

See: 14 N.J.R. 559(b), 14 N.J.R. 841(b).

SUBCHAPTER 3. BACCARAT-PUNTO BANCO

19:47-3.1 Cards; number of decks; value; point count of hand

(a) Baccarat-Punto Banco shall be played with at least six decks of cards and two additional cutting cards. The cutting cards shall be opaque and in a solid color readily distinguishable from the color of the backs and edges of the playing cards, as approved by the Commission.

(b) The "Value" of the cards in each deck shall be as follows:

1. Any card from 2 to 9 shall have its face value;
2. Any Ten, Jack, Queen or King shall have a value of zero;
3. Any ace shall have a value of one.

(c) The "Point Count" of a hand shall be a single digit number from 0 to 9 inclusive and shall be determined by totaling the value of the cards in the hand. If the total of the cards in a hand is a two-digit number, the left digit of such number shall be discarded having no value and the right digit shall constitute the Point Count of the hand. Examples of this rule are as follows:

1. A hand composed of an ace, a 2 and a 4 has a Point Count of 7;
2. A hand composed of an ace, a 2 and a 9 has a total of 12 but only a Point Count of 2 since the digit 1 in the number 12 is discarded.

Amended by R.1998 d.441, effective September 8, 1998.
See: 30 N.J.R. 1772(b), 30 N.J.R. 3259(b).

In (a), deleted "(6)" preceding "decks of cards", deleted "solid yellow or green" preceding "cutting card" in the first sentence and added a new last sentence.

19:47-3.2 Wagers

(a) The following wagers shall be permitted to be made by a participant at the game of Baccarat-Punto Banco:

1. A wager on the "Banker's Hand" which shall:
 - i. Win if the "Banker's Hand" has a Point Count higher than that of the "Player's Hand";
 - ii. Lose if the "Banker's Hand" has a Point Count lower than that of the "Player's Hand";
 - iii. Be void if the Point Count of the "Banker's Hand" and the "Player's Hand" are equal.
2. A wager on the "Player's Hand" which shall:
 - i. Win if the "Player's Hand" has a Point Count higher than that of the "Banker's Hand";
 - ii. Lose if the "Player's Hand" has a Point Count lower than that of the "Banker's Hand";
 - iii. Be void if the Point Counts of the "Banker's Hand" and the "Player's Hand" are equal.

3. A "Tie Bet" which shall win if the Point Counts of the "Banker's Hand" and the "Player's Hand" are equal and shall lose if such Point Counts are not equal.

(b) Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, no casino licensee, his employees or agents shall accept any wager at the game of Baccarat-Punto Banco other than those specified in subsection (a) of this section.

(c) All wagers at Baccarat-Punto Banco shall be made by placing gaming chips or plaques and, if applicable, a match play coupon on the appropriate areas of the Baccarat-Punto Banco layout, except that verbal wagers accompanied by cash may be accepted provided that they are confirmed by the dealer and casino supervisor at the table and such cash is expeditiously converted into gaming chips or plaques in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.18.

(d) No wager at Baccarat-Punto Banco shall be made, increased or withdrawn after the dealer calling the game has announced "No More Bets."

Amended by R.1980 d.132, effective March 31, 1980.

See: 11 N.J.R. 653(a), 12 N.J.R. 294(c).

Amended by R.1980 d.186, effective April 29, 1980.

See: 12 N.J.R. 357(a).

Amended by R.1991 d.551, effective November 4, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1784(b), 23 N.J.R. 3350(a).

Added N.J.A.C. 19:47-8.3 reference for wager requirements.

Amended by R.1993 d.630, effective December 6, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 3953(a), 25 N.J.R. 5521(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.137, effective March 21, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 5902(a), 26 N.J.R. 1373(b).

19:47-3.3 Payout odds; vigorish

(a) A winning wager made on the "Player's Hand" shall be paid off by a casino licensee at odds of 1 to 1.

(b) A winning tie bet shall be paid off by a casino licensee at odds of at least 8 to 1.

