



**GENERAL  
TEXAS HOLD'EM POKER  
TOURNAMENTS**

**CONDITIONS FOR CONDUCT**

Approved  
14 January 2020  
Office of Liquor and  
Gaming Regulation

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***1. TOURNAMENT MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS***

Tournaments must be conducted in accordance with the approved Texas Hold'em gaming rules and in accordance with the approved variations and conditions described in this document.

The Casino Operator must seek the approval of the OLGR Regional Manager or their Designee for the following additional Tournament details:

1. Tournament date
2. Tournament entry fee
3. Tournament administration fee
4. Buy-in
5. Re-entries, Re-buys and/or Add-ons
6. Betting format
7. Maximum number of entrants
8. Start Stack allocated
9. Proposed Blind Level structure and duration

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## **2. DEFINITIONS**

In these rules, unless contrary intention appears:

**Add On** means where a tournament format permits, a player may add to their table stake before being eliminated by purchasing more tournament chips at the end of a predetermined blind level and before the commencement of the next blind level.

**Administration Fee**  
A fee charged by the casino operator in addition to the Entry Fee to cover the associated costs of conducting the tournament.

**All-In** means a player who has invested all of their remaining chips in the outcome of a hand. Their bet cannot exceed the structured limit and/or raise, if a raise is an option. An all-in player can only win that portion of the pot or pots to which they have contributed.

**Alternates** means a player who is permitted to enter a tournament with a full starting stack of chips for a predetermined period where seats are available after the tournament starts or as players are eliminated and seats become available, or where an additional table is added subsequent to the tournament commencement.

**Ante** means a predetermined contribution to the pot placed by all players prior to the first card being dealt in a round of play.

**Balancing** means the method by which players may be moved between across the tournament tables in use.

**Big Blind Ante**  
means that instead of each player posting an ante, the player in the Big Blind position will post a specified amount to cover all the ante bets.

**Bonus Round**  
means a round of play in which there is an additional amount of Tournament chips contributed to the pot by the casino operator and/or an additional prize is awarded to the winner.

**Bounty** means a bounty button that will be won by a player that eliminates another player from the tournament.

**Breaking** means the method by which the number of tournament tables may be reduced as players are eliminated from the tournament.

**Bubble** means the finishing position immediately before those positions for which players will receive prize money.

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**Buy-In** means the amount paid by the tournament player(s) to comprise a prize pool or prize pools.

**Chip race** means the method by which lower denomination chips are coloured up to higher denomination chips and dispersed to players when they are no longer required in the tournament.

**Eliminated Player** means a player that is unable to continue in the tournament after going All-In and losing their remaining table stake.

**Elimination Round** means a round of play on completion of which the player with the lowest table stake may be eliminated from the tournament.

**Entry Fee** means the amount paid by the tournament player(s) to enter the tournament. Casino Management for promotional purposes, reserve the right to pay the Entry Fee and Administration Fee for a player into any tournament. All Entry Fees are used exclusively as prizes.

**Forfeit** where a player forfeits their remaining chips. A player who forfeits their chips may be entitled to re-buy/re-enter when permitted.

**Heads Up** means a game of poker where two players in a tournament play exclusively against each other.

**Match** means a sequence of hands in a Heads-Up tournament. The players commence each match with an equal number of chips and the winner of the match is determined when one player holds all the chips.

**Multi-Flight Tournaments** are phased tournaments with multiple entry days. Each starting phase will be played up to the same point and all remaining players will qualify to the final phase with players from the additional phases of the tournament.

**Penalties** means action taken against a tournament player for abuse, disruptive behaviour or contravention of the rules of play.

**Place-Getter** means a tournament entrant who is either the overall Tournament winner, or who finishes in a position which will guarantee a stake in the tournament prize pool or advancement to a further session of play.

**Re-buy** means where a tournament format permits, a player may, for a predetermined period of time, purchase one or more additional banks of tournament chips to add to their table stake.

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**Re-Entry** means where a tournament format permits, a player may, for a predetermined period of time, re-enter the tournament after being eliminated.

**Satellite Tournament**

means a lower buy-in tournament where winning players receive entry into a higher buy-in tournament.

**Session**

means a period of play until a designated number of players remain in the tournament or, a set time period or the play of a designated number of rounds of play, at the completion of which:  
(a)the winner and/or place-getters advance to a further session, or;  
(b)the winner or place-getters are determined

**Short Deck Poker**

means a game of Texas Hold'em that is played with a stripped-down deck of 36 cards. The deck of cards used to play Short Deck Poker contain 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, Jack, Queen, King and Ace of each of the four suits.

