

CHAPTER 47

RULES OF THE GAMES

Authority

N.J.S.A. 5:12-63c, 69a and e, 70f and 100.

Source and Effective Date

R.2001 d.116, effective March 9, 2001.
See: 33 N.J.R. 178(a), 33 N.J.R. 1123(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 47, Rules of the Games, expires on March 9, 2006.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 47, Rules of the Games, was adopted as R.1978 d.186, effective June 2, 1978. See: 10 N.J.R. 177(a), 10 N.J.R. 306(e).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 47, Rules of the Games, was readopted as R.1983 d.163, effective May 4, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 429(b), 15 N.J.R. 932(a).

Subchapter 8, Regulations Concerning All Games, was adopted as R.1983 d.551, effective December 5, 1983. See: 15 N.J.R. 1572(a), 15 N.J.R. 2047(a).

Subchapter 7, Minibaccarat, was adopted as R.1986 d.308, effective August 4, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 1096(a), 18 N.J.R. 1614(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 47, Rules of the Games, was readopted as R.1988 d.233, effective April 28, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 639(a), 20 N.J.R. 1209(d).

Subchapter 6, Red Dog, was adopted as R.1991 d.532, effective November 4, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 2231(a), 23 N.J.R. 3348(a).

Subchapter 9, Sic Bo, was adopted as R.1991 d.615, effective December 16, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 2922(a), 23 N.J.R. 3820(b).

Subchapter 11, Pai Gow Poker, was adopted as R.1992 d.406, effective October 19, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 569(a), 24 N.J.R. 1517(a), 24 N.J.R. 3742(a).

Subchapter 10, Pai Gow, was adopted as R.1992 d.411, effective October 19, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 558(a), 24 N.J.R. 3753(a).

Subchapter 12, Pokette, was adopted as R.1992 d.453, effective November 16, 1992. See: 24 N.J.R. 2140(a), 24 N.J.R. 4279(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 47, Rules of the Games, was readopted as R.1993 d.203, effective April 15, 1993. See: 25 N.J.R. 919(a), 25 N.J.R. 1999(d).

Subchapter 14, Poker, was adopted as new rules by R.1994 d.141, effective March 21, 1994. See: 25 N.J.R. 5906(a), 26 N.J.R. 1380(a).

Subchapter 17, Double Down Stud, was adopted as new rules by R.1994 d.593, effective December 5, 1994. See: 26 N.J.R. 1323(a), 26 N.J.R. 4445(b), 26 N.J.R. 4790(a).

Subchapter 15, Keno, was adopted as new rules by R.1995 d.285, effective June 5, 1995. See: 26 N.J.R. 2218(a), 27 N.J.R. 2254(a).

Subchapter 16, Caribbean Stud Poker, was adopted as new rules by R.1995 d.430, effective August 7, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 1767(b), 27 N.J.R. 2967(a).

Subchapter 18, Let It Ride Poker, was adopted as new rules by R.1995 d. 534, effective October 2, 1995. See: 27 N.J.R. 2119(a), 27 N.J.R. 3795(b).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 47, Rules of the Games, was readopted as R.1996 d.178, effective March 11, 1996. See: 28 N.J.R. 241(b), 28 N.J.R. 1881(b).

Subchapter 20, Three Card Poker, was adopted as new rules by R.1997 d.134, effective March 17, 1997. See: 28 N.J.R. 2531(a), 29 N.J.R. 928(a).

Subchapter 13, Mini-Dice, was adopted as new rules by R.1997 d.427, effective October 6, 1997. See: 28 N.J.R. 5060(a), 29 N.J.R. 4307(b).

Subchapter 21, Fast Action Hold'Em, was adopted as new rules by R.1998 d.371, effective July 20, 1998. See: 29 N.J.R. 4672(a), 30 N.J.R. 2639(b).

Subchapter 22, Casino War, was adopted as new rules by R.1999 d.29, effective January 19, 1999. See: 30 N.J.R. 30(a), 31 N.J.R. 144(a).

Petition for Rulemaking. See: 31 N.J.R. 559(c), 31 N.J.R. 2277(b).

Subchapter 19, Spanish 21, was adopted as new rules by R.2000 d.2, effective January 3, 2000. See: 30 N.J.R. 4149(a), 32 N.J.R. 71(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 47, Rules of the Games, was readopted as R.2001 d.116, effective March 9, 2001. See: Source and Effective Date.

Petition for Rulemaking. See: 36 N.J.R. 5009(d).

Petition for Rulemaking. See: 37 N.J.R. 146(c), 917(c).