(c) A winning wager made on the "Banker's Hand" shall be paid off by a casino licensee at odds of 1 to 1, except that the casino licensee shall extract a commission known as "vigorish" from the winning player in an amount equal to, in the casino licensee's discretion, either four or five percent of the amount won; provided, however, that when collecting the vigorish, the casino licensee may round off the amount of a five percent vigorish to 25 cents or the next highest multiple of 25 cents, and the amount of a four percent vigorish to 20 cents or the next highest multiple of 20 cents. A casino licensee may collect the vigorish from a player at the time the winning payout is made or may defer it to a

later time; provided, however, that all outstanding vigorish shall be collected prior to reshuffling the cards in a shoe. The amount of any vigorish not collected at the time of the winning payouts shall be evidenced by the placing of a coin or a marker button containing the amount of the vigorish owed in a rectangular space in front of the dealer on the layout imprinted with the number of the player owing such vigorish.

(d) Each casino licensee shall provide notice of any increase in the percentage of vigorish being charged at each baccarat table, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-8.3. The percentage of vigorish charged at a baccarat table shall apply to all players at that table.

Amended by R.1989 d.97, effective February 21, 1989.

See: 20 N.J.R. 2647(b), 21 N.J.R. 460(a).

Added "a coin" to (b).

Amended by R.1991 d.616, effective December 16, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 2926(a), 23 N.J.R. 3824(a).

Added new (b); deleted (c); redesignated existing (b) to (c) with changes; added new (d), codified the practice of charging either a four or five percent vigorish.

Case Notes

When casino seeks to enforce marker debt against patron, patron may raise all common-law defenses to contract, including that his capacity was impaired by voluntary intoxication. *Hakimoglu v. Trump Taj Mahal Associates*, D.N.J.1994, 876 F.Supp. 625.

19:47-3.4 Opening of table for gaming

(a) After receiving the six or more decks of cards at the table, the dealer calling the game shall sort and inspect the cards in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18(f).

(b) Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer and the verification by the floorperson assigned to the table, the cards shall be spread out face upwards on the table for visual inspection by the first participant or participants to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread out in columns by deck according to suit and in sequence. The cards in each suit shall be laid out in sequence within the suit.

(c) After the first participant or participants is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards shall be turned face downward on the table mixed thoroughly by a "washing" or "chemmy shuffle" of the cards and stacked.

Amended by R.1980 d.132, effective March 31, 1980.

See: 11 N.J.R. 653(a), 12 N.J.R. 294(c).

Amended by R.1980 d.186, effective April 29, 1980.

See: 12 N.J.R. 357(a).

Amended by R.1985 d.228, effective May 20, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 61(a), 17 N.J.R. 1341(a).

Deleted "a floorman" and substituted "the verification by the floorperson".

19:47-3.5 Shuffle and cut of the cards

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play and after each shoe of cards is completed, the casino licensee shall require its dealers to perform, at its option, either of the following procedures:

1. One or more of the dealers shall shuffle the cards so that they are randomly intermixed. After the cards have been shuffled, a dealer shall lace approximately one deck of cards so that they are evenly dispersed into the remaining stack.

i. After lacing the cards, the casino licensee may, as an additional option, require the dealer calling the game to shuffle some or all of the cards again.

ii. A casino licensee shall not initiate or terminate the use of this reshuffling option unless the casino licensee provides its surveillance department and the Commission with at least 30 minutes prior written notice; or

2. One or more of the dealers shall "wash" and stack the cards, after which each of the three dealers shall shuffle the stack of cards independently.

(b) Any shuffling or lacing option chosen for use by a casino licensee pursuant to (a) above shall be implemented at all tables within a pit.

(c) After shuffling or lacing the cards and, where applicable, reshuffling them, the dealer calling the game shall offer the stack of cards, with backs facing away from the dealer, to the participants to be cut. The dealer shall begin with the participant seated in the highest number position at the table or, in the case of reshuffle the last curator and working clockwise around a table, shall offer the stack to each participant until a participant accepts the cut. If no participant accepts the cut, the dealer shall cut the cards.

(d) The cards shall be cut by placing the cutting card in the stack at least 10 cards in from either end.

(e) Once the cutting card has been inserted into the stack, the dealer shall take all cards in front of the cutting card and place them to the back of the stack. The dealer shall then insert one cutting card in a position at least 14 cards in from the back of the stack and the second cutting card at the end of the stack. The stack of cards shall then be inserted into the dealing shoe for commencement of play. Prior to commencement of play, the dealer shall remove the first card from the shoe and place it, and an additional amount of cards equal to the amount on the first card drawn, in the discard bucket after all cards have been shown to the players. Face cards and tens count as tens. Aces count as one.

