

Let's Get Ready to Rumble!!!

Very stoked you guys will be able to make it out for **Jarod's bachelor party weekend in Nevada!**

Las Vegas is always a blast, but winning and maybe even paying for the trip is even better. We've got a lot time until then, so for those of you who want to prepare for the games you'll be playing at the casinos, I've put together the following summaries.

If you plan to play poker—a game of both skill and luck, and the only game in a casino where you can have a long-term positive expected value (EV)—definitely check out **Jarod's and my poker-coaching website** first: www.winnerinaweek.com.

- Poker strategy sections per game type begin here: www.winnerinaweek.com/poker-strategy
- Texas Hold 'em cash-game strategies: www.winnerinaweek.com/poker-strategy/texas-holdem/
- Poker tournaments: www.winnerinaweek.com/poker-strategy/tournaments/
For an overview of the rules, hand rankings and history of the game, see:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_hold_%27em &
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_poker_hands.

If you're willing to put in a little more effort in order to optimize your game in the shortest amount of time, sign up for the **12-week advanced-strategy course** at www.winnerinaweek.com/free-membership (one advanced strategy e-mail per week). That alone will put you way ahead of the average player at least at the low and middle stakes.

And finally, **if you really want to get dangerous very fast without all the reading**, check out these **video playlists** at our YouTube channel:

1. **6-max coaching series and theoretical background for Texas Hold 'em:**
http://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLIJASMBHD_S9Q6CwSsWMSbLdFdGzObCHs

This series is probably the most entertaining. Real-time online sessions begin (after the theoretical overviews) here: http://youtu.be/jkSBgR40hGM?list=PLIJASMBHD_S-jWocBYitOFcoQ7-tSeNKt
2. **Betting strategies:** bet-sizing, break-even and fold equities:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLN6bGepZpk&list=PLIJASMBHD_S_e7OZsttsx7O_-Y1XnLzfe
3. **Poker tells** and reading your opponents: <http://www.winnerinaweek.com/poker-strategy/poker-tells/>
4. The entire free publication of our **first 58 videos of our Essential Poker Knowledge, The Art of Poker coaching series:** http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-p52T0t1O4&list=PLIJASMBHD_S_I4YIK9o7rRh5RF4H83m2O

Hope all of this info is useful and helps you **win big at the poker tables!**

Really looking forward to it gents,
Dylan

P.S. See our [poker-strategy shop](http://www.winnerinaweek.com/poker-strategy-shop) for the most-important documents and tools you'll need for your next casino trip: <http://www.winnerinaweek.com/win-big/texas-holdem-casino-prep-kit/>

If you don't want to get the entire Casino Prep Kit for Hold 'em, **below is my pick of individual, downloadable files with key overviews for quickly improving your Texas Holdem game: they're all great quick-reference guides to review before hitting the live brick-and-mortar poker tables:**

Acronyms: **NL** = "No-Limit", **FL** = "Fixed Limit", **HE** = "Texas Hold 'em", **SHC** = "Starting Hands Charts", **BSS** = "Big-Stack Strategy", **SSS** = "Short-Stack Strategy"

Starting-Hand Charts and Tactical Advice at All Stack Sizes

- [Texas Holdem starting-hands charts for cash games](#)
- [Starting-hands charts for Texas Holdem tournaments](#)

Key Statistics for Texas Hold 'em

- [NL HE outs and equity table](#)

Hand Ranges and Equity-Matchup Charts

- [HE preflop equity table vs your opponents' entire ranges in heads-up pots](#)
- [HE preflop win probabilities \(matchups\) for specific hands in heads-up and multi-way pots](#)

Game Rules and Video Overviews

I've put the following pages together for friends over the years so that they improve their skills and understanding of the following "casino games": [Roulette](#), [Black-Jack](#) and [Craps](#). Info on the currently most-popular poker variant, [a game of both skill and luck called Texas Hold 'em](#) is detailed above.

