JOKER POKER

A casual poker experience for those who like the idea of poker but want to have more fun.

It's all fair if everybody's cheating!

Components

52 playing cards
27 bet cards
30 bet tokens
1 board
1 dealer token

8+ 2-6 20

How to win

The first player to 20 points is the winner.

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How to play

A hand consists of three rounds of betting and ends in the showdown. In each round you will draw a card, play a card, and make a bet. At the showdown each player will use the cards still in their hand with the cards in the middle to form the best 5-card poker hand possible.

*A **hand** can refer to the structure of the game containing three rounds, a poker hand (specific combinations of cards, as in table A overleaf), or the cards in your physical hands. Easy, right?*

Start of a hand

1. The Dealer shuffles the playing card deck and deal 5 cards into the middle facedown.
2. The Dealer shuffles the betting deck and reveals 4 bet cards, alongside the "Highest Hand" bet.
3. The Dealer deals each player 2 cards.

Start of a round of betting

1. The Dealer flips cards in the middle faceup. On the first round they flip over 3 cards, on the second round 1 card, and on the third round 1 card.
2. Starting with the player left of the Dealer and going clockwise, take a turn.

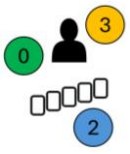
On your turn

1. Draw a card
2. Play a card as a joker, or discard it.
3. Make a bet

Making a bet

Place a bet token face down on a bet. Each player can only have one bet token on each bet, but other players can bet there too.

Bet tokens have a value – you win this many points if your bet is correct. You lose nothing if you are wrong, but if no one was correct about a bet, the lowest bet there gets the points from the highest bet there instead. If players are tied, they each get the points.



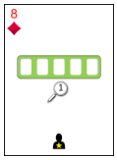
If anyone got a straight, Orange gets 3 points, and Blue gets 2. If not, Green gets 3 points instead!

Jokers

Cards *either* use their value and suite to score, *or* their ability as a joker, but not both.

Jokers can be partially tucked under the board to hide their value. Cards with ♟ are just for you to use, cards with 👥 affect everybody.

The cards in the middle are used to make poker hands, so use the slip provided to hide their abilities.



You could keep this card as an 8 of hearts for the showdown, or play it as a joker to look at a card in the middle.

The Showdown

Reveal all bets, then starting left of the Dealer each player shows their best 5-card poker hand using their cards in their hand and the cards in the middle.

If two players have the same value poker hand, compare the highest cards in the most valuable hands as a tiebreaker. If they are still tied, they share the victory.

At the end of the showdown, pass the Dealer token one player to the left, and then start the next hand.

Impossible hands

Sometimes you will have poker hands that don't exist in regular poker, like six 2s. If so, you may form multiple poker hands and add their values together, but each card can only be used in one poker hand, eg six 2s could count as a Four of a Kind for 8 points, and a Pair for 2 points, for a total of 10 points.

Poker Hand	Example	Value
Royal Flush	10♥ J♥ Q♥ K♥ A♥	10
Straight Flush	A♠ 2♠ 3♠ 4♠ 5♠	9
Four of a Kind	4 4 4 4	8
Full House	10 10 10 A A	7
Flush	♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠	6
Straight	A 2 3 4 5	5
Three of a Kind	3 3 3	4
Two Pair	A A 2 2	3
Pair	2 2	2
High Card	7	0

Table A – Poker Hands

Symbol summary



Discard a card



Draw a card



Your hand



A player



All Jacks, Queens, and Kings



A joker



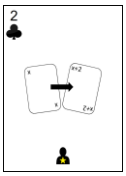
A flush



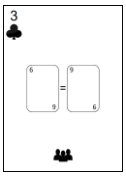
A straight

Card Type Clarifications

Many cards share similar abilities, so only one of each type is displayed here.



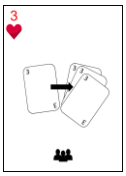
At the showdown, you may increase the rank of one of your cards by two. *Eg. 5 -> 7.*



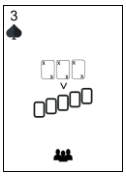
All 6's are 9's and 9's are 6s. *One 6 and one 9 could be used to make a pair.*



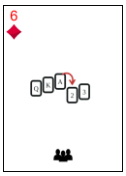
Aces have no value or suite, so cannot be used to score in a poker hand.