(f) After the cards have been cut and before any cards have been dealt, a casino supervisor may require the cards to be recut if he or she determines that the cut was performed improperly or in any way that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game. If a recut is required, the cards shall be recut, at the casino licensee's option, by the player who last cut the cards, or by the next person entitled to cut the cards; as determined by (c) above.

(b) The "Value" of the cards in each deck shall be as follows:

1. Any card from 2 to 9 shall have its face value;
2. Any Ten, Jack, Queen or King shall have a value of zero; and
3. Any Ace shall have a value of one.

(c) The "Point Count" of a hand shall be a single digit number from 0 to 9 inclusive and shall be determined by totaling the value of the cards in the hand. If the total of the cards in a hand is a two-digit number, the left digit of such number shall be discarded having no value and the right digit shall constitute the Point Count of the hand. Examples of this rule are as follows:

1. A hand composed of an Ace, a 2 and a 4 has a Point Count of 7; and
2. A hand composed of an Ace, a 2 and a 9 has a total of 12 but only a Point Count of 2 since the digit 1 in the number 12 is discarded.

Amended by R.1998 d.441, effective September 8, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1772(b), 30 N.J.R. 3259(b).

In (a), deleted "solid yellow or green" preceding "cutting cards" in the first sentence and added a new last sentence.

19:47-7.2 Wagers

(a) The following wagers shall be permitted to be made by a participant at the game of minibaccarat:

1. A wager on the "Banker's Hand" which shall:
 - i. Win if the "Banker's Hand" has a Point Count higher than that of the "Player's Hand";
 - ii. Lose if the "Banker's Hand" has a Point Count lower than that of the "Player's Hand"; and
 - iii. Either be void or, if the casino licensee charges vigorish in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-7.3(d), be charged a vigorish equal to 25 percent of the wager, if the Point Count of the "Banker's Hand" and the "Player's Hand" are equal.
2. A wager on the "Player's Hand" which shall:
 - i. Win if the "Player's Hand" has a Point Count higher than that of the "Banker's Hand";
 - ii. Lose if the "Player's Hand" has a Point Count lower than that of the "Banker's Hand"; and
 - iii. Be void if the Point Count of the "Banker's Hand" and the "Player's Hand" are equal.
3. A "Tie Bet" which shall win if the Point Counts of the "Banker's Hand" and the "Player's Hand" are equal and shall lose if such Point Counts are not equal.

(b) Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, no casino licensee, his employees or agents shall accept any

wager at the game of minibaccarat other than those specified in (a) above.

(c) All wagers at minibaccarat shall be made by placing gaming chips or plaques and, if applicable, a match play coupon on the appropriate areas of the minibaccarat layout except that verbal wagers accompanied by cash may be accepted provided they are confirmed by the dealer and casino supervisor at the table, and such cash is expeditiously converted into gaming chips or plaques in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.18.

(d) No wager at minibaccarat shall be made, increased or withdrawn after the dealer has announced "No More Bets".

(e) Once the first card of any hand has been removed from the shoe by the dealer, no participant shall handle, remove or alter any wagers that have been made until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager.

Amended by R.1991 d.551, effective November 4, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 1784(b), 23 N.J.R. 3350(a).

In (e): added reference to N.J.A.C. 19:47-8.3 regarding wager requirements.

Amended by R.1993 d.630, effective December 6, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 3953(a), 25 N.J.R. 5521(a).

Amended by R.1993 d.655, effective December 20, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4474(b), 25 N.J.R. 5944(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.137, effective March 21, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 5902(a), 26 N.J.R. 1373(b).

19:47-7.3 Payout odds; vigorish

(a) A winning wager made on the "Player's Hand" shall be paid off by a casino licensee at odds of 1 to 1.

(b) A winning tie bet shall be paid off by a casino licensee at odds of at least 8 to 1.

(c) A winning wager made on the "Banker's Hand" shall be paid off by a casino licensee at odds of 1 to 1. Except as otherwise provided in (d) below, the casino licensee shall extract a commission known as "vigorish" from the winning player in an amount equal to, in the casino licensee's discretion, either four or five percent of the amount won; provided, however, that when collecting the vigorish, the casino licensee may round off the vigorish to five cents or the next highest multiple of five cents. A casino licensee may collect the vigorish from a player at the time the winning payout is made or may defer it to a later time; provided, however, that all outstanding vigorish shall be collected prior to reshuffling the cards in a shoe. The amount of any vigorish not collected at the time of the winning payouts shall be evidenced by the placing of a coin or marker button containing the amount of the vigorish owed in a rectangular space in front of the dealer on the layout imprinted with the number of the player owing such vigorish.

