

# MEGA-POKER.NET: MEGA TEXAS HOLD'EM STRATEGY GUIDE



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	-----	<b>4</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1: The Rules &amp; Hand Rankings</b>	-----	<b>5</b>
<b>CHAPTER 2: Playing Styles</b>	-----	<b>10</b>
<b>CHAPTER 3: Starting Hand Requirements</b>	-----	<b>17</b>
<b>CHAPTER 4: Table Position</b>	-----	<b>21</b>
<b>CHAPTER 5: Betting Strategy</b>	-----	<b>25</b>
<b>CHAPTER 6: Flop Analysis</b>	-----	<b>31</b>
<b>CHAPTER 7: Reading the Table</b>	-----	<b>35</b>
<b>CHAPTER 8: Outs &amp; Odds</b>	-----	<b>37</b>
<b>CHAPTER 9: Playing Specific Hands</b>	-----	<b>41</b>
<b>CHAPTER 10: Slow Playing &amp; Trapping</b>	-----	<b>50</b>
<b>CHAPTER 11: Tournament Strategy</b>	-----	<b>54</b>
<b>CONCLUSION</b>	-----	<b>57</b>
<b>BONUS: Bankroll Management</b>	-----	<b>58</b>

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## INTRODUCTION

In this guide, I’m going to teach you everything you need to know to start playing No-Limit Texas Hold’Em at a very high level in a relatively short period of time. If you are looking for limit or pot limit strategy this may not be the guide for you, however the concepts like choosing what hands to play and other strategies apply to the other types of Texas Hold’Em.

Before we get started this guide uses a word format to describe hand examples and I want to make sure that you understand this before we go forward and get started turning you into a dominate poker player.

**HOW TO READ HAND EXAMPLES**



This translates into the Mega-Poker.Net Hand Format  
Upper Case: Rank of Card – Lower Case: Suit of Card  
Your Hand: A-Ks or Ac-Kc  
The Board: As-Kh-9h-Jc-Ah or A-K-9-J-A

Now we’re ready to get started. Read each chapter, and at the end of each there will be a video to go over and demonstrate the strategies and concepts in practice. Make sure to play often and practice as well; experience will take you further than anything else.

## CHAPTER 1: The Rules & Hand Rankings

### The Rules

We will begin by going over the basic rules and structure for the game.

- Every player is dealt two cards face down. Cards are dealt starting with the player to the left of the dealer button and ending with the player with the button in front of them one card at a time. (The button is a round chip placed in front of a player so the table knows where the blinds are and the dealing order).
- The player directly left of the dealer button will always small blind and the dealer button will move clockwise to the next person after each hand. The player directly left of the small blind is the big blind. The blinds both have to pay a designated amount before they are dealt cards and the big blind is always the minimum bet for the rest of the table to play a hand. The small blind is usually half the amount of the big blind. So if the blinds are 10/20 the small blind will put 10 chips in the pot and the big blind must put 20 chips in the pot. All other players must pay a minimum of 20 chips to play the hand, but they can raise any amount starting from 40 chips (the minimum allowed raise is twice the big blind) and ending with an all-in bet.
- After all players are dealt their cards a betting round starts with the player to the left of the big blind (this player is referred to as being “under the gun”). If there are no raises the betting round ends after the big blinds action, which is either check or raise.
- Next the actual dealer will burn one card (discard it) and turn over the next three cards face up. These first three cards are called the flop and are community cards, meaning they can be used by all players to put together their 5 card hand. After the flop another round of betting will occur and will end after the player closest to the button (if the button folded) or the button act.
- The next part of the hand is the turn, which is the 4<sup>th</sup> community card being revealed face up after burning another card. Another betting round occurs after this card.
- The last part of the hand is the river which takes place when the dealer reveals the 5<sup>th</sup> and final community card. A betting round will take place and the players that complete the final bets will enter a showdown in which they

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both turn their hands face up and the winner is decided by the strongest five card hand. You will learn about the hand rankings in the next section.



## Hand Rankings

Hand rankings are the order of strongest five card hands down to the weakest five card hands. They are put together based on rarity and the odds of making the particular hand. The most common hands are one or two pair and after that the hands are fairly rare and strong hands. Below is a diagram going over all the hand rankings followed by a more detailed description of each.

POKER HAND RANKINGS					
STRAIGHT FLUSH	A♠	K♥	Q♥	J♥	10♥
FOUR OF A KIND	8♣	8♠	8♥	8♦	2♠
FULL HOUSE	2♠	2♥	2♦	A♠	A♣
FLUSH	A♥	K♥	Q♥	J♥	10♥
STRAIGHT	A♠	K♥	Q♥	J♥	10♠
THREE OF A KIND	3♦	3♥	3♠	3♥	K♥
TWO PAIR	A♠	A♥	K♥	K♠	2♠
ONE PAIR	A♥	A♣	8♥	8♠	4♦
HIGH CARD	A♥	K♥	8♠	4♣	2♠

- Straight Flush – 5 suited cards in sequence, the highest being of course the Royal Flush. Example: As-Ks-Qs-Js-10s.
- Four of a Kind (Quads) – 4 cards of the same rank followed by a kicker (remember 5 card hand even though it’s useless unless all four cards are part of the community board, in which case having an ace makes your hand good). Example: Your Hand: 10-10 ; Board: 10-10-A-K-2.

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- Full House (Boat) – Three of a kind and a pair. Example: Your Hand: A-K ; Board: A-K-2-A-4 giving you Aces (3 of a kind) full of Kings (pair of Kings).
- Flush – 5 suited cards. It does NOT matter if they are in order or not. Example: Your Hand: Ah-5h ; Board: 10h-Kh-2h-3s-As.
- Straight – 5 cards in sequence. Example: Your Hand: J-10 ; Board: 8-9-Q-A-2 or 7-8-9-K-3 or Q-K-9-7-3 or Q-K-A-2-6
- Three of a Kind (Trips or Set) – Three cards of the same rank. Example: Your Hand: 5-5 ; Board: 5-A-2-K-10
- Two Pair – Pretty self-explanatory, a pair of two different ranks. Example: Your Hand: K-Q ; Board: K-Q-2-J-7
- One Pair – Two cards of the same rank. Example: Your Hand: A-K ; Board: A-2-8-7-J or Your Hand: A-A ; Board: J-10-2-8-6
- High Card – If no one has any of the hands above then the highest card will win the hand. Card ranks are as follows highest to lowest: Ace-King-Queen-Jack-10-9-8-7-6-5-4-3-2

Now that you have a grasp of the poker hands make sure to practice and memorize them quickly. You should get to the point where you are always aware of what you have or what you are trying to draw to (drawing to means you have 4 cards you need towards a straight, flush or maybe even a full house if you have two pair or three of a kind and you are chasing after the fifth card).

Before we move on to starting hand requirements you need to understand the concept of kickers and playing styles. If more than one player holds the same hand than they use high card as a kicker. For example, you hold A-2 and your opponent has A-K; the board shows A-3-8-10-J and you both showdown the hand. Your opponent wins because he has a better kicker.

Remember, it’s the best FIVE card hand so that’s why every poker book you ever read will explain starting hand requirements to you. That’s also why new players often lose because they see Jack-Deuce (J-2) and think it’s good because they have a face card and they constantly get outkicked unless they get lucky and hit two pair.

Another case is a split pot. This occurs when no player have a hole card that cannot play due to being ranked below the community cards. Here is an example to



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