**Substantial Action:**

where two or more players have acted on their hands, including check, bet, call, raise and fold.

**Tournament Chips**

means non-value chips issued to tournament players for the purpose of wagering during tournament play.

**Tournament Director**

means a licensed person(s), designated by the casino operator, who shall be present while the tournament is in progress and shall be responsible for the overall conduct of the tournament.

**Tournament Float**

means the float used on Tournament Poker Tables and shall be comprised of tournament chips which have no monetary value.

**Tournament Poker**

means a poker competition limited to those players whose entries have been accepted by the casino.

**Tournament Poker Table**

means a table allocated by the casino to be used during the poker tournament.

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**Tournament Result Log**

means the log which contains the record of each place-getter's results and shall be maintained in the GES Poker Management System under the control of the Tournament Director. The log will include:

1. Tournament name & date
2. Player's name
3. Player's result

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**3. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY**

- 3.1 All applications for entry must be made in one of the following ways:
- at the Poker desk using the GES Poker Management System
  - online registration via the Star Poker website
  - Tournament Entry Form(when GES not available)
- 3.2 Entrants must be members of the Casino Loyalty Program, however, the Tournament Director may, at their discretion, permit entry to the tournament for non-Members.
- 3.3 The applicable Entry Fee and Administration Fee must be submitted at the time of entry and prior to the player commencing the tournament. Entries may be accepted after this time at the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- 3.4 Entries for a particular tournament may be transferred to another player provided that player has not already entered that tournament.
- 3.5 At the discretion of the Tournament Director and subject to additional chip banks being available, for a predetermined period after the tournament commences, some tournaments may allow entrants to re-enter after they have been eliminated. The conditions for re-entry will be announced prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- 3.6 The number of entrants in a tournament may also include 'alternates'.
- 3.7 The Tournament Director reserves the right to refuse any application for entry to the tournament.
- 3.8 All entrants must abide by the tournament rules. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the tournament.
- 3.9 Entrants disqualified from the tournament are not entitled to a refund of the Entry Fee and Administration fee and that entrant's tournament chips will be taken out of play.
- 3.10 Entrants will only be entitled to a refund of the Entry Fee and Administration Fee if the entrant cancels their entry not less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the beginning of the tournament, or in the event that the tournament does not proceed.
- 3.11 All entrants shall agree to such playing times as designated by the Tournament Director.
- 3.12 Entries will be limited to numbers specified by the Tournament Director.

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- 3.13 This tournament is open to persons eighteen (18) years of age and over and who are not the subject of a Withdrawal of Licence, or an exclusion direction or self-exclusion order pursuant to the *Casino Control Act 1982 (QLD)*.
- 3.14 In the event of any dispute, the decision of the Tournament Director is final.
- 3.15 A copy of the rules of Tournament Poker are available for perusal at the Poker desk.
- 3.16 The Star Entertainment QLD Limited reserves the right to use selected entrant's names, suburbs, photographs, images and likeness for the purpose of promoting and advertising the casinos.

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**4. TOURNAMENT RULES**

- 4.1 The rules of the game of Texas Hold'em Poker as set out in the *Casino Gaming Rule 2010* (Qld) shall apply to Tournament Poker except where the rules of the game have been specifically altered to apply to the rules of the game of Tournament Poker and subject to Part 5 – Casino tournaments, (28), (29) of the *Casino Control Regulation 1999* (Qld).
- 4.2 The rules of the game of Texas Hold'em Poker shall be altered to the rules of the game of Tournament Poker as listed below:
- Schedule 11 s. 16(1) altered to Tournament Poker Rule 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.23, 4.24 and 4.25
  - Schedule 11 s. 30(1)(2)(3)(4)(5) altered to Tournament Poker Rule 4.36
  - Schedule 11 s. 31(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6) altered to Tournament Poker Rule 4.22
  - Schedule 11 s. 36 altered to Tournament Poker Rule 4.42
  - Schedule 11 s. 37(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7) altered to Tournament Poker Rule 4.41
  - Where short deck tournament poker is offered: Schedule 11 s. 8(1)(2)(3)(4)(5)(6)(7) and Schedule 11 s. 13 altered to Tournament Poker Rule 4.46
- 4.3 Satellite tournaments will be conducted in accordance with these terms and conditions and the approved tournament Rule. Prize details will be available to all entrants prior to the commencement of the satellite tournament.
- 4.4 A tournament prize pool will consist of all buy-ins together with any re-buys, add-ons or re-entries. The total value of the Prize Pool will be the Entry Fee multiplied by the number of players, with the cash component of the Prize Pool broken down and paid in accordance with the schedule in Appendix B.
- 4.5 The Casino Operator may, at its discretion, add value to the prize pool in the form of cash, approved gaming vouchers, or goods or services
- 4.6 Prior to the beginning of play, all players will be designated a specific table number and seating position at which to play. This shall be determined by ballot.
- 4.7 Seating assignments may be altered to ensure that entrants who are known by the Tournament Director to be connected by family or association play at different tables or are separated on the final table.
- 4.8 The number of entrants allocated to a table shall be determined by the Tournament Director and is dependent upon the number of participants in the tournament.