(d) A casino licensee may, in its discretion, charge every player at a minibaccarat table a vigorish equal to 25 percent

of the player's wager on the "Banker's Hand" if the Point Counts of the "Banker's Hand" and the "Player's Hand" are equal. The vigorish authorized by this subsection shall be collected at the end of the round of play and prior to any cards being dealt for the next round of play. If a casino licensee elects to charge the vigorish authorized by this subsection, the vigorish otherwise required by (c) above shall not be collected.

(e) Each casino licensee shall provide notice of any change in the type of vigorish being charged or increase in the percentage of vigorish being charged at each minibaccarat table, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-8.3. The type and percentage of vigorish charged at a minibaccarat table shall apply to all players at that table.

Amended by R.1991 d.616, effective December 16, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 2926(a), 23 N.J.R. 3824(a).

Added new (b); deleted (c); redesignated existing (b) to (c) with changes; added new (d), codified practice of collecting four or five percent vigorish.

Amended by R.1993 d.655, effective December 20, 1993.
See: 25 N.J.R. 4474(b), 25 N.J.R. 5944(a).

19:47-7.4 Opening of table for gaming

(a) After receiving the six or more decks of cards at the table, the dealer calling the game shall sort and inspect the cards and the floorperson assigned to the table shall verify the inspection, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18(f).

(b) Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer and the verification by the floorperson assigned to the table, the cards shall be spread out face upwards on the table for visual inspection by the first participant or participants to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread out in horizontal rows by deck according to suit and in sequence. The cards in each suit shall be laid out in sequence within the suit.

(c) After the first participant or participants are afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards shall be turned face downward on the table, mixed thoroughly by a "washing" or "chemmy shuffle" of the cards and stacked.

19:47-7.5 Shuffle and cut of the cards

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play and after each shoe of cards is completed, the dealer shall shuffle the cards so that they are randomly intermixed.

(b) After the cards have been shuffled, the casino licensee shall require the dealer, at its option, to either:

1. Leave the entire stack of cards intermixed but not entirely squared off ("feathered") so that the floorperson can verify that the shuffle did not result in any uneven distribution of cards; or

2. Lace approximately one deck of cards so that they are evenly dispersed into the remaining stack.

i. After lacing the cards, the casino licensee may, as an additional option, require the dealer to shuffle some or all of the cards again.

ii. A casino licensee shall not initiate or terminate the use of this reshuffling option unless the casino licensee provides its surveillance department and the Commission with at least 30 minutes prior written notice.

(c) Any shuffling or lacing option chosen for use by a casino licensee pursuant to (b) above shall be implemented at all tables within a pit.

(d) After shuffling or lacing the cards and, where applicable, reshuffling them, the dealer shall offer the stack of cards, with backs facing away from the dealer, to the participants to be cut. The dealer shall begin with the participant seated in the highest number position at the table and, working clockwise around the table, shall offer the stack to each participant until a participant accepts the cut. If no participant accepts the cut, the dealer shall cut the cards.

(e) The cards shall be cut by placing the cutting card in the stack at least 10 cards in from either end.

(f) Once the cutting card has been inserted into the stack, the dealer shall take all cards in front of the cutting card and place them to the back of the stack. The dealer shall then insert one cutting card in a position at least 14 cards in from the back of the stack, and the second cutting card at the end of the stack. The stack of cards shall then be inserted into the dealing shoe for commencement of play. Prior to commencement of play, the dealer shall remove the first card from the shoe and place it, and an additional amount of cards equal to the amount on the first card drawn, in the discard rack after all cards have been shown to the participants. Face cards and tens count as tens. Aces count as one.

(g) After the cards have been cut and before any cards have been dealt, a casino supervisor may require the cards to be recut if he or she determines that the cut was performed improperly or in any way that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game. If a recut is required, the cards shall be recut, at the casino licensee's option, by the player who last cut the cards, or by the next person entitled to cut the cards, as determined by (d) above.

