

***TEXAS HOLD'EM  
POKER TOURNAMENT  
TERMS AND CONDITIONS***

**Saskatchewan  
Liquor and Gaming  
Authority**



**Approved: March 13, 2018**

## Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments - Terms and Conditions

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## **1. DEFINITIONS**

In these Terms and Conditions:

- (a) "ADMISSION/ENTRY FEE" means the minimum mandatory amount that must be paid to participate in a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.
- (b) "BONUS PRIZE" means a prize paid during the course of a tournament to a player that fulfills a pre-defined set of conditions during the course of play (for example, the first player to win a hand with a full house).
- (c) "CHAIRPERSON" means the volunteer representative of the Licensee referred to in subsection 6(b).
- (d) "EXPENSES" means actual costs incurred in the conduct of the tournament(s) (ticket printing, advertising, etc) and approved by SLGA.
- (e) "FINISHING TIME" means the time set for the conclusion of play in a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.
- (f) "GROSS REVENUE" means all admission/entry fees and re-buy revenues paid by persons to participate in a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.
- (g) "LICENCE" means a Licence issued pursuant to the Criminal Code, for the conduct and management of a lottery scheme.
- (h) "LICENSEE" refers to the holder of a valid and subsisting Licence issued by SLGA for one or more Texas Hold'em Poker Tournaments.
- (i) "NET PROCEEDS" means the funds left for the approved charitable purpose after the payment of all prizes and Expenses approved by SLGA.
- (j) "PAID" means any form of remuneration.
- (k) "RE-BUY" means the monies paid by a player to add a fixed number of chips to his/her stack in a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.
- (l) "TABLE MANAGER" means the volunteer representative of the Licensee or registered gaming employee referred to in subsection 6(c).
- (m) "TICKET" means an admission or entry ticket which the holder has purchased as proof of entry to a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.
- (n) "TOTAL RETAIL PRIZE VALUE" means the total retail value of all prizes offered (including all applicable taxes), whether the prizes are purchased or donated.
- (o) "TOURNAMENT" means a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.

**2. GENERAL**

- (a) The Licensee shall conduct the tournament(s) in accordance with the application as approved, these Terms and Conditions, and any other Terms and Conditions as imposed by SLGA either before or after issuance of the Licence.
- (b) Any change to the Licence, such as changes in time, date or location of a tournament, must be approved in advance by SLGA. All requests for such changes must be submitted in writing by the Licensee to SLGA. If approved, SLGA will issue an addendum to the Licence. If the approved amendments occur after ticket sales have commenced, the Licensee shall be required to advise tickets holders and amend unsold tickets.
- (c) A copy of the approved Licence, any amendments to the Licence, the tournament requirements and Rules of the Game for the tournament must be posted at each tournament and must be easily accessible to ticket holders for the duration of the tournament.
- (d) The Licensee shall not transfer or assign its Licence.
- (e) The Licensee shall ensure that each tournament is conducted completely within the province of Saskatchewan.
- (f) The Licensee shall comply with all municipal, provincial and federal laws in connection with the Licence issued.
- (g) An individual considered not to be of good character or in good standing with SLGA shall not be involved in the operation of the tournament(s), if in the opinion of SLGA, the integrity of the tournament could be compromised by that person's involvement.
- (h) The Licensee shall notify SLGA immediately in writing about anything that has compromised, or may compromise, the fair and honest conduct of a tournament. This includes, for example, any suspected cheating or irregularities.
- (i) Any person or entity, which provides gaming services to a Licensee(s) for remuneration, including but not limited to training or equipment, is required to be registered with SLGA.
- (j) Tournament dealers may be paid, but must be paid directly by the Licensee and may not be employees of the supplier. If a tournament is held in a permitted establishment, dealers may not be employees of the liquor permittee.
- (k) A Licensee may hold a combined total of 52 Texas Hold 'em or Monte Carlo charity events annually.
- (l) A facility may host only one tournament (or Monte Carlo charity event) per week. A week is defined as Monday to Sunday.

