

Big O High/Low Split

Type of Game

The players of Big O High/Low Split play against each other for “the pot” of money on the table. The game does not utilize a player-dealer position, it is a Poker game. The gambling establishment does not participate in the actual play of the game and has no interest in the outcome of the play.

Object of the Game

The object of the game is for players to form a five-card poker hand that ranks higher than the other players' five-card poker hand. Each player must use at least two out of the five cards initially dealt to them at the beginning of the game, referred to as “hole” cards, and a maximum of three out of the five cards dealt on the table throughout the course of the game, referred to as “community” cards or “the board” cards, to make the highest and lowest ranking five-card poker hand, according to the rankings as shown below. When making a 5-card low poker hand and a 5-card high poker hand, a player is not required to use the same hole cards and/or community cards to complete each hand.

Description of the Deck and Number of Decks Used

The game shall be played using one standard 52-card deck and no Joker. Cards used to play Big O High/Low Split shall be dealt from a single deck automatic card shuffling device, cut, and then manually dealt by the house dealer.

Card Values and Hand Rankings

Five-Card High Card Values

The rank of each card used in Big O High/Low Split when forming a five-card high poker hand, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: Ace, King, Queen, Jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, and then 2. All suits shall be considered equal in rank.

Five-Card Low Card Values

The rank of each card used in Big O High/Low Split when forming a five-card low poker hand, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: King, Queen, Jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and then Ace. All suits shall be considered equal in rank.

In order to make a qualifying five-card low poker hand, a player must have an 8 high or better (lower), meaning that the two hole cards used from the player's hand and the three community cards used by the player cannot contain a card with a value of 9 or higher. Additionally, when determining if a player has a qualifying five-card low poker hand, straights and flushes do not disqualify the player's hand if all other requirements are met. However, if the player has a pair or higher in their low hand, the hand does not qualify, even if the cards have a value of 8 or lower. The lowest possible five-card poker hand is 5, 4, 3, 2, and an Ace. If multiple players have qualifying five-card low poker hands, the lowest hand is determined by comparing the highest card of each players' five-card poker hand, with the lowest high card being the winning low hand.

For example: A hand of 7, 6, 4, 3, and a 2 is lower than an 8, 6, 5, 3, and an Ace, even though the second hand has the lowest card.

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The ranking of hands for Big O High/Low Split, in order from highest to lowest rank, shall be:

Hand Dealt	Hand Requirements
Royal Flush	A hand that consists of an Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 10 of the same suit.
Straight Flush	A hand that consists of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking. A King, Queen, Jack, 10 and 9 is the highest ranked Straight Flush and a 5, 4, 3, 2 and Ace is the lowest ranked Straight Flush.
Four of a Kind	A hand that consists of four cards of the same rank. Four Aces is the highest ranked Four of a Kind and four 2's is the lowest ranked Four of a Kind.
Full House	A hand that consists of a Three of a Kind and a Pair. Three Aces and two Kings is the highest ranked Full House and three 2's and two 3's is the lowest ranked Full House.
Flush	A hand that consists of five cards of the same suit, but that are not in consecutive ranking. An Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 9 is the highest ranked Flush and a 7, 5, 4, 3 and 2 is the lowest ranked Flush.
Straight	A hand that consists of five cards that are in consecutive ranking, but that are not the same suit. An Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 10 is the highest ranked Straight and a 5, 4, 3, 2 and Ace is the lowest ranked Straight.
Three of a Kind	A hand that consists of three cards of the same rank. Three Aces is the highest ranked Three of a Kind and three 2's is the lowest ranked Three of a Kind.
Two Pairs	A hand that consists of two pairs. Two Aces and two Kings is the highest ranked Two Pairs and two 3's and two 2's is the lowest ranked Two Pairs.
One Pair	A hand that consists of two cards of the same rank. Two Aces is the highest ranked Pair and two 2's is the lowest ranked Pair.
High Card	A hand that consists of five cards that do not make any of the hands listed above. An Ace, King, Queen, Jack and 9 is the highest ranked High Card hand and 7, 5, 4, 3 and 2 the lowest ranked High Card hand.