Petition for Rulemaking: To eliminate the lacing of the cards from the shuffle and cut procedures required in baccarat, punto banco and minibaccarat.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1750(c).

Amended by R.1994 d.283, effective June 6, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 1210(a), 26 N.J.R. 2477(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.429, effective August 7, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1176(a), 27 N.J.R. 2974(a).

At (b) added notification requirement for initiation or termination of reshuffle option.

Amended by R.1996 d.223, effective May 20, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 1362(b), 28 N.J.R. 2572(b).

Added recut provisions.
Amended by R.1996 d.478, effective October 7, 1996.
See: 28 N.J.R. 3522(a), 28 N.J.R. 4518(b).

19:47-7.6 Dealing shoe

(a) All cards used to game at minibaccarat shall be of backs of the same color and design and shall be dealt from a dealing shoe specifically designed for such purpose and located on the table to the left of dealer.

19:47-7.7 Hands of player and banker; procedure for dealing initial two cards to each hand

(a) There shall be two hands dealt in the game of minibaccarat one of which shall be denominated the "Player's Hand" and the other denominated the "Banker's Hand".

(b) At the commencement of each round of play, the dealer calling the game shall announce "No More Bets".

(c) The dealer shall deal an initial four cards from the shoe. The first and third cards dealt shall constitute the first and second cards of the "Player's Hand." The second and fourth cards dealt shall constitute the first and second cards of the "Banker's Hand." The casino licensee may deal the initial four cards in accordance with one of the following options:

1. Each dealer shall remove cards from the shoe with his or her left hand, turn them face up and then place them on the appropriate area of the layout with his or her right hand. The first and third cards dealt shall be placed on the area designated for the "Player's Hand" and the second and fourth cards dealt shall be placed on the area designated for the "Banker's Hand," or

2. The first and third cards dealt shall be placed face down in the area designated for the "Player's Hand" and the second and fourth cards dealt shall be placed face down underneath the right corner of the dealing shoe until the "Player's Hand" is called as provided for in N.J.A.C. 19:47-7.8(a), at which time the second and fourth cards shall be turned face up and placed on the area designated for the "Banker's Hand."

Amended by R.1987 d.395, effective October 5, 1987.
See: 19 N.J.R. 54(b), 19 N.J.R. 1826(b).

(c) substantially amended.

Amended by R.1992 d.59, effective February 3, 1992.
See: 23 N.J.R. 2927(a), 24 N.J.R. 489(a).

Provided for two optional ways of dealing.

19:47-7.8 Procedure for dealing of additional cards

(a) After the dealer positions the cards in accordance with either N.J.A.C. 19:47-7.7(c)1 or 2, the dealer shall announce the point count of the "Player's Hand" and then the "Banker's Hand."

10. Dragon head and phoenix tail from the left: The dealer shall indicate the use of dragon head and phoenix tail from the left by placing all four tiles in the first and second stacks from the dealer's left directly on top of the four tiles in the third and fourth stacks from the dealer's left and then pushing forward the top two tiles in each of the eight tile stacks that are created (forming the "dragon head"). The dealer shall deliver the four tiles pushed forward to the starting position. The top tile from each of the four stacks of four tiles to the dealer's right (the "phoenix tail") shall be delivered to the next position. The dealer shall deliver the top two tiles from each of the two stacks on the dealer's left to the third position and the top tile from each of the four stacks on the dealer's right to the fourth position. This procedure shall be repeated until four tiles have been delivered to all eight positions.

(l) After all the stacks of tiles have been dealt, the dealer shall, without exposing the tiles, collect any stacks dealt to a position where there is no wager and place the stacks with the dead hand on the layout to the left of the dealer in front of the table inventory container.

(m) Once all tiles have been dealt and any tiles dealt to positions with no wagers have been collected, the dealer shall place the cover on the pai gow shaker and shake the shaker once. The pai gow shaker shall then be placed to the right of the dealer.

(n) If the tiles dealt to the dealer have not been previously collected, after each player has set his or her two hands and placed them on the layout, the two hands of the dealer shall then be set. Once the dealer has formed a high and low hand, the dealer shall expose the hands of the bank and determine if the hands of the dealer are higher in rank than the hands of the bank. If the dealer wins, the tiles of the dealer shall be stacked face up to the right of the table inventory container with the amount wagered by the dealer against the bank placed on top. If the dealer pushes, the dealer shall return the amount wagered by the dealer against the bank to the table inventory container. If the dealer loses, the amount wagered by the dealer against the bank shall be moved to the center of the layout.

