

19:47-16.4 Shuffle and cut of the cards

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play and after each round of play has been completed, the dealer shall shuffle the cards, either manually or by use of an automated card shuffling device, so that the cards are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack; provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the use of an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the shuffling of the cards, inserts the stack of cards directly into a dealing shoe.

(b) After the cards have been shuffled and stacked, the dealer shall:

1. If the cards were shuffled using an automated card shuffling device, deal or deliver the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7, 16.8 or 16.9; or
2. If the cards were shuffled manually, cut the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in (c) below.

(c) If a cut of the cards is required, the dealer shall:

1. Cut the deck, using one hand, by:
 - i. Placing the cover card on the table in front of the deck of cards;
 - ii. Taking a stack of at least 10 cards from the top of the deck and placing them on top of the cover card;
 - iii. Placing the cards remaining in the deck on top of the stack of cards that were cut and placed on the cover card pursuant to (c)1ii above; and
 - iv. Removing the cover card and placing it in the discard rack; and
2. Deal the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7, 16.8 or 16.9.

(d) Notwithstanding (c) above, 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.

(e) Whenever there is no gaming activity at a caribbean stud poker table which is open for gaming, the cards shall be spread out on the table either face up or face down. If the cards are spread face down, they shall be turned face up once a player arrives at the table. After the first player is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.3(c) shall be completed.

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

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

Amended cut provisions and added recut provisions.

19:47-16.5 Caribbean stud poker rankings

(a) The rank of the cards used in caribbean stud 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. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a "straight flush" or "straight" formed with a two, three, four and five.

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

1. "Royal flush" is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 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, 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 (for example, queen, king, ace, two, three);
7. "Three-of-a-kind" is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank, 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 containing 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 containing two cards of the same rank, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two twos being the lowest ranking pair.

(c) When comparing two hands which are of identical poker hand rank pursuant to the provisions of this section, or which contain none of the hands authorized in this section, 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 hands are of identical rank after the application of this subsection, the hands shall be considered a push.

19:47-16.6 Wagers

(a) All wagers at caribbean stud poker shall be made by placing gaming chips or plaques and, if applicable, a match play coupon on the appropriate betting areas of the table layout. A verbal wager accompanied by cash shall not be accepted.

(b) All ante wagers shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing "No more bets" in accordance with the dealing procedure in N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7, 16.8 or 16.9. Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7, no wager shall be made, increased, or withdrawn after the dealer has announced "No more bets."

(c) Upon placing an ante wager, a player may, at his or her discretion, place a progressive payout wager either by depositing a \$1.00 gaming chip into the acceptor device designated for that player or by redeeming a progressive wager coupon in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.18. Each player shall be responsible for verifying that his or her respective acceptor light has been properly illuminated.

(d) A "bet" wager shall be made in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.10.

(e) A player shall not be permitted to play more than one hand per round of play.

(f) Only players who are seated at the caribbean stud poker table may place a wager at the game. Once a player has placed a wager and received cards, that player must remain seated until the competition of the round of play.

Amended by R.1996 d.562, effective December 2, 1996.
See: 28 N.J.R. 3900(a), 28 N.J.R. 5082(a).

19:47-16.7 Procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe

(a) If a casino licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from a manual dealing shoe, the dealing shoe shall meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.19 and shall be located on the table in a location as approved by the Commission. Once the procedures required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.4 have been completed, the stacked deck of cards shall be placed in

the dealing shoe either by the dealer or by an automatic shuffling device.

(b) Prior to dealing the cards and once all ante and progressive payout wagers have been placed, the dealer shall then announce "No more bets" and press the "lock-out" button on the table controller panel. Once the "lock-out" button has been pressed, if any wagers have been placed on the progressive wager, the dealer shall remove these wagers from the table inventory return device, and on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of gaming chips wagered equals the number of lights illuminated on the acceptor devices, and place the gaming chips into the table inventory container in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.20.

(c) Each card shall be removed from the dealing shoe with the hand of the dealer that is closest to the dealing shoe and placed on the appropriate area of the layout with the opposite hand.