Subchapter 28, Texas Hold 'Em Bonus Poker, was adopted as new rules by R.2005 d.356, effective October 17, 2005. See: 37 N.J.R. 2301(a), 37 N.J.R. 4034(a).

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Amended by R.1999 d.123, effective April 19, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3394(a), 31 N.J.R. 1082(b).

Deleted "High-low split eight or better" definition. Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 33 N.J.R. 4396(b), 34 N.J.R. 790(c).

Amended by R.2002 d.157, effective May 20, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 380(a), 34 N.J.R. 1852(c).

Inserted "Half-kill" and "Kill".

19:47-14.2 Cards; number of decks

(a) Poker shall be played with one deck of cards with backs of the same color and design and one additional cover card. The 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. Two decks of cards shall be maintained for use at each poker table at all times. Each deck maintained at the poker table shall be visually distinguishable in some manner from the other deck. While one deck is in use, the other deck shall be stored in a designated area pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13E, unless an automated card shuffling device is being used.

(b) Each deck of cards maintained at the poker table may be rotated in and out of play; provided, however, that no deck of cards shall be used at the table for more than two hours without the dealer or floorperson placing the 52 cards into suit and sequence. All decks opened for use on a poker table shall be changed at least every four hours.

(c) Each gaming day, decks of cards with distinguishable card backings as required by N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.17(j) shall be distributed among all open poker tables in a manner determined by the poker shift supervisor or supervisor thereof. The distribution of decks among tables shall consider, at a minimum, the table limits, the location of the table and the type of poker available at each table and shall be intended to ensure the integrity of gaming at poker.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device is being used, a casino licensee shall use both decks of cards, and:

1. The backs of the cards in the two decks shall be of different colors;
2. One deck shall be shuffled by the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being dealt or used to play the game; and
3. Both decks shall be continuously alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play.

Amended by R.1997 d.519, effective December 1, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4082(a), 29 N.J.R. 5075(b).

In (a), added reference to use of an automated card shuffling device; and added (d).

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 "cover card" in the first sentence and added a new second sentence.

Petition for Rulemaking.

See: 36 N.J.R. 1617(b).

19:47-14.3 Poker rankings

(a) The rank of the cards used in all types of poker other than low poker, for the determination of winning hands, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three and two. All suits shall be considered equal in rank. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a "straight flush" or a "straight" formed with, as applicable, a two and three (in a three card poker hand) or a two, three, four and five (in a five card poker hand).

(b) The permissible high poker hands in poker games that result in a five card hand, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

1. "Royal flush" is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and ten of the same suit;
2. "Straight flush" is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with king, queen, jack, 10 and nine being the highest ranking straight flush and ace, two, three, four and five being the lowest ranking straight flush;
3. "Four-of-a-kind" is a 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;
4. "Full house" is a hand consisting of "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;
5. "Flush" is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit;
6. "Straight" is a hand consisting of five cards of consecutive rank, regardless of suit, with an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 being the highest ranking straight and an ace, two, three, four and five being the lowest ranking straight; provided, however, that an ace may not be combined with any other sequence of cards for purposes of determining a winning hand (e.g., queen, king, ace, two, three);
7. "Three-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of 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;
8. "Two pairs" is a hand consisting of two "pairs," with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pair and two threes and two twos being the lowest ranking two pair; and
9. "One pair" is a 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) The permissible high poker hands in poker games that result in a three card hand, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

1. "Royal flush" is a hand consisting of an ace, king and queen of the same suit;
2. "Straight flush" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with king, queen and jack being the highest ranking straight flush and a three, two and ace being the lowest ranking straight flush;
3. "Three-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of 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;
4. "Straight" is a hand consisting of three cards of consecutive rank, regardless of suit, with an ace, king and queen being the highest ranking straight and a three, two and ace being the lowest ranking straight; provided, however, that an ace may not be combined with a king and two for purposes of determining a winning hand;
5. "Flush" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit; and
6. "One pair" is a 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.

(d) When comparing two hands which are of identical poker hand rank pursuant to the provisions of (b) or (c) above, as applicable, or which contain none of the poker hands authorized for that game, the hand which contains the highest ranking card as provided in (a) above or (e) below, whichever is applicable, which is not contained in the other hand shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of identical rank after the application of this subsection, the hands shall be considered tied and the pot shall be equally divided among the players with the tied hands.

(e) The rank of the cards used in low poker, for the determination of winning hands, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, 10, jack, queen and king. All suits shall be considered equal in rank.

(f) The ranking of a low poker hand as determined by the holding of a five or three card hand shall be the inverse of the rankings for a high poker hand as set forth in (b) and (c) above; provided, however, that straights and flushes shall not be considered for purposes of determining a winning hand at low poker.