### **3. TICKET REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) The Licensee shall print only the number of tickets approved for each tournament, and shall sell tickets only at the price indicated and approved in the application for a Licence.
- (b) All tickets must set out the following:
  - (i) Name of Licensee and Licence number;
  - (ii) Cost for admission/entry fee ticket to the tournament;
  - (iii) Prizes available;
  - (iv) Time, date and location of the tournament;
  - (v) Total number of admission/entry tickets available for sale for the tournament;
  - (vi) Whether a re-buy will be available, and the cost for the re-buy if applicable.
- (c) Admission/entry fee tickets must be numbered in sequence and shall consist of two or more parts, identically numbered, one of which is to be retained by the Licensee and which shall include the name and contact information of the player, the other(s) retained by the player. For every re-buy allowed, each player must submit a numbered portion of the ticket at the time of purchase in order to facilitate the reconciliation of the revenue to the number of players purchasing a re-buy and the number of re-buys for each player.

### **4. ADVERTISING**

- (a) The Licensee shall ensure that all forms of advertising are accurate. Advertising descriptions and values of prizes must accurately match prizes described in the Licence application.
- (b) The Licensee shall ensure the following information is on all print and internet advertising:
  - (i) Name of Licensee and Licence number;
  - (ii) Cost for admission/entry fee ticket to the tournament;
  - (iii) Prizes available;
  - (iv) Time, date(s) and location of the tournament;
  - (v) Total number of admission/entry tickets available for sale for the tournament;
  - (vi) Whether a re-buy(s) will be available, and the cost for the re-buy(s) if applicable.
- (c) The Licensee shall ensure that all radio and television advertising shall include the following:
  - (i) Name of Licensee;
  - (ii) Licence number;
  - (iii) Date(s), time and location of the tournament(s).

- (d) Tickets shall not be sold, advertised or promoted to persons located outside of Saskatchewan.
- (e) The Licensee shall ensure that any advertising or publicity for a tournament:
  - (i) Does not depict any person as a minor;
  - (ii) Is not addressed to minors unless the advertising or publicity is intended to:
    - a. Promote abstinence or moderation in playing games of chance; or
    - b. Advise of the detrimental effects or consequences of excessive gaming;
- (f) The Licensee shall not promote tournaments through any means of advertising or publicity that:
  - (i) Gives a person an unrealistic perception of a player's chance of winning; or
  - (ii) Does not conform to prevailing community standards.

## **5. TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RULES OF THE GAME**

- (a) Each tournament shall be conducted in accordance with the Tournament Requirements and the Rules of the Game (see Appendix).
- (b) A copy of the Tournament Requirements and Rules of the Game shall be posted by the Licensee in a prominent position in the public area for the duration of the tournament.

## **6. CONDUCT AND MANAGEMENT**

- (a) The Licensee shall supervise, as well as be responsible and accountable for the conduct and management of every aspect of the tournament, including:
  - (i) Administering tickets, including the collection of all admission/entry fee revenue and all re-buy revenue;
  - (ii) Ensuring the tournament runs according to these Terms and Conditions, including the Appendix (Tournament Requirements and Rules of the Game);
  - (iii) Paying all prizes;
  - (iv) Paying all expenses;
  - (v) Completing and filing the required financial report on the tournament;
  - (vi) Keeping all required records and depositing all monies into the lottery bank account;
  - (vii) Reconciling all tickets and cash;
  - (viii) Providing a volunteer Chairperson with sufficient knowledge and skill to conduct the tournament;
  - (ix) Providing Table Managers (in addition to the Chairperson) as follows:

<i>Number of Tables</i>	<i>Chairperson/Table Managers</i>
Up to and including 5 tables	Chairperson and 1 Table Manager
6 – 10 tables	Chairperson and 2 Table Managers
11 – 15 tables	Chairperson and 3 Table Managers
16 – 20 tables	Chairperson and 4 Table Managers
21 – 25 tables	Chairperson and 5 Table Managers

- (x) Providing one dealer for each table.
  
- (b) The Chairperson shall:
  - (i) Be a volunteer representative of the Licensee;
  - (ii) Possess sufficient knowledge and skill to fulfill the position;
  - (iii) Be present throughout the tournament;
  - (iv) Provide fair and consistent determinations when disputes or questions arise;
  - (v) Refer to Robert's Rules of Poker to resolve issues if a situation arises that is not addressed in these Terms and Conditions (including the Appendix). In cases where there is a conflict, these Terms and Conditions (including the Appendix) prevail;
  - (vi) Record in writing all disputes and irregularities related to game play that required the Chairperson's intervention;
  - (vii) Supervise the process of chip transfers between tables and chip removals in the colour-up process;
  - (viii) Not participate in the tournament;
  - (ix) Report to SLGA, in a timely manner and in writing, any cheating, collusion or other gaming irregularity that might compromise the integrity of the tournament;
  - (x) Not have a criminal record relating to any gaming, liquor, fraudulent, violent or any similar type of offence.
  