Description of Table Used and Total Number of Seated Positions

The game shall be played on a standard poker table which shall accommodate up to nine seated positions for patrons; however, once the "dealer button" is distributed, per the procedures below, only 8 hands shall be distributed. When there are eight players present at the table, all players shall receive a hand. Within each betting area for each seated position, there shall be a single betting space specifically designated for players to place a wager. Each seated position at the table shall have the same minimum and maximum wagering limits during each betting round, as specified by the table limits. Back-line betting is not permitted.

Action and Distribution of Cards

The game shall utilize a flat white disk with the words "dealer button" on it to visually designate which player is in the dealer position (in theory) for that hand. The dealer button shall rotate from player to player around the table clockwise after each round of play. The player with the dealer button is the last to receive cards when they are initially dealt at the beginning of the round of play and has the right of last action on all betting rounds (second, third, and fourth) except the first betting round, in which the "big blind" shall have the right to act last.

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The small and the big blind, which are used to initiate action, are made from the positions immediately to the left of the dealer button and posted before the house dealer deals cards. On all subsequent betting rounds (second, third, and fourth), the action is started by the first active player to the left of the dealer button. The small blind and big blind position shall rotate from player to player around the table clockwise after each round of play.

Dealing Procedures and Round of Play

When first opening a game, all players shall be dealt one card face-up, starting with the player to the immediate left of the house dealer and continuing clockwise around the table. The player with the highest ranked card, by suit, shall receive the dealer button.

Once the dealer button has been distributed by the house dealer, the player to the immediate left of the player with the dealer button shall be the small blind position and shall be required to place the small blind. Additionally, the player to the immediate left of the player that is in the small blind position shall be in the big blind position and shall be required to place the big blind. Both blinds are pre-determined based on the posted table limit, mandatory for the players in the small blind and big blind positions, and are used to initiate action. Both blind bets shall remain in front of the players until before the flop is completed, at which time they are moved to the center of the table, which is referred to as “the pot.” Once the blinds have been placed, the house dealer shall deal one card face-down to each player, starting with the player to the left of the dealer button, which is the player that is in the small blind position, and continuing clockwise around the table until all players have five cards face-down. These initial five cards are referred to as “hole cards.” Once each player has received their five hole cards, the first round of betting will occur. Players are given the following options, starting with the player to the left of the player that received the big blind button and continuing clockwise around the table:

- Place their five hole cards face-down into the center of the table, referred to as a “fold.” The hand shall be kept face-down and shall be collected by the house dealer, who shall then place them in the discard pile. A player that chooses to fold their hand will no longer participate during that round of play;
- Place a wager that is equal to the amount of the big blind, referred to as a “call.”
- Place a wager that is equal to the amount of the big blind as well as an additional amount within the posted table limit, referred to as a “raise.” If a player raises the pot, all other players will have the option to call the raise, re-raise the pot by placing a wager larger than the raise within the posted table limit, or fold their hand. There is a maximum of three raises per round of betting, unless there are only two players participating during a round of betting, in which case there is no limit to the number of raises. When a raise or re-raise occurs, checking is not permitted;
- Place no additional wager at this time, referred to as a “check.” This is only permitted for the player in the big blind position when all other players have called the big blind and there have been no raises, or if a player raises the pot and all other players call the raise, in which case the player that originally raised the pot would be permitted to check

After all players have acted in turn and either called all bets or folded their hand, the house dealer shall move all player bets into the pot. The house dealer shall then take the top card off the deck and place it in the discard pile without exposing it, referred to as a “burn.” The house dealer shall then take the next three cards from the top of the deck and place them face-up on the table simultaneously, which is referred to as “the flop.” These are community cards and are available to all players. Once the first three community cards have been placed face-up on the table, the second round of betting will occur. All active players, which are players that called all

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wagers and did not fold their hand, shall be given the following options, starting with the first active player to the left of the dealer button:

- Place a wager according to the established table limits;
- Fold their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Check their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Raise the pot according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Call a raise according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round.

After all players have acted in turn and either called all bets or folded their hand, the house dealer shall move all player bets into the pot. The house dealer shall then take the top card of the deck and place it in the discard pile without exposing it, referred to as a burn. The house dealer shall then take one card from the top of the deck and place it face-up on the table so that there are now a total of four community cards face-up on the table. This is referred to as “the turn card.” This card shall also become a community card and is available to all players. Once the fourth community card has been placed face-up on the table, the third round of betting will occur. All active players shall be given the following options, starting with the first active player to the left of the dealer button:

- Place a wager according to the established table limits;
- Fold their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Check their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Raise the pot according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Call a raise according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round.