(o) If banking is in effect, once the dealer has determined the outcome of the wager of the dealer against the bank, if any, the dealer shall expose the hands of each player starting with the player farthest to the right of the dealer and proceeding counterclockwise around the table. The dealer shall compare the high and low hand of each player to the high and low hand of the bank and shall announce if the wager shall win, lose or be considered a push against the bank. All losing wagers shall be immediately collected and placed in the center of the table. After all hands have been exposed, all winning wagers, including the dealer's wager, shall be paid by the dealer with the gaming chips located in the center of the table. If this amount becomes exhausted before all winning wagers have been paid, the dealer shall

collect from the bank an amount equal to the remaining winning wagers and place that amount in the center of the layout. The remaining winning wagers shall be paid from the amount in the center of the layout. If, after collecting all losing wagers and paying all winning wagers, there is a surplus in the center of the table, this amount shall be charged a five percent vigorish in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-10.7. Once the vigorish has been paid, the remaining amount shall be given to the bank.

(p) If co-banking is in effect, once the dealer has set the co-bank hand pursuant to (e) above, the dealer shall expose the hands of each player starting with the player farthest to the right of the dealer and proceeding counterclockwise around the table. The dealer shall compare the high and low hand of each player to the high and low hand of the bank and shall announce if the wager shall win, lose or be considered a push against the bank. All losing wagers shall be immediately collected and placed in the center of the table. After all hands have been exposed, all winning wagers shall be paid by the dealer with the gaming chips located in the center of the table. If this amount becomes exhausted before all winning wagers have been paid, the dealer shall collect from the co-bank, an amount equal to one-half of the remaining winning wagers and place that amount in the center of the layout. The dealer shall remove an amount equal to one-half of the remaining winning wagers from the table inventory container and place that amount in the center of the layout. The remaining winning wagers shall be paid from the total amount in the center of the layout. If, after collecting all losing wagers and paying all winning wagers, there is a surplus in the center of the table, this amount will be counted and the dealer shall place one-half of this amount into the table inventory container. The dealer shall collect a five percent vigorish in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-10.7 on the remaining amount and place the vigorish amount in the table inventory container. The remaining amount shall then be given to the co-bank.

(q) Immediately after a winning wager of the dealer is paid, this amount and the original wager shall be returned to the table inventory container.

(r) Each player who has a winning wager against the bank shall pay a five percent vigorish on the amount won to the dealer, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-10.7.

Amended by R.1997 d.135, effective March 17, 1997.
See: 29 N.J.R. 113(a), 29 N.J.R. 932(a).

Substantially amended (g) through (j); and added (k)1 through 10.

19:47-10.9 Irregularities; invalid roll of the dice

(a) If the dealer uncovers the pai gow shaker and all three dice do not land flat on the bottom of the shaker, the dealer shall call a "No roll" and reshake the dice.

(b) If the dealer uncovers the pai gow shaker and a die or dice fall out of the shaker, the dealer shall call a "no roll" and reshake the dice.

(c) If the dealer incorrectly totals the dice and deals the tiles to the wrong positions, all hands shall be void and the dealer shall reshuffle the tiles.

(d) If the dealer exposes any of the tiles dealt to a player, the player has the option of voiding the hand. Without looking at the unexposed tiles, the player shall make the decision either to play out the hand or to void the hand.

(e) If a tile dealt to the dealer, bank, the dead hand or any position where there is no wager is exposed, all hands shall be void and the tiles shall be reshuffled.

(f) If the dealer does not set his or her hands in the manner submitted to the Commission pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-10.7, the hands shall be reset in accordance with such submission and the round of play completed.

Amended by R.1996 d.71, effective February 5, 1996.
See: 27 N.J.R. 4178(b), 28 N.J.R. 901(a).

19:47-10.10 A player wagering on more than one betting area

(a) Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 19:47-10.8(f), a casino licensee may, in its discretion, permit a player to wager on no more than two betting areas at a pai gow table, which areas must be adjacent to each other.

