accordance with Section 11. First and second wagers made by a player shall win if the hand of the player has a hand rank higher than that of the dealer. After paying a player's winning first and second wagers, the dealer shall determine whether the player has a hand that qualifies for an ante bonus payout as set forth in Section 11(d). Winning ante bonus payout hands shall be paid in accordance with Section 11(c). If a player does not have an ante bonus payout hand, the player's ante shall be returned to the player. A player is entitled to an ante bonus payout regardless of whether the hand of the player is higher in rank than that of the dealer. After all winning wagers of the player are paid, the dealer shall immediately collect the cards of that player and place them in the discard rack.
- (g) All cards collected by the dealer shall be picked up on order and placed in the discard rack in such a way that they can be readily arranged to reconstruct each hand in the event of a question or dispute.

11. Payout odds

- (a) The payout odds for winning wagers at Boston 5 stud poker printed on any sign or in any brochure or other publication distributed by a gaming licensee shall be stated through the use of the word "to" or "win," and no odds shall be stated through the use of the word "for."
- (b) A gaming licensee shall pay out winning first and second wagers at payout odds of 1 to 1.

(c) A gaming licensee shall payoff each winning ante bonus wager at the game of Boston 5 stud poker at no less than the odds listed below:

<u>Hand</u>		<u>Payout Odds</u>
Royal flush		1000 to 1
Straight flush	200 to 1	
Four-of-a-kind	100 to 1	
Full house		25 to 1
Flush		15 to 1
Straight		8 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	4 to 1	
Two pair		2 to 1

(d) A gaming licensee shall pay off each winning optional bonus wager at the game of Boston 5 stud poker at no less than the odds listed below:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Payout Odds</u>
Three-card straight flush	40 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	25 to 1
Three-card straight	6 to 1
Three-card flush	3 to 1
One pair	1 to 1

(e) Notwithstanding the minimum payout odds in (b) through (d) above, a gaming licensee may establish a maximum amount as approved by the Commission that is payable to a player on a single hand, which amount shall be at least \$50,000 or the maximum amount that could be won when betting the minimum permissible wager, whichever is greater. The payout limit shall either be included on the layout or posted at the table pursuant to 205 CMR 146.32(2) and (3). If the payout limit is not included on the layout, each gaming licensee shall provide notice of any increase in the payout limit in accordance with 205 CMR 147.03. Any maximum payout limit established by a gaming licensee shall apply only to payouts for winning first and second wagers and the ante bonus wager and shall not apply to payouts for winning optional bonus wagers.

12. Irregularities

- (a) If any of the dealer's first three cards is exposed prior to each player having either folded or placed a second bet wager pursuant to Section 10, all hands shall be void, except for those three-card hands that qualify for an ante bonus or an optional bonus wager payout.
- (b) A card that is found face up in the shoe or the deck while the cards are being dealt shall not be used in the game and shall be placed in the discard rack. If more than one card is found face up in the shoe or the deck during the dealing of the cards, all hands shall be void and the cards shall be reshuffled.

- (c) A card drawn in error without its face being exposed shall be used as though it was the next card from the shoe or the deck.
- (d) If a player is dealt an incorrect number of cards, that player's hand shall be void. If the dealer is dealt four cards of the five card hand, the dealer shall deal an additional card to complete the hand. Any other misdeal to the dealer shall result in all hands being void and the cards shall be reshuffled.
- (e) If an automated card shuffling device is being used and the device jams, stops shuffling during a shuffle, or fails to complete a shuffle cycle, the cards shall be reshuffled in accordance with procedures approved by the Commission.
- (f) If an automated dealing shoe is being used and the device jams, stops dealing cards, or fails to deal cards after the first three cards are dealt to a player, the round of play shall be void, except for those three-card hands that qualify for an ante bonus or an optional bonus wager payout.
- (g) Any automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe shall be removed from a gaming table before any other method of shuffling or dealing may be utilized at that table.