Blackjack

Blackjack House Edge: Very Dependent on the House Rules

[Black Jack Rules Overview \(part 1\)](#)

[Black Jack Rules Overview \(part 2\)](#)

[Black Jack Rules Overview \(part 3\)](#)

[Black Jack Rules Overview \(part 4\)](#)

[Black Jack – "Insurance"-Bet Tutorial](#)

[Insurance overview/strategy](#)

Black Jack Dealer Tutorial – How to play, shuffle & deal video tutorial

[Blackjack Card Counting & Basic Strategy Overview – From the Movie 21](#)

- **Blackjack Payout = 1.5:1 or 3:2**
 - Example: You bet 2 red \$5 chips, get blackjack and receive \$15.
 - Your bet of \$10 will remain on your square, and the dealer will push 3 red chips to you.
- **Hands that tie are normally a "push", i.e., no payout & no loss.**
- **Casino-specific rules (ask the dealer before you buy-in):**
 - **If the dealer has to stand with a "soft 17" (Ace/6), it is better for you, the player.**
 - Splitting same-value cards is almost always allowed, e.g., splitting a 10 and king. See "basic strategy" tables for when splitting is in your favor.
 - If "re-splitting" or doubling after splitting a pair is allowed, this also favors you.
 - Re-splitting split aces is generally allowed, but you normally only get one card thereafter and cannot hit or double-down. Ask the dealer!
 - **Note: A 10-value card dealt on a split ace (or vice versa) is considered a "soft 21," not a "natural" and only pays 1:1 ("even money").**
 - **Surrender [i.e., "folding" for half of your bet] is also in your favor.** This is normally not offered when the dealer has blackjack.
- **"Insurance": Almost never take this side bet unless you're counting cards and have a true count of +3 or higher.**
 - **Note: Taking "even money"**—a 1-to-1 payout when you have 21 vs. the dealer's ace—is exactly the same as making the insurance bet, which is **a long-term loser in general**.
 - **You typically may bet only half the value of your original bet on the insurance line of the table marked "Insurance Pays 2 to 1". However, never forget that casinos are tricky +EV devils, and you're not "insuring" a damn thing with this "insurance" bet.**
 - What you're actually doing is betting that the dealer has a 10-value card in the hole, so what is the **probability that the dealer has blackjack, and you'll win this side bet?**
 - 13 ranks (2, 3, 4 ... ace) with four of these being a value of 10 (T, J, Q, and K) = $4/13 = 0.30769$ or **under a 31% chance that you'll win this bet: odds against = 2.25:1.**
 - HOWEVER, **you're only getting paid 2:1**, which means **you need to have a 33.33% chance of winning (at least 1 time in 3) just to break even** in the long run!
 - **If you're not a completely sober, card-counting machine, you will lose 7.69% of your investment on average every single time you place that bet.**
 - **Expected value (EV) example on a \$5 insurance bet = $\$5 \times 2 \times (4/13) - \$5 \times (9/13) = \$(0.385)$!** On average, every time you bet \$5, the dealer will give you \$4.615 in return. A **\$100 insurance bet = return-on-investment (ROI) \$92.31 or -\$7.69!**
 - When **you have blackjack, your EV per \$100 when you do not take "even money" is: $\$0 \times (4/13) + \$100 \times 1.5 \times (9/13) = \103.846** (you *push* if the dealer has a 10-value card in the hole—i.e., you don't gain or lose anything).

Roulette

[Roulette – How to play: bets and odds video tutorial](#)

[Roulette \(U.S. with 0 & 00\): Betting & Payouts Overview](#)

[Roulette – Live betting example video](#)

Roulette House Edge: U.S. = 5.26%, EU = 2.7% for single-number “straight-up” bets

[Roulette Dealer Tutorial 1 – Handling Buy-ins, Value Chips & “Checks”](#)

[Roulette Dealer Tutorial 2 – Betting, Payout and Cash-Outs](#)

See the beginning of the Dealer Tutorial 1 video for the details of changing cash for *checks*.

Important Notes

Summarized from: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roulette#Roulette_wheel_number_sequence

- French/European roulette normally has 37 colored and numbered pockets on the wheel with only one green (0) pocket; American roulette has 38 total with two green (0 & 00) pockets.
- The **roulette pockets are numbered 1 to 36**.
 - Ranges **1–10 and 19–28**: **odd numbers red** and even black.
 - Ranges **11–18 and 29–36**: odd numbers black and **even red**.
- Roulette wheel pocket order in most casinos (clockwise sequence):
 - **Single-zero wheel**: 0-32-15-19-4-21-2-25-17-34-6-27-13-36-11-30-8-23-10-5-24-16-33-1-20-14-31-9-22-18-29-7-28-12-35-3-26
 - **Double-zero wheel**: 0-28-9-26-30-11-7-20-32-17-5-22-34-15-3-24-36-13-1-00-27-10-25-29-12-8-19-31-18-6-21-33-16-4-23-35-14-2”