- (c) The Table Managers shall:
  - (i) Be a volunteer representative of the Licensee or, if paid, a registered gaming employee;
  - (ii) Any payment for a Table Manager must be made directly from the Licensee to the Table Manager;
  - (i) Monitor the actions at the tables;
  - (ii) Resolve minor issues not requiring the Chairperson;
  - (iii) Not participate in the tournament.
  
- (d) The Dealer shall:
  - (i) Be a volunteer representative of the Licensee or, if paid, a registered gaming employee;
  - (ii) Any payment for a Dealer must be made directly from the Licensee to the Dealer;

- (iii) Run the table according to the Rules of the Game and the instructions of the Table Manager and Chairperson;
- (iv) Not participate in the tournament.
- (e) The Licensee shall ensure that no person under the age of 19 years shall participate or volunteer in the tournament. Minors may be present as spectators at tournaments held in liquor permitted premises where minors are allowed.
- (f) Ticket sales for a tournament shall cease upon the commencement of that tournament.
- (g) The admission/entry fee tickets shall be sold only for cash, direct debit, or credit card. Complementary admission is prohibited.
- (h) Tournaments shall:
  - (i) Be conducted only within the hours listed on the Licence;
  - (ii) Be of ten (10) hours in duration or less, unless otherwise approved by SLGA;
  - (iii) Not begin prior to 9:30 a.m. Tournaments must conclude by 2 a.m, unless otherwise approved by SLGA.
- (i) Licensees may apply for a special occasion liquor permit for facilities that are not otherwise covered by a liquor permit. Such applications will be considered by SLGA in accordance with applicable legislation and regulations.

## **7. CARD AND CHIP REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) The Licensee shall ensure that only chips unique to the tournament are used.
- (b) The Licensee shall ensure that only chips issued at its tournament are used. SLGA may require the Licensee to conduct an audit of its chips to ensure compliance with this term.
- (c) The tournament shall be played with a standard 52-card deck without jokers. The decks shall be of a high quality appropriate for tournament play, and all decks shall be identical.

## **8. PRIZES**

- (a) The Licensee shall award all prizes as described on the Licence application and approved by SLGA.
- (b) Total prizes, including cash and the total retail prize value of merchandise prizes, excluding bonus prizes, shall not exceed \$5,000 per tournament.
- (c) Individual prizes per player, excluding bonus prizes, may not exceed \$2,000, in cash or retail prize value.
- (d) The retail value, including taxes, of bonus prizes may not exceed \$100 per prize. Merchandise bonus prizes may be donated by sponsors.

- (e) An entry into an on-line poker tournament or other on-line gaming event may not be offered as a prize.
- (f) Cash prizes can be paid directly at the tournament from tournament revenues or from lottery account by cheque. If paid by cash at the tournament, the winner must sign a receipt for the prize received and the receipt must be kept as part of the lottery records.
- (g) The Licensee shall ensure that if merchandise prizes are being offered, documentation from the supplier of the prize showing the actual retail prize value of the merchandise shall be retained. Donated cash prizes are not allowed.
- (h) The Licensee shall submit a list of unclaimed prizes to SLGA with the required financial report

## **9. EXPENSES**

- (a) The Licensee shall pay by cheque or by electronic transfer directly from the lottery bank account, only those operating expenses approved by SLGA. Approved expenses include (for more detail see the Gaming Event Expenses section of the Policy Manual):
  - (i) Ticket printing;
  - (ii) Advertising;
  - (iii) Licence fee;
  - (iv) Gaming supplier or employee registration fees, if applicable; and
  - (v) Other expenses receiving prior approval from SLGA relating to the conduct and management of the tournament(s) (e.g. facility rental, gaming equipment rental or purchase, banking charges, dealer and table manager payments, etc.).
- (b) Only actual and reasonable expenses related to the conduct of the tournament(s) are allowed. Total cost of expenses (excluding prize costs) shall not exceed 30% of gross revenues. Exceptions to this limit may be considered by SLGA, at point of licensing or during the course of the licence, if circumstances of the lottery scheme warrant such approval.
- (c) Ticket sellers shall not be paid and shall not receive free Tickets.
- (d) Only Dealer and Table Manager may be paid positions, and if paid, must be registered with SLGA and paid directly by the Licensee. Payment refers to any form of consideration provided for services rendered including, but not limited to, wages, personal expenses and honorariums.
- (e) The following restrictions apply to the Licensee's rental of facilities and gaming equipment for the conduct of the tournament(s):
  - (i) The Licensee shall not pay a fee for the rental of gaming equipment (such as chips and cards) unless the gaming equipment is supplied by a supplier registered with SLGA;