(b) If a casino licensee permits a player to wager on two adjacent betting areas, the tiles dealt to each betting area shall be played separately. If the two wagers are not equal, the player shall be required to rank and set the hand with the larger wager before ranking and setting the other hand. If the amounts wagered are equal, each hand shall be played separately in a counterclockwise rotation with the first hand being ranked and set before the player proceeds to rank and set the second hand. Once a hand has been ranked and set and placed face down on the layout, the hand may not be changed.

Repealed by R.1993 d.630, effective December 6, 1993.
See: 25 N.J.R. 3953(a), 25 N.J.R. 5521(a).

Section was "Minimum and maximum wagers". Recodified from 19:47-10.11.

SUBCHAPTER 11. PAI GOW POKER

19:47-11.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Bank" shall mean the player who elects to have the other players and dealer play against him or her and accepts the responsibility to pay all winning wagers.

"Co-banking" is defined in N.J.A.C. 19:47-11.10.

"Copy hand" shall mean either a two card hand or a five card hand of a player which is identical in rank to the corresponding two card hand or five card hand of the dealer or bank.

"High hand" shall mean the five card hand which is formed from the seven cards dealt at the game of pai gow poker so as to rank equal to or higher than the two card low hand.

"Low hand" shall mean the two card hand which is formed from the seven cards dealt at the game of pai gow poker so as to rank lower than the five card high hand.

"Marker" shall mean an object or objects used to designate the bank and the co-bank, as approved by the Commission.

"Push" is a tie as defined in N.J.A.C. 19:47-11.9(h).

"Rank or ranking" shall mean the relative position of a card or group of cards as set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-11.3.

"Second highest or low hand" shall mean the two card hand which is formed from the seven cards dealt at the game of pai gow poker so as to rank equal to or lower than the five card high hand.

"Set or setting the hands" shall mean the process of forming a high hand and low hand from the seven cards dealt.

"Suit" shall mean one of the four categories of cards, that is, diamond, spade, club or heart.

19:47-11.2 Cards; number of decks

(a) Except as provided in (b) below, pai gow poker shall be played with one deck of cards with backs of the same color and design, one additional cutting card and one additional cover card to be used in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-11.6. The cutting card and cover card shall be opaque and in a solid color readily distinguishable from the color of the backs and edges of the playing cards, as approved by the Commission. The deck of cards used to play pai gow poker shall meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.17 and shall include one joker. Nothing in this section shall prohibit a casino licensee from using decks which are manufactured with two jokers provided that only one joker is used for gaming at pai gow poker.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is used for pai gow poker, a casino licensee shall be permitted to use a second deck of cards to play the game, provided that:

1. Each deck of cards complies with the requirements of (a) above;
2. The backs of the cards in the two decks are of a different color;
3. One deck is being shuffled by the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being dealt or used to play the game;
4. Both decks are continuously alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play; and
5. The cards from one deck only shall be placed in the discard rack at any given time.

Amended by R.1993 d.192, effective May 3, 1993.

See: 24 N.J.R. 4247(a), 25 N.J.R. 1887(b).

In (a), added "and one additional solid yellow or green cover card ... set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-11.6. In (b), added provision for dealing from dealer's hand.

Amended by R.1994 d.224, effective May 2, 1994.

See: 26 N.J.R. 344(a), 26 N.J.R. 1853(b).

Amended by R.1998 d.441, effective September 8, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1772(b), 30 N.J.R. 3259(b).

In (a), deleted "solid yellow or green" throughout the first sentence and added a new second sentence.

19:47-11.3 Pai gow poker rankings; cards; poker hands

(a) The rank of the cards used in pai gow poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, and two. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a "straight flush" or a "straight" formed with a two, three, four and five. Except as otherwise provided in (c) below, the joker shall be used and ranked as an ace.