Each 3 counts three times. *A single 3 could be used to make a Three of a Kind!*



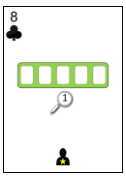
Three of a kind is better than a straight. *In this case it now has a value of 5.1.*



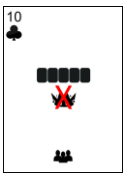
Straights can wrap-around.



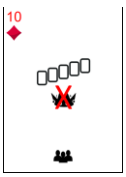
Draw a card into your hand, then discard a card.



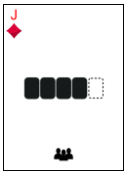
Look at one of the cards in the middle.



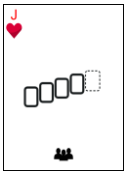
Crown cards (JQK) cannot be used in flushes. *This includes straight flushes, as they are a type of flush.*



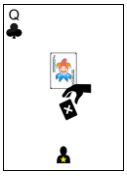
Crown cards (JQK) cannot be used in straights. *This includes straight flushes, as they are a type of straight.*



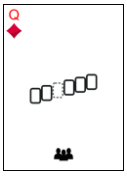
Flushes only need 4 cards.



Straights only need four cards.



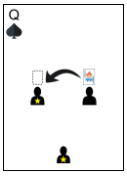
Discard a joker. *Jokers have been played for their ability and are face up on the table. You can target anyone.*



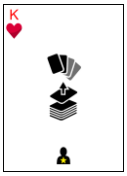
Straights can skip one number. *Eg. 4,5,7,8,9.*



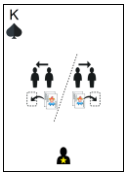
Either discard one card, then draw one card, OR discard two cards, then draw two cards.



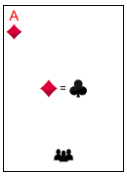
Steal a joker from another player.



Draw a card. *You do not have to discard!*



Choose left or right – all jokers move one player in that direction. *You do not choose which jokers move, it's all of them!*



Diamonds and clubs are the same suite. *If something else affects one of them, it affects them both!*

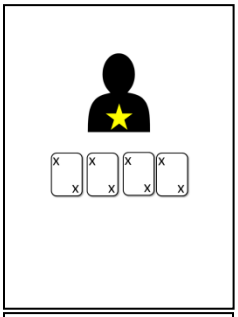
Bet Clarifications

Bets have a condition and a target. The target can refer to you, the winner, someone, or everyone. The winner is a person with the best hand.

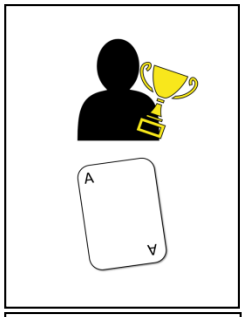
To score a card means to use it in your poker hand.



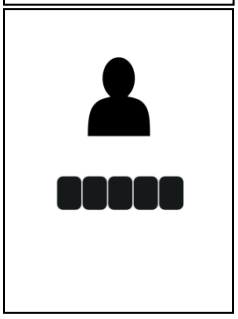
Some types of bets:



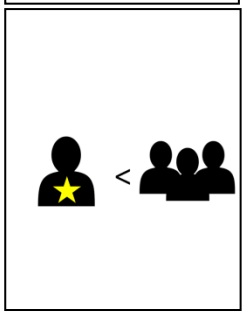
You score a Four of a Kind.



The winner scores with an Ace.



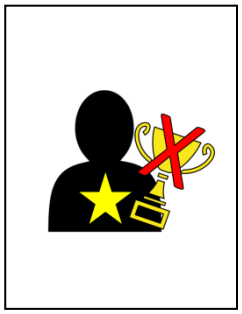
Someone scores a Flush.



You have the worst hand. *Your hand is worse than all other players*.



The winner does not score with a Jack, Queen, or King. *They might have one in hand or in the middle, but if it wasn't part of their poker hand it doesn't count as scoring.*



You do not win. *At least one person has a better hand than you.*