Roulette: Payouts Table <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roulette>

Bet name	Winning spaces	Payout
0 [or 00]	0 [or 00]	35 to 1
“Straight up”	Any single number	35 to 1
Row 00	0, 00	17 to 1
Split	any two adjoining numbers vertical or horizontal	17 to 1
Basket	0, 1, 2 or 00, 2, 3 or 0, 00, 2	11 to 1
Street	any three numbers horizontal (1, 2, 3 or 4, 5, 6, etc.)	11 to 1
Corner	any four adjoining numbers in a block (1, 2, 4, 5 or 17, 18, 20, 21, etc.)	8 to 1
Top line	0, 00, 1, 2, 3	6 to 1
Six line	any six numbers from two horizontal rows, e.g., 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6	5 to 1
1st column	1, 4, 7, 10, 13, 16, 19, 22, 25, 28, 31, 34	2 to 1
2nd column	2, 5, 8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23, 26, 29, 32, 35	2 to 1
3rd column	3, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 21, 24, 27, 30, 33, 36	2 to 1
1st dozen	1 through 12	2 to 1
2nd dozen	13 through 24	2 to 1
3rd dozen	25 through 36	2 to 1
Odd	1, 3, 5, ..., 35	1 to 1
Even	2, 4, 6, ..., 36	1 to 1
Red	1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 12; 14, 16, 18, 19, 21, 23; 25, 27, 30, 32, 34, 36	1 to 1
Black	2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 11; 13, 15, 17, 20, 22, 24; 26, 28, 29, 31, 33, 35	1 to 1
1 to 18	1, 2, 3, ..., 18	1 to 1
19 to 36	19, 20, 21, ..., 36	1 to 1”

Craps

Craps: Bet **Odds Summary and House Edge**

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Craps_Types_of_wagers

“Old school but a good overview of the game”: <http://youtu.be/C2me8s0tX1w?t=4m28s>

Three-number betting system: “3-Point Molly”

- Pass line (take odds after point is established)
- Place 2 come bets if you don't crap out, and take the odds on each number.
- Consider removing odds four to five rolls after the point is established.
- Variation: “Continuous Molly” where you keep placing come bets until all bases are loaded

Note: The **odds of crapping out after a point is established** is $6/36 = 1/6$ (odds are 5:1 against) = **a 16.667%** chance of rolling the 7. Expect this to happen **on average every 6th roll**.

4-part game & betting/strategy overview: www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL40BED3861C1BD41C

Betting strategy with the pass line and place bets for “hot tables”: <http://youtu.be/iZo2cEHdEc0>

Pass line, place bets & don't come strategy with hardway hedge bets: <http://youtu.be/R9o4JHbHaTs>

Iron Cross variation: <http://youtu.be/yguh0Vanuys?t=20s>

- No pass bet on the come-out roll.
- After point established at 5, 6, 8, you bet on the other 2 numbers and bet one unit on the field.
- This covers all numbers except the 7 (craps).
- Only play for four rolls.

Funny guy, but worth a watch for sure. **Iron Cross:** <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hJo146lYy84>
 (“Look at dat shit!” around minute 2:35: His intensity & joy in his imaginary game are frickin' hilarious!)

Iron Cross with Come Bet and 3-Point Molly <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JDn7hvNXcKE>

- Pass line (with odds after the point), two place bets (not on the point) and one field bet
- Win three times, clear place and field bets, and make a come bet.

I'm not a big dice man, but I think the videos above cover most of what you'll need to know to keep your unavoidable negative long-term expected value (EV) vs. the house to a minimum. You can practice for free at this site: <http://wizardofodds.com/play/craps/v2/>.

Some guys also look for cold tables and play a “don't pass” strategy, but the videos above are primarily betting with the shooter and set up to win more the longer the shooter rolls without crapping out ... i.e., beating the hell out of the odds, which—unlike poker—are always against the player in casino games.

However, with a wild crew at an event such as my brother's upcoming bachelor party in Vegas, there's probably not a casino game in the house that is as exciting and off the chain ... especially if the shooters are rolling hot. **Watch out now ...**

Daddy needs a new pair of shoes!!!