- (ii) The Licensee shall not pay a fee for the use of liquor-permitted areas as a site for a tournament, except for areas covered by a banquet room endorsement;
- (iii) The Licensee may pay a reasonable flat rate fee (that is, a fee that is not based on a percentage of gross proceeds or net revenue) for the use of unlicensed areas or for liquor-permitted banquet rooms.
- (f) The Licensee shall pay directly from the lottery bank account all Tournament Expenses as approved by SLGA. Only reasonable Expenses, at fair market value, will be approved. Until the prizes are secured, approved Expenses may be paid from non-gaming funds. Once the prizes are secured, revenue from the lottery bank account shall be used to reimburse the Expenses paid from non-gaming funds, with the appropriate corresponding receipts.

## **10. USE OF PROCEEDS**

- (a) The admission/entry fees and re-buy revenues paid by persons to participate in the tournament(s) (the gross revenue) are gaming proceeds that shall be spent by the Licensee only in accordance with the eligible use of gaming gross revenue requirements for charitable gaming established by SLGA.
- (b) The net proceeds (gross revenue less prizes and expenses as approved by SLGA) from the tournament(s) must be used for charitable or religious purposes, as required by the Criminal Code, and as approved by SLGA at the time of application. The use of proceeds will be approved only for the advancement of religion, the advancement of education, the relief of poverty or those purposes considered of broad benefit to the community consistent with SLGA's approved use of proceeds guidelines.
- (c) The Licensee shall ensure any and all interest paid into the lottery bank account becomes part of the gaming proceeds and subject to the licensed charitable spending restrictions as though such interest was earned as part of lottery proceeds.
- (d) Any changes in the use of proceeds from those approved at the time of application, must be approved in advance by SLGA.
- (e) The Licensee shall not use any lottery proceeds for the approved charitable purposes until all prize commitments have been met.
- (f) Gaming proceeds may not be used to cover gaming losses or expenses from other gaming Licences unless approved by SLGA.
- (g) Disbursements of proceeds shall normally be payable directly to the vendor or supplier. Disbursements to individuals are not permitted unless prior approval is obtained from SLGA and/or proper documentation is maintained to ensure the disbursement was for an approved use.

**11. REGISTERED GAMING SUPPLIERS**

- (a) The Licensee shall ensure that anyone supplying supplies or services, including but not limited to training services or gaming equipment, to the Licensee is a registered gaming supplier approved by SLGA.
- (b) Registered gaming suppliers shall not provide or pay tournament Dealers.

**12. BANKING REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) The Licensee shall open and maintain a designated lottery bank account to administer all funds related to the conduct of the tournament(s). The Licensee shall have the option of:
  - (i) Opening and maintaining one designated lottery bank account to administer all lotteries conducted by the Licensee; or
  - (ii) Opening and maintaining separate designated lottery bank accounts for each type of lottery conducted by the Licensee.
- (b) The Licensee shall prepare and maintain a ledger to accurately reflect and describe all transactions occurring in the lottery bank account including outlining financial details of the tournament(s) conducted including proceeds derived from the tournament, expenses paid in the conduct of the tournament(s), and a detailed list of how proceeds have been disbursed.
- (c) Where the Licensee opts to have only one designated lottery bank account, the Licensee shall maintain separate ledgers outlining financial details of each lottery event conducted including proceeds derived from each, expenses paid in the conduct of each lottery event, and a detailed list of how proceeds have been disbursed.
- (d) The lottery bank account shall be in the name of the Licensee and shall have cheque privileges and monthly return of cancelled cheques or digital image of cheques.
- (e) Deposit all gross revenue from the tournament(s) into the lottery bank account. Gross revenue (all admission/entry fees and all re-buy revenues) shall be deposited to the lottery bank account no later than the second banking day following each tournament.
- (f) The Licensee shall not transfer funds to a general account or any other account unless otherwise approved by SLGA.
- (g) All disbursements from the lottery bank account shall be made by cheque or electronic transfer directly to the expense or authorized charitable purpose.
- (h) The lottery bank account shall be administered by a minimum of two signing officers and each cheque shall be signed by a minimum of two members of the Licensee's executive.
- (i) The Licensee shall not:

- (i) Where only one designated lottery bank account is maintained, deposit funds received from any source other than lottery events conducted by the Licensee and Licensed by SLGA, or;
  - (ii) Where a separate designated lottery bank account for the Licence has been established, deposit funds received from any other source in the designated lottery bank account.
- (j) The Licensee shall not close the lottery bank account until all funds have been disbursed for the approved charitable objects and purposes.