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- 4.9 All players must provide their name for recording purposes to the table Supervisor upon request.
- 4.10 All players will be allocated a table stake of non-value Tournament Chips at the commencement of play.
- 4.11 If a player is eliminated from the tournament prior to the end of a session of play, he or she shall be required to return any remaining tournament chips being held to the dealer, prior to leaving the table.
- 4.12 At the conclusion of the tournament heat or final, the players shall return all tournament chips which shall be counted by the staff to determine that their number and value is equal to the number and value of tournament chips issued to be used for that tournament heat or final.
- 4.13 At the end of a re-entry/re-buy period or at the completion of play during a multi-flight tournament, should a player have equal to or less than their Starting Stack they will be given the option of forfeiting these chips and therefore being able to buy back into the Tournament. If the player chooses this option, their chips will be removed from play immediately. If the player chooses not to use this option, they will continue play with those chips remaining. In the event of a multi-flight tournament, their remaining chips will be bagged as per normal procedure for the player's return on Day 2 of the Tournament.
- 4.14 If a player is not present at the table at the start of the tournament, then that player shall have their table stake placed in their seat position. If a player has not taken their position by the completion of Level 4 of the Blind Structure, the Tournament Director may declare that the player is "Provisionally Eliminated" and the remainder of that player's stake will be removed from play. If the player arrives later in the day, a calculation is made to determine the number of blinds and antes that would have been taken from their stack and their stake returned to play.
- 4.15 If an active player is not present at the table at the start of a round of play, cards will be dealt to their betting position and if that player is required to place a blind bet and/or Ante Bet, appropriate blind bets and/or Ante Bets will be placed from their table stake.
- 4.16 If an active player is not present at the table to act on their hand the Tournament Director:
- 4.16.1 shall direct the dealer to deal the cards to the absent player's position as though they are present. Should the player still not be present at the completion of the initial deal the hand shall be folded, with the exception of the player in the last compulsory blind position who will have up until it is their turn to act; and/or
- 4.16.2 may declare the tournament player's position cancelled and the tournament player disqualified. Once disqualified a tournament player will not

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be entitled to a refund of the entry fee, except on the approval of the Tournament Supervisor and will not be entitled to retain the value of any tournament chips in their possession at the time of disqualification.

- 4.17 A player shall not lend or borrow Tournament Chips at any time.
- 4.18 Each player is required to display in clear view of other players and table supervisors, all Tournament Chips being held at any one time and those chips must be stacked in denomination. The dealer or supervisor may direct that a player's chips be arranged such that the total value of those chips may be determined. Concealing, pocketing or otherwise hiding chips during tournament play may result in immediate and irrevocable disqualification. No such Tournament player shall be entitled to a refund of entry fee, re-entry, buy-in, re-buy or add-on and will not be entitled to retain the value of any tournament chips in their possession at the time of disqualification.
- 4.19 Where two or more all-in players who would have been eligible for place in the tournament, are eliminated in the same round of play, the placing/placings shall be equally shared among those players.
- 4.20 Play may go to hand for hand on all tables when multiple tables are in play and:
- (a) the bubble is approaching;
  - (b) the number of players left just exceeds the required number for the final table.
- 4.21 Blinds and antes are raised at scheduled intervals. At the end of a designated blind level, the new limits will apply on the next deal. (A deal begins with the cutting of the cards).
- 4.22 Eliminations, Re-buys and Add-ons:  
Where an entrant has lost their entire table stake, they will be eliminated and must vacate the tournament table, unless there is provision in the tournament which allows re-buys or add-ons.

Where a tournament allows re-buys, all entrants in that particular tournament may, for a predetermined period of time during the tournament, purchase one or more additional banks of chips. Entrants may be charged an entry fee to re-buy. The amount of the entry fee, if any, the amount of the re-buy, the number of re-buys and the length of the re-buy period will be determined by the Tournament Director and announced prior to the commencement of the tournament.