(g) In all games of poker, a hand shall be ranked according to the cards actually contained therein and not by the player's opinion or statement of its value.

Amended by R.1999 d.123, effective April 19, 1999.

See: 30 N.J.R. 3394(a), 31 N.J.R. 1082(b).
Rewrote the section.

19:47-14.4 Opening the table for gaming

(a) After receiving two decks of cards at the table, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18 and N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.2, the dealer shall sort and inspect the cards and the floorperson or supervisor thereof shall verify the inspection as required by N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18.

(b) Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer and the verification by the floorperson or supervisor thereof, the cards shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first two players to be seated at the table. The cards shall be spread out according to suit and in sequence.

(c) Immediately prior to the commencement of play and not before a minimum of two players are afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards from each deck at the table, each deck shall be separately turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a "washing" or "chemmy shuffle" of the cards and stacked. Each deck of cards shall be shuffled in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.5.

1. If an automated shuffling device is not being used, one of the decks shall be cut in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.5 and the other deck shall be maintained pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13E for subsequent use pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.2. In the alternative, a casino licensee may wash, shuffle and cut only the deck intended for immediate use and maintain the other deck pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13E. Upon rotation pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.2, the other deck shall be washed, shuffled and cut in accordance with the requirements herein and N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.5.

2. If an automated shuffling device is being used, one of the decks shall be cut in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.5 and the other deck shall be placed or left in the automated shuffler for the next round of play.

Amended by R.1997 d.519, effective December 1, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4082(a), 29 N.J.R. 5075(b).

Rewrote (c) as (c) and (c)1; in (c)1, added reference to use of an automated card shuffling device; and added (c)2.

19:47-14.5 Shuffle and cut of the cards

(a) Immediately prior to commencement of play and after the completion of each round of play, the dealer shall shuffle the entire deck of cards, either manually or by use of an automated card shuffling device, so that they are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack.

(b) After the cards have been shuffled, stacked, and placed on the table in front of the dealer, the dealer shall, using one hand, cut the deck by:

(e) If any player folds after making a forced bet or blind bet or on a round of checking, that player's position shall continue to receive a card until there is a subsequent wager at the table.

(f) Misdeals shall cause all the cards to be returned to the dealer for a reshuffle. The following errors shall be cause for a misdeal:

1. Failure to shuffle and cut the cards in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.5;
2. Dealing to an incorrect starting position if the error has been detected prior to two players voluntarily placing wagers into the pot;
3. If more than one card is found face-up in the deck; and
4. Failure to deal to an eligible seated player, if the error has been detected prior to two or more players voluntarily placing wagers into the pot.

(g) If one or more cards are mistakenly dealt to an ineligible player, only those cards dealt to that player shall be discarded and the round of play shall be continued.

(h) If at any time during a round of play, missing cards are discovered or additional cards are found, the round of play shall be called dead, all gaming chips and gaming plaques in the pot shall be returned to the appropriate player and the deck shall be placed pursuant to the procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18.

(i) A card found face upwards in the deck shall not be used in the game and shall be placed with the pile of discarded cards.

(j) A player who fails to take reasonable means to protect his or her hand shall have no redress if his or her hand becomes a fouled hand or the dealer accidentally collects the hand.

1. Hole cards in a game of stud poker shall be considered protected for purposes of fouling a hand.
2. If a protected hand comes into contact with discarded cards, every effort shall be made to reconstruct the hand and complete the round of play.
3. A player who has a protected hand collected by the dealer or fouled by discarded cards shall be entitled to a refund from the pot of all monies that he or she put in the pot if the player has been a victim of and not a contributor to the error.
4. A player who leaves the table without comment and has an unprotected hand shall be assumed to have no interest in the pot, and his or her cards shall be collected and discarded.

(k) Verbal statements which are clearly audible by and directed to the dealer shall always have precedence over

actions and gestures and are considered binding on the player whose turn it is to act.

1. A player shall be deemed to have folded if, when faced with making or calling a wager, he or she:

- i. Discards his or her hand face-down towards the pile of discarded cards or the pot; or
- ii. Turns face-down his or her up-cards in a game of stud poker.

2. If a player is obligated to place a wager by virtue of a verbal statement or forced betting situation, throwing away his or her cards does not relieve the player of that obligation.

(l) If a player's first or second hole card is accidentally turned face-up in the dealing process, the third card shall be dealt face-down. If both hole cards are accidentally turned face-up, the dealer shall collect the two cards, call the player's hand dead and return the player's ante, if applicable.

(m) If a card is accidentally dealt off the table, it shall not be used in that round of play and shall be placed with the pile of discarded cards after a thorough examination by the dealer.

