

PLAYING THE *Game*

Pai Gow Poker combines elements of the ancient Chinese game of Pai Gow and the American game of poker. The game is played with a traditional deck of 52 playing cards, plus one joker.

The Joker can be used only as an Ace, or to complete a Straight, a Flush, a Straight Flush or a Royal Flush.

Each player at the table is dealt seven cards, which the player arranges to make two hands: a two-card hand and five-card hand. Pai Gow Poker is essentially two separate poker hands according to traditional poker rankings. Thus, the highest two-card hand would be two Aces, and the highest five-card hand is five Aces (four Aces and the joker).

The five-card hand must be equal to or higher than the two-card hand.

To win, your two-card hand must rank higher than the dealer's or your opponent's two-card hand, and your five-card hand must rank higher than the dealer's or your opponent's five-card hand. If the player's hand wins, he will be paid the same amount wagered less a 5% vigorish or commission charge. The dealer will collect the commission when the winning wager is paid. Should one hand rank exactly the same as your opponent's hand, this is a tie. Ties are also called copy hands, and the banker wins all copy hands.

If you win one hand but lose the other, this is considered a "push." In "push" hands, no money is won or lost.

The house dealer or any player may be the banker. Before a player may be permitted to bank a round of play, the dealer shall determine that:

1. The player placed a wager against the dealer during the last round of play in which there was no player banking the game; and...
2. The player has sufficient gaming chips on the table to cover all of the wagers placed by other players at the table for that round of play.

All players bet against the bank. The bank is offered to each player in turn, and each player may accept or pass. The dealer will always take the bank in turn. The banker will be identified by a plastic "Banker" marker button.

A computerized random number generator that automatically selects and displays a number from one (1) through seven (7) will determine who receives the first card. Prior to displaying the random number, all bets must be on the appropriate area before the dealer announces "no more bets." In Pai Gow Poker, the banker's position is always 1, 8 or 15. The dealer counts from the banker's position number one (1).