If an entrant has exhausted their bank of chips and wishes to re-buy, they must re-buy prior to the commencement of the next round of play or it will be deemed that they have been eliminated from the tournament.

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Where the tournament allows add-ons, all entrants in that particular tournament may purchase an additional bank of chips at the end of the re-buy period. Entrants may be charged an entry fee to add-on. The amount of the entry fee, if any, and the amount of the add-on will be determined by the Tournament Director and announced prior to the commencement of that tournament. The casino operator may determine to conduct an elimination round(s) at any time providing players are advised prior to the elimination round commencing and no cards have been dealt and no blinds and/or antes have been placed prior to the announcement of the elimination round.

- 4.23 The Tournament Director may determine the method of allocating tables and playing areas to tournament players, the order of wagering, the method of balancing and breaking tables, and any other conditions providing those conditions are consistent with the relevant rules of the game.
- 4.24 Where a player is re-seated, they will assume all rights and responsibilities of their new position. A player moving to a new table is eligible to be dealt a hand in any position and will post blinds when and as required except if they are seated in between the button and the small blind.
- 4.25 Once the player make-up for the final table has been determined players will redraw for seating positions.
- 4.26 Entrants may request to 'put the clock' on another entrant. Subject to the request being reasonable the Tournament Director will call 'time' and the entrant in question will have one minute to act. If action has not been taken by the time the minute is over, the player's hand will be called dead. All wagers made by that player will remain in the pot.
- 4.27 The Tournament Director reserves the right to direct any player who is considered to be unduly delaying the game to expedite their play.
- 4.28 The Tournament Director may also call 'time' on a player if deemed necessary.
- 4.29 If a player lacks sufficient chips for a blind, the player is still entitled to go all-in with their remaining table stake.
- 4.30 All cards will be turned face-up without delay once a player is all-in and all betting action by all other players in the hand is complete.
- 4.31 During Hand for Hand, where there has been an All-In and a call and there is no further action for that hand, those cards will remain face down until action is completed on the remaining tables
- 4.32 Verbal affirmations as to the content of a player's hand are not binding.
- 4.33 An oversized chip wagered without the player calling raise will be deemed to be a call.

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- 4.34 A player who bets unannounced with two chips of the same denomination totalling more than the amount to call and less than the minimum amount to raise (and one chip value is less than the previous bet), will be considered a call.
- 4.35 Where only two players remain in the game, all rules pertaining to the order of wagering and order of play shall be amended to the extent that the designated player will be the first to place the blind and shall be the first to bet or fold in the first betting round.
- 4.36 The Casino Operator will not charge a participation fee nor charge commission on any round of play during the tournament.
- 4.37 Penalties may be imposed at the Tournament Director's discretion. Penalties available for use shall be verbal warnings, 10, 20, and 30 minutes away from the table and in extreme circumstances, disqualification. A player who is disqualified shall have their chips removed from play.
- 4.38 A player who exposes their hand during a round of play will not have their hand folded but may incur a Penalty.
- 4.39 Tournament players must not advise or seek advice from another tournament player or person not involved in the tournament during play.
- 4.40 From time to time, the Tournament Director will substitute player's chips of lower denominations with chips of higher denominations - "Chip Race". To the extent that a player's lower denomination chips fail to evenly amount to the value of the new higher denomination chip (respectively, "Odd Chips", "New Chip"), the Chip Race will proceed as follows:
- (a) The total value of all Odd Chips on the table is tallied.
  - (b) As many New Chips as together wholly equate to the value of the Odd Chip tally are set aside for play and as many of the Odd Chips as equate to the value of those New Chips are removed from play.
  - (c) If the value of the remaining Odd Chips (if any) equates to less than 50% of the value of a single New Chip, those Odd Chips are removed from play and no further New Chips are set aside for play. If the value of the remaining Odd Chips equates to 50% or more of the value of a single New Chip, a single New Chip is set aside for play and those remaining Odd Chips are removed from play (E.g. Totals of \$450 and \$475 would all equal 5 x \$100 chips for the race).
  - (d) A "Race-off" is conducted to award the New Chips to players who possessed Odd Chips. Starting at the first seating position to the left of the dealer, the dealer will deal cards to players face-up. Each player will

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be dealt a number of cards corresponding to the number of Odd Chips they possess.

- (e) The player with the highest card value receives a New Chip and in sequence each player with the next highest card value receives a New Chip until there are no further New Chips in the Race-off. If 2 players have the same value card and there is one chip left an additional card will be dealt to each of these players.
- (f) Each player may receive a maximum of one chip in any given Chip Race.
- (g) If, following a Race-off, a player has no chips of any denomination, that player will receive a single chip of the lowest denomination in play.