(n) If any of the face-down cards in the games of Hold 'em or Omaha are accidentally turned face-up in the dealing process, the dealer shall exchange the exposed card with a card from the top of the deck and place the exposed card with the pile of discarded cards.

(o) If an automated card shuffling device is being used and the device jams, stops shuffling during a shuffle, or fails to complete a shuffle cycle, the cards shall be reshuffled in accordance with procedures approved by the Commission.

(p) Any automated card shuffling device shall be removed from a gaming table before another method of shuffling may be utilized at that table.

(q) Nothing herein shall preclude a casino licensee from clarifying and supplementing the above irregularities through its internal control procedures, as submitted to the Commission for review and approval.

Amended by R.1997 d.519, effective December 1, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4082(a), 29 N.J.R. 5075(b).

Inserted (o) and (p); and recodified existing (o) as (q).

19:47-14.16 Conduct of players

(a) Each player in a poker game shall play the game solely to improve his or her chance of winning and shall take no action to improve another player's chance of winning. No player may communicate any information to another player which could assist the other player in any manner respecting the outcome of a poker game.

(b) A casino licensee which has reasonable cause to believe that a player has acted or is acting in violation of (a) above shall require the player to leave the game and shall notify the Commission and Division as expeditiously as possible.

(c) Any casino licensee which takes action under (b) above in good faith shall not be liable civilly to such person.

19:47-14.17 Minimum and maximum wagers

Each casino licensee shall provide notice in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-8.3 of the minimum and maximum wagers in effect at each poker table, except that, if all patrons at a poker table agree to increase the minimum wager at the table, the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-8.3(b) need not be followed. Such sign shall also include any restrictions with regard to the maximum number of raises that may be permitted for any round of betting.

19:47-14.18 Waiting list

A casino licensee may maintain a list of players who have requested to be seated at a particular type of poker table. All vacant seats shall be filled on a first come first served basis. The casino licensee shall be permitted to announce only those seating vacancies for which an individual has been placed on a waiting list.

19:47-14.19 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 15. KENO

19:47-15.1 Definitions

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

“Conditioning” means the coding which the player and computer mark on the keno request and keno ticket, respectively, to indicate the type of keno ticket being wagered and the rate at which the keno ticket is to be played.

“House advantage” means the difference between true odds (the statistical probability of a selected event occurring) and the established payoff odds (the payoff rate at which a winner will be paid if the selected event occurs).

“Keno request” means a keno writer request or a keno runner request.

“Keno runner request” means a two-part form or a one-part form with a detachable portion which serves as a receipt used by a patron to select the desired number or numbers (spots) for one or more keno games by giving the form to a keno runner.

“Keno ticket” means a one-part computer generated form which is issued by a keno writer or keno runner based on the information recorded on a keno request or, in the case of keno writer, verbalized by a patron.

“Keno ticket receipt” means a one-part form given to a patron by a keno runner as a receipt for a winning keno ticket that the patron has given to the keno runner to redeem, which contains, at a minimum, the serial number of the keno ticket.

“Keno writer request” means a one-part form used by a patron to select the desired number or numbers (spots) for one or more keno games by giving the form directly to a keno writer.

“Quick-pick” means a straight or basic keno ticket in which the computer system randomly selects the marked number or numbers (spots) for the patron.

“Rate card” means the document issued by a casino licensee listing the available types of wagers, payoff rates, wagering format and such other information as required by this chapter.

“Spots” means the number or number selected by a player for a keno game. For example, a keno ticket based on a keno request on which a player selected three numbers is referred to as a “three-spot” keno ticket.

“Winning keno ticket report” means a report utilized by a keno runner who generates and redeems keno tickets at a keno work station to verify and directly redeem winning keno tickets. The report may be generated by a keno supervisor or print automatically after each keno game, shall list all winning keno tickets with a value of \$500.00 or less generated by each keno runner for that game and shall contain, at a minimum:

1. The identification code of the keno runner or the keno work station at which the keno runner generated the ticket;
2. The number of the keno game; and
3. As to each winning keno ticket:
 - i. The total payout; and
 - ii. A portion of the serial number sufficient to permit a keno runner to verify a winning keno ticket but insufficient to enable a person to calculate or interpret with accuracy the entire serial number of the ticket.

Amended by R.1996 d.361, effective August 5, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 2815(a), 28 N.J.R. 3824(a).

Amended by R.1998 d.164, effective April 6, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2632(a), 30 N.J.R. 1304(a).

Rewrote “Keno request” and “Keno ticket”; and inserted “Keno runner request”, “Keno ticket receipt”, and “Keno writer request”.

Amended by R.2004 d.176, effective May 3, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1798(a), 36 N.J.R. 2204(c).