# HOW TO PLAY BLACKJACK CHALLENGE

Blackjack Challenge is a variation of Blackjack, one of the most popular casino games.

# THE AIM OF THE GAME

The object of the game is to draw cards with a total closer to 21 than the Dealer's total – without going over 21. Cards are dealt clockwise from a device called a card shoe or from a shuffling device.

# THE BLACKJACK TABLE

You are dealt two cards, while the Dealer draws one card. The cards are dealt face-up so you can see your point value. Blackjack Challenge is played with 6 or 8 decks of cards.



# HOW TO PLAY

Picture cards (Jack, Queen and King) count as 10, Aces count as 1 or 11, whichever is to your advantage e.g. Ace, 8, 10 = 19. Any other cards (2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10) count as face value.

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Blackjack: If the first two cards of your original hand or split hand are an Ace and any ten-point card, you have Blackjack. The odds you will be paid will depend on if the Dealer also has a Blackjack and the rank of your 10 value card when compared with the Dealer 10 value card.

The rank of cards for the purpose of determining Blackjack payouts from highest to lowest is King, Queen, Jack and 10. A player Blackjack will be paid at the odds listed below:

	Dealers 10 Value card	Odds
Dealer has a Blackjack	Ranked lower than players 10 value card	5 to 1
Dealer has a Blackjack	Same rank as players 10 value card	4 to 1
Dealer has a Blackjack	Ranked higher than players 10 value card	3 to 1
Dealer doesn't have a Blackjack		2 to 1

If you do not have Blackjack on your first two cards, you may decide to stand (draw no more cards) or hit (draw more cards) until you decide to stand, or until your point total goes over 21 in which case you lose.

Player 21: In the event your point total equals 21 (not Blackjack), you automatically win and the dealer will pay you even money.

Five Card Trick: In the event you draw

5 cards to a hand without exceeding 21, you automatically win and the Dealer will pay you even money.

#### STAR PAIRS

Players may have an additional Star Pairs wager on a Blackjack Challenge table that provides betting areas for Star Pairs. To place an additional Star Pairs wager simply place an amount between the minimum and maximum limits on a Star Pairs betting area. The additional wager wins when you receive a pair (two cards identical in type\* and value) as your first two cards.

# The odds paid for winning wagers are (only the highest win event is paid):

PAIR of aces	30 to 1
PERFECT PAIR	20 to 1
same value, same	
suit	
COLOURED PAIR	8 to 1
same value, same	
colour and different	
suit	
MIXED PAIR	5 to 1
same value and	
different colour	

Winning bets will be paid and handed off to the Player immediately after the initial deal.

\*10, Jack, Queen and King are identical in value but not in type, therefore a Jack and King, for example, are not considered a pair.

# ANY PAIRS

Any Pairs is an optional side wager offered on certain Blackjack Challenge tables.

The concept of the wager is simple.

Any Pairs wager wins if the first two cards dealt to your Blackjack Challenge hand are a pair and loses if they are not a pair. All winning Any Pairs wagers are paid

at odds of 11 to 1. Any Pairs wagers must be made prior to the initial deal.

For the purposes of playing Any Pairs a pair is a hand where the first two cards dealt, in the initial deal only, are of the same number: Ace, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 or 10 or of the same picture type; Jack, Queen or King.

# DOUBLING

You may elect to double on the first two cards or first three cards dealt to your original or split hands by placing a wager of not more than your original

wager. You will then be dealt one additional card face upwards and placed sideways

to that hand.

In the event your point total equals 21 (Player 21) after doubling, you automatically win and the Dealer will pay you even money. If the Dealer obtains Blackjack after you have doubled and not achieved Player 21, the Dealer will only collect an amount equal to your original bet from the remaining bets.

#### SPLITTING

If your first two cards have the same point value, you may ask the Dealer to split your hand, to form two separate hands, by betting an amount equal to the original bet. Each hand will be played and completed in turn. At least one card will

be dealt to each hand. You are only allowed to split twice per box forming three hands per playing area.

You may also double in a split hand providing the hand contains two or three cards.

Blackjack, Player 21 and Five Card Trick can be achieved on split hands.

If the Dealer obtains Blackjack after you have split and you have not achieved Blackjack, Player 21 or Five Card Trick, the Dealer will only collect an amount equal to your original bet from the remaining bets.

# DEALER'S HAND

Irrespective of your point totals, the Dealer must hit with 16 or less and stand with 17 or more. If the Dealer goes over 21, all hands remaining on the table must be paid even money.

If you finish with a total closer to 21 than the Dealer's total, you win and will be paid even money. If you have a point total equal to or less than the point total of the Dealer's hand and the Dealer's hand does not exceed 21, you lose.

In the game of Blackjack Challenge, you can place a bet on a box (betting area)

or behind another player's bet. Up to three players may bet on one box, provided that the total of all bets remains within the maximum limits displayed on the table sign.

# IMPORTANT

You may not handle, remove or alter any cards used in the game of Blackjack Challenge.

Although the Dealer will call out the card totals, it is your responsibility to also check your point totals are correct.

#### THE ODDS OF WINNING

Blackjack Challenge is a card game of chance and skill in which Players may improve their chance of winning by using a betting strategy. After receiving two cards from the Dealer, the Flayer can choose to be dealt more cards so as to have a total score closer to 21 than the Dealer's total – without going over 21. Face cards count as 10, Aces count as 1 or 11 and the cards 2 to 10 count as their face value. The House margin for Blackjack Challenge is approximately 2.53% when the game is played to optimal strategy.

# **BLAZING 7s PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT**

Blackjack Challenge may also have a jackpot bet which can be placed by the players. Before each game and prior to the dealing of any cards you have the opportunity to participate in the displayed jackpot prize. To do this, place your jackpot wager onto the jackpot sensor adjacent to the regular betting boxes. This makes you eligible for a jackpot prize, in addition to the regular payment made to a winning bet. You receive a jackpot payout on a qualifying hand regardless of the strength of the Dealers hand.

The qualifying hand for a jackpot in Blackjack Challenge shall comprise of the Players first two cards plus the Dealers first card.

# BLAZING 7s PROGRESSIVE JACKPOT PAYOUTS

If you have entered the jackpot and your hand qualifies for a payout, you win the amount appropriate to that hand regardless of the strength of the Dealer's hand. If two or more Players have major jackpot wins at the same time, the winner's share the jackpots. The following jackpot bonuses are additional to the winning bet payouts.

The progressive jackpot amount is contributed to and can be awarded at all participating Blazing 7 table games in the casino. Jackpots are only paid to the highest win event.

Event	Payout	
Three sevens, All Diamonds	100% of jackpot	
Three suited sevens, other than Diamonds	10% of Jackpot	
Three sevens, all the same colour but not the same suit	500 to1	_
Three unsuited sevens, not of the same colour	200 to 1	_
Two Player sevens	20 to 1	
One seven to the Player & One seven to the Dealer	10 to 1	_

# **RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING**

The casinos promote a responsible approach to gambling and offer gambling for your enjoyment. Only you can decide how much time and money you want to spend on gambling at a casino. If you think you may have a problem controlling your gambling behaviour, please contact: Gambling Helpline 1800 858 858 gamblinghelponline.org.au

Gambling Help services are independently run and offer free, confidential support (available 24 hours). BET WITH YOUR HEAD, NOT OVER IT.

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