(b) The permissible poker hands at the game of pai gow poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

1. "Five aces" is a high hand consisting of four aces and a joker;
2. "Royal flush" is a high hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and ten of the same suit;
3. "Straight flush" is a high hand consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with ace, two, three, four, and five being the highest ranking straight flush; king, queen, jack, 10, and nine being the second highest ranking straight flush, and six, five, four, three and 2 being the lowest ranking straight flush;
4. "Four-of-a-kind" is a high hand consisting of four cards of the same rank regardless of suit, with four aces being the highest ranking four-of-a-kind and four twos being the lowest ranking four-of-a-kind;
5. "Full house" is a high hand consisting of a "three-of-a-kind" and a "pair," with three aces and two kings

being the highest ranking full house and three twos and two threes being the lowest ranking full house;

6. "Flush" is a high hand consisting of five cards of the same suit. When comparing two flushes the provisions of (e) below shall be applied;

7. "Straight" is a high hand consisting of five cards of consecutive rank, regardless of suit, with an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 being the highest ranking straight; an ace, two, three, four and five being the second highest ranking straight, and a six, five, four, three and two being the lowest ranking straight;

8. "Three-of-a-kind" is a high hand containing three cards of the same rank regardless of suit, with three aces being the highest ranking three-of-a-kind and three twos being the lowest ranking three-of-a-kind;

9. "Two pairs" is a high hand containing two "pairs," with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pair hand and two threes and two twos being the lowest ranking two pair hand; and

10. "Pair" is either a high hand or a low hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, regardless of suit, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two twos being the lowest ranking pair.

(c) For purposes of setting the hands, a joker may be used as any card to complete a "straight," a "flush," a "straight flush" or a "royal flush."

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of (b) above, a casino licensee may, in its discretion, determine that a straight flush formed with an ace, two, three, four and five of the same suit shall be the lowest ranking straight flush and that a straight formed with an ace, two, three, four and five, regardless of suit, shall be the lowest ranking straight. If a casino licensee chooses to exercise this option, it shall so indicate in its Rules of the Games Submission.

(e) When comparing two high hands or two low hands which are of identical poker and hand rank pursuant to the provisions of this section, or which contain none of the poker hands authorized herein, the hand which contains the highest ranking card as provided in (a) above which is not contained in the other hand shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the two hands are of identical rank after the application of this subsection, the hands shall be considered a copy hand.

19:47-11.4 Pai gow poker shaker and dice; computerized random number generator

(a) Pai gow poker shall be played with three dice which shall be maintained at all times inside a pai gow poker shaker. The dice used to play pai gow poker shall meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.15 and the pai gow poker shaker shall meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13B.

1. The pai gow poker shaker and the dice contained therein shall be the responsibility of the dealer and shall never be left unattended while at the table.

2. No dice that have been placed in a pai gow poker shaker for use in gaming shall remain on a table for more than 24 hours.

(b) As an alternative to the pai gow poker shaker and dice described in (a) above, a casino licensee may, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13B and 19:47-11.8C, play the game of pai gow poker with a computerized random number generator that automatically selects and displays a number from 1 through 7 inclusive.

Amended by R.1994 d.224, effective May 2, 1994.
See: 26 N.J.R. 344(a), 26 N.J.R. 1853(b).

19:47-11.5 Opening of the table for gaming

(a) After receiving a deck of cards at the table in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18, the dealer shall sort and inspect the cards and the floorperson assigned to the table shall verify the inspection as required by N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18. If the deck of cards used by the casino licensee contains two jokers, the dealer and a casino supervisor shall ensure that only one joker is utilized and that the other joker is torn in half and discarded.

(b) Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer and the verification by the floorperson assigned to the table, the cards shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first player to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread out according to suit and in sequence and shall include one joker.

(c) After the first player is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards shall be turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a "washing" or "chemmy shuffle" of the cards and stacked. Once the cards have been stacked, they shall be shuffled in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-11.6.

(d) If a casino licensee uses an automated card shuffling device to play the game of pai gow poker and two decks of cards are received at the table pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18 and 19:47-11.2, each deck of cards shall be separately sorted, inspected, verified, spread, inspected, mixed, stacked and shuffled in accordance with the provisions of (a) through (c) above immediately prior to the commencement of play.

(e) All cards opened for use on a pai gow poker table and dealt from a manual or an automated dealing shoe shall be changed at least every eight hours. All cards opened for use on a pai gow poker table and dealt from the hand shall be changed at least every four hours. Procedures for compliance with this subsection must be submitted to the Commission for approval.

Amended by R.1993 d.192, effective May 3, 1993.
See: 24 N.J.R. 4247(a), 25 N.J.R. 1887(b).

In (d), specified changing cards when dealing from a shoe and dealing from the hand.

Amended by R.1994 d.224, effective May 2, 1994.
See: 26 N.J.R. 344(a), 26 N.J.R. 1853(b).