After all players have acted in turn and either called all bets or folded their hand, the house dealer shall move all player bets into the pot. The house dealer shall then take the top card of the deck and place it in the discard pile without exposing it, referred to as a burn. The house dealer shall then take one card from the top of the deck and place it face-up on the table so that there are now a total of five community cards face-up on the table. This is referred to as “the river card.” This card shall also become a community card and is available to all players. Once the fifth community card has been placed face-up on the table, which is the final community card, the fourth and final round of betting will occur. All active players shall be given the following options, starting with the first active player to the left of the dealer button:

- Place a wager according to the established table limits;
- Fold their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Check their hand according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;
- Raise the pot according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round;

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- Call a raise according to the rules and guidelines used in the previous betting round.

How The Pot Is Awarded

After the fourth and final round of betting has been completed, the house dealer shall move all player bets into the pot. All active players shall then enter into a showdown with each other and compare their hands. Players must use two of the five hole cards initially dealt to them at the beginning of the game and three of the five community cards turned over throughout the round of play to make the highest ranking five-card poker hand and lowest ranking five-card poker hand, according to the rules above. However, players are not required to use the same hole cards and community cards when making their five-card high poker hand and their five-card low poker hand. The following shall apply for determining which player wins the pot:

- If there is no qualifying five-card low poker hand, as described above, the entire pot shall be awarded to the player with the highest ranked five-card poker hand, according to the hand and card rankings shown above. All other players shall lose.
- If there is one or more qualifying five-card low poker hands, as described above, the pot shall be divided equally in half, with half of the pot being awarded to the player with the highest ranked five-card poker hand and the other half of the pot being awarded to the player with the lowest qualifying five-card poker hand. Furthermore, a player is eligible to win both the high hand portion of the pot as well as the low hand portion of the pot if they have the highest ranked five-card poker hand and the lowest qualifying five-card poker hand.
- In the event that more than one player has the highest ranking hand and there is not a qualifying five-card low poker hand, the pot shall be split equally among all players with the highest ranked five-card poker hand. In the instance that there are an odd number of chips, the odd chips shall be awarded to the player closest to the left of the dealer button.
- In the event that more than one player has the highest ranking hand and there is a qualifying five-card low poker hand, the pot shall be divided equally in half, with half of the pot being split equally among all players with the highest ranked five-card poker hand and the other half of the pot being split equally among all players with the qualifying five-card low poker hand. In the instance that there are an odd number of chips, the odd chips shall be awarded to the player closest to the left of the dealer button.

Collection Fee Schedule

For **schedule options 1 - 12**, the regular table fees shall be taken from the pot in all hands that proceed past the flop. In hands that conclude prior to the flop, a collection fee shall not be taken. The appropriate fees are dependent on the number of players as shown. The collection fees shall be pre-determined and conspicuously posted on each table prior to any cards being dealt or a round of play commencing. Only one collection schedule option, which utilizes one table limit and the specified collection fees for that table limit, as listed below, shall be used at a table at any one time. Rates may not be calculated as a fraction or percentage of wagers made or winnings earned. Flat fees on wagers may be assessed at different collection rates; however, no more than five collection rates may be established per table limit. The approved collection fees and schedules for the game of Big O High/Low Split are as shown below:

Schedule Options	Table Limit	Number of Players	Player Fee
1	\$4-\$8	7 or more	\$5.00

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2	\$4-\$8	5 or 6	\$4.00
3	\$4-\$8	4 or less	\$3.00
4	\$8-\$16	7 or more	\$5.00
5	\$8-\$16	5 or 6	\$4.00
6	\$8-\$16	4 or less	\$3.00
7	\$15-\$30	7 or more	\$5.00
8	\$15-\$30	5 or 6	\$4.00
9	\$15-\$30	4 or less	\$3.00
10	\$5-\$100	7 or more	\$5.00
11	\$5-\$100	5 or 6	\$4.00
12	\$5-\$100	4 or less	\$3.00