### 4.41 Should a player act out of turn in a round of betting;

- (a) As soon as the dealer becomes aware that the player has acted out of turn, the dealer must give an opportunity to act to each player (a missed player) who should have had an opportunity to act in the round of betting before the out of turn player acted.
- (b) When acting out of turn, the out of turn player may only call a missed player's wager or fold. If folding any out of turn bet shall be added to the pot.
- (c) However, the out of turn player may fold, call, or call and raise if a missed player makes a bet that is more than the out of turn bet.
- (d) If the out of turn player folds under subsection (b), the out of turn bet shall stand and remain in the pot.
- (e) If the out of turn bet is more than the maximum wager for the round of betting, the difference between the out of turn bet and the maximum wager must be returned to the out of turn player.
- (f) Where a player is directed in error by a dealer to act out of turn, that player, or any of the following players who act in those circumstances, shall retract their action and then act in the correct sequence.

### 4.42 Community card exposed in error. If the flop is dealt and turned face-up prior to the completion of the first betting round, it will be taken back without the burn card and shuffled with the remainder of the deck. The dealer will cut and re-deal the flop after the completion of the first betting round.

- (1) If the fourth community card is exposed by the dealer prior to the completion of the second betting round:
  - (a) the exposed card will be retrieved and set aside, the burn card shall remain, and the second betting round will then be completed.

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- (b) the dealer will burn a card, turn over a new fourth community card and ensure that all the betting for the fourth round is completed.
  - (c) the set aside card as described in (a) above will be shuffled with the remainder of the deck and a fifth card will be turned without burning a card.
- (2) If the fifth community card is exposed by the dealer prior to the completion of the third betting round, that card will be taken back by the dealer and shuffled with the remainder of the deck. The burn card shall remain. The third betting round will be completed, and a new card dealt. No further burn cards will be dealt for that betting round.
- 4.43 In the event the cards are inadvertently removed from the shoe during a live hand the inadvertently removed cards may be shuffled and placed back into the shoe unless the cards:
- (a) have entered the muck or
  - (b) have mixed with other cards from the current hand or
  - (c) have mixed with folded cards or
  - (d) have mixed with burn cards
  - (e) have left the confines of the table
- In which event all wagers for that betting round shall be returned to the active players and the pot will be divided equally between the active players. The casino operator will not take a commission.
- 4.44 It is a player's responsibility to protect their hand at all times. If a dealer mucks an unprotected hand, the player will have no redress and will not be entitled to have any wagered chips returned. An exception would be if a player raised and the raise had not been called yet, the player would be entitled to receive the raise back.
- 4.45 Where Heads Up tournament play is offered
- (1) Each Heads-Up round will consist of a possible three matches; the winner of the round will be the first player to win two matches against their opponent utilising the 'best of three' method to determine which player advances to the next round. A "Heads Up" round will be completed when a player wins two matches. Each player in a match will commence the next "Heads Up" round with an equal amount of chips.
  - (2) A tournament table number will be displayed on each side of the divider. This is a separate number to the actual table.
  - (3) Cards with different coloured backs shall be used on either side of the divider when a Heads-up tournament is being conducted.



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- (4) The game of Poker when part of a Heads-Up tournament shall be conducted on one Poker table which will be split in two with the use of a divider which will act to create two separate playing areas. Each separate area will have a maximum of two patrons and a place for the dealer in accordance with the diagram in appendix "A"
- (5) The casino operator may determine to conduct a bonus round(s) at any time providing players are advised prior to the bonus round commencing and no cards have been dealt and no blinds or antes have been placed prior to the announcement of the bonus round.

### 4.46 Where Short Deck Poker is offered for tournament play

- (1) The deck of cards used will be stripped down from 52 cards to 36 cards by removing the 2, 3, 4 and 5 of each suit.
- (2) The ranking of hands will be either option A or option B, with the selected hand ranking option for the tournament being specified in the tournament T&Cs.

#### Option A

- Odd Card
- One Pair
- Two Pairs
- Three of a Kind
- Straight
- Full House
- Flush
- Four of a Kind
- Straight Flush
- Royal Flush

#### Option B

- Odd Card
- One Pair
- Two Pairs
- Straight
- Three of a Kind
- Full House
- Flush
- Four of a Kind
- Straight Flush
- Royal Flush

- (3) When a stripped-down deck of cards is being used in play, an Ace may rank in a straight as either high or low.

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*Appendix A*

Layout for "Heads Up" Tournaments



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