(d) The dealer shall deal the first card, face down, to the player farthest to the left of the dealer and then, moving clockwise around the table, deal each remaining player a card, face down. The dealer shall then deal one card face down to an area directly in front of the table inventory container designated for the dealer's hand. This procedure shall be repeated until all players have received five cards face down; provided, however, the dealer's fifth card shall be dealt face up. The cards shall be dealt to each player directly on top of that player's preceding card.

(e) After five cards have been dealt to each player and the area designated for the hand of the dealer, the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and, except as provided in (f) below, place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

1. If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

2. If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards have been misdealt (a player or the area designed for the placement of the dealer's hand has more or less than five cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.13. If the cards have not been misdealt, all hands shall be considered void and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18.

19:47-16.8 Procedures for dealing the cards from the hand

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:46 or this chapter, a casino licensee may, in its discretion, permit a dealer to deal the cards used to play caribbean stud poker from his or her hand.

(b) If a casino licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from the dealer's hand, the following requirements shall be observed:

1. The casino licensee shall use an automated shuffling device to shuffle the cards.

2. Once the procedures required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.4 have been completed, the dealer shall place the stacked deck of cards in either hand.

i. Once the dealer has chosen the hand in which he or she will hold the cards, the dealer shall use that hand whenever holding the cards during that round of play.

ii. The cards held by the dealer shall at all times be kept in front of the dealer and over the table inventory container.

3. The dealer shall then announce "No more bets" and press the lock-out button in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7 prior to dealing any cards. The dealer shall deal each card by holding the deck of cards in the chosen hand and using the other hand to remove the top card of the deck and place it face down on the appropriate area of the layout.

(c) The dealer shall deal the first card, face down, to the player farthest to the left of the dealer and then, moving clockwise around the table, deal each remaining player a card, face down. The dealer shall then deal one card face down to an area directly in front of the table inventory container designated for the dealer's hand. This procedure shall be repeated until all players have received five cards face down; provided, however, the dealer's fifth card shall be dealt face up. The cards shall be dealt to each player directly on top of that player's preceding card.

(d) After five cards have been dealt to each player and the area designated for the placement of the dealer's hand, the dealer shall, except as provided in (e) below, place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(e) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall count the stub in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7.

19:47-16.9 Procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of N.J.A.C. 19:46 or this chapter, a casino licensee may, in its discretion, choose to have the cards used to play caribbean stud poker dealt from an automated dealing shoe which dispenses cards in stacks of five cards, provided that the shoe, its location and the procedures for its use are approved by the Commission.

(b) If a casino licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from an automated dealing shoe, the following requirements shall be observed:

1. Once the procedures required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.4 have been completed, the cards shall be placed in the automated dealing shoe.

2. The dealer shall then announce "No more bets" and press the lock-out button in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7.

(c) The dealer shall deliver the first stack of cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe face down to the player farthest to his or her left who has placed a wager in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.6. As the remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe, the dealer shall, moving clockwise around the table, deliver a stack face down to each of the other players who has placed a wager in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.6. The dealer shall then deliver a stack of five cards face down to the area designated for the dealer's hand.

(d) After each stack of five cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with this subsection, the dealer shall remove the stub from the automated dealing shoe and, except as provided in (e) below, place the cards in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(e) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall count the stub in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7.

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of (e) above, the counting of the stub shall not be required if an automated card shuffling device is used that counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are still present. If the automated card shuffling device reveals that an incorrect number of cards are present, the deck shall be removed from the table in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18.

(g) The dealer shall then expose the top card of the dealer's hand, and the round of play shall proceed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.10.

19:47-16.10 Bet wagers; procedure for completion of each round of play; collection and payment of wagers

(a) After the dealing procedures required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-16.7, 16.8 or 16.9 have been completed but before the dealer exposes the hole cards, each player shall, after examining his or her cards, either place a bet wager in the designated betting area or fold and forfeit the ante wager. If a player folds, the entire ante wager shall be collected by the dealer and placed in the table inventory container. A folded hand shall then be immediately collected by the dealer and placed in the discard rack.