### **13. RECORDKEEPING**

- (a) The Licensee shall retain all records pertaining to the tournament(s) for a period of three years from the last tournament date, including:
- (i) Bank statements;
  - (ii) Cancelled cheques;
  - (iii) Invoices/receipts for expenses;
  - (iv) List of prize winners;
  - (v) All unsold tickets;
  - (vi) All ticket stubs of sold tickets;
  - (vii) Control sheets;
  - (viii) Any other information relevant to the conduct and management of the tournament(s).
- (b) The Licensee shall keep a record of the distribution of ticket stubs and cash or unsold tickets in order to account for all tickets and cash for reconciliation of the tournament results.
- (c) The Licensee shall ensure that, at all reasonable times, SLGA representatives have access to all records. SLGA representatives may copy or temporarily remove records at their discretion.
- (d) The Licensee shall maintain a detailed record of how all gross revenues have been spent/dispersed.

### **14. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) All lost or stolen tickets shall be reported to SLGA immediately. The report shall specify the total number and serial numbers of the lost or stolen tickets and an explanation for how the tickets were lost or stolen.
- (b) The Licensee is required to complete a financial report including the gross revenues (including re-buys), complete list of prizes paid (including the names of the winners to

which prizes were paid), all expenses paid to conduct the tournament(s) and proceeds generated as a result of the tournament(s). The Licensee shall complete the financial report on forms prescribed by SLGA and submit these forms, along with a list of all winners, to SLGA within sixty (60) days of the license expiring, unless extended by SLGA.

- (c) Financial reports must be signed, and certified correct, by a member of the Licensee who is indicated on the application.
- (d) SLGA may request additional documents deemed necessary to confirm the particulars of the tournament(s).
- (e) The Licensee shall indicate on the financial report any prizes that have been donated.

## **15. AUDIT REQUIREMENTS**

- (a) The books and records of the Licensee are subject to review and/or audit by SLGA and must be maintained in a manner acceptable to SLGA.
- (b) Failure to supply access to records, or comply with a request from SLGA for records, will be considered as non-compliance and will result in immediate sanction upon the Licensee.
- (c) If the net proceeds for the Licensee equal or exceed \$100,000, the Licensee shall provide to SLGA a copy of an independent audit opinion to confirm the accuracy of the financial reports submitted to SLGA. The independent audit opinion must be signed by an accountant with a recognized professional accounting designation. The audited opinion shall be provided to SLGA within such time as may be approved by SLGA.

## **16. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

- (a) The Licensee shall ensure there is no conflict of interest, real or perceived, with regards to the operation of gaming activity. A conflict of interest is any situation in which a Licensee or any officer, director, member or gaming employee of the Licensee or any person who supplies gaming services to the Licensee, either for himself/herself or some other person(s), promotes or attempts to promote a private or personal interest which results or appears to result in the following:
  - (i) A conflict or interference with the exercise of his/her duties; or
  - (ii) A gain or an advantage by virtue of his/her position.

## **APPENDIX - TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS AND RULES OF THE GAME**

### **A.1 DEFINITIONS**

In these Terms and Conditions:

- (a) "ALL-IN" means a player bets all his/her chips.
- (b) "ANTE" is a forced bet by all players prior to the deal.
- (c) "BETTING ROUND" means the period of play when each player has an opportunity to check, bet, raise, call or fold.
- (d) "BIG BLIND" is a forced bet placed by the player two positions away from the Dealer Button in a clockwise position. The amount placed for the Big Blind is determined by the table limit.
- (e) "BONUS PRIZE" means a prize paid during the course of a tournament to a player that fulfills a pre-defined set of conditions during the course of play (for example, the first player to win a hand with a full house).
- (f) "BURN" means to discard the top card from the deck face down; there are three burn cards per hand before the flop, the turn and the river.
- (g) "CALL" means a player places enough chips into the pot to make his/her contribution equal to the contribution of any other player, but no greater.
- (h) "CHECK" means a player remains in the round of play, but does not wish to place a bet, provided no previous player has made a bet during that betting round.
- (i) "CHOP" means to split the pot or split the tournament.
- (j) "COMMUNITY CARDS" means cards that are face up and used by everyone.
- (k) "CUT" means once the cards are shuffled, the dealer will divide the cards in half or cut the deck.
- (l) "CUT CARD" means a plastic or cardboard object the size of a playing card, used to divide the deck in two as well as cover the bottom card so players cannot see it.
- (m) "DEAD HAND" means a hand that is no longer eligible to win the pot.
- (n) "DEALER BUTTON" means an object used to designate the player in the dealer position if that player were actually dealing the cards. It moves one person per hand in a clockwise manner.
- (o) "DESIGNATED LANGUAGE" means the language that all players and tournament workers must use at the tables. No other language is allowed during play.
- (p) "FINISHING TIME" means the time set for the conclusion of play.
- (q) "FOLD" means to throw your cards away when it's your turn to act.
- (r) "FLOP" means after the first betting round, three community cards are exposed to the players; these three cards are referred to as the flop.
- (s) "HAND" means any combination of two hole cards and/or five community cards that are used to create a standard five-card poker hand.
- (t) "HEADS-UP" means a pot that is being contested by only two players.

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- (u) "HOLE CARDS" means the two cards dealt face down to each player that can only be used by that player in constructing a standard five-card poker hand.
- (v) "KICKER" means the high card used to determine the winning hand. Players may have the same hand; however, the winner is determined by the highest kicker.
- (w) "LIMIT" means a game that has a fixed minimum and maximum amount for betting.
- (x) "LIVE HAND" means a hand that is in play and eligible to win the pot.
- (y) "MUCK" means the cards folded by players and put into a pile. If any other cards get into the muck by error, they are dead.
- (z) "RAISE" means a player places enough chips in the pot to call, plus a minimum of double the bet. The raise must be minimum double the previous bet, unless a player is all-in. For a limit tournament, a raise is double only, no less, no more, than the previous bet. For a no-limit tournament, a raise is minimum double the previous bet, up to the number of chips a player has.
- (aa) "RE-BUY" means the monies paid by a player to add a fixed number of chips to his/her stack in a Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament.
- (bb) "RIVER" is the last card exposed to the players, the fifth and final community card. The River card may also be referred to as "fifth street."
- (cc) "ROUND OF PLAY" means the period of play in which everyone has the opportunity to play their Hand for each of the four betting rounds, beginning with the initial deal and ending with awarding the pot.
- (dd) "SIDE POT" means a new pot(s) established by the dealer after a player has gone all-in and additional bets have been placed.
- (ee) "SMALL BLIND" means a mandatory bet (typically half the amount of the Big Blind) placed by the player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button before any cards are dealt.
- (ff) "STRING BET" means a bet in which a player does not get enough chips for the required raise into the pot in one motion. Unless he/she verbally declares raise, he/she will be forced to just call the bet.
- (gg) "SUBSTANTIAL ACTION" means more than one player has acted in the hand. A misdeal may not be called once substantial action has occurred.
- (hh) "TURN" is the card exposed to the players after the flop, the fourth community card. The turn card may also be referred to as "fourth street."
- (ii) "WASH" is a technique for shuffling cards in which the cards are placed face down on the table and thoroughly mixed.

## **A.2 TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS**

### **General**

- (a) The event shall be conducted as a tournament where all players pay the established admission/entry fee (also known as the “buy-in”) for the same amount of chips.
- (b) The tournament shall not be conducted in any manner that assigns a cash redemption value to the chips.
- (c) The tournament shall be played with a standard 52-card deck without jokers. The decks shall be of a high quality appropriate for tournament play, and all decks shall be identical. The Licensee (the Chairperson, a Table Manager or Dealer) is required to count the cards in a deck at every break.
- (d) The structure of the tournament limits, levels, ante, blinds, etc., shall be determined prior to the tournament; the structure of the tournament shall be posted and shall not be altered during play, unless otherwise determined by the Chairperson.
- (e) At the time of licensing, determine the payout structure, the percentage of total prize money to be paid out, and to how many finishers will be awarded.
- (f) Any deck suspected of, or containing, marked, damaged or suspect cards must be replaced and any suspected marked decks must be provided with the event incident report.
- (g) Deck changes will be determined by the Chairperson.
- (h) Hi/lo games are prohibited.
- (i) Each re-buy amount per player per event must not exceed the initial buy-in and shall not exceed four (4) re-buys. Re-buys may be purchased only in the first hour of the tournament. The cost of the re-buy and the number of chips must be specified on the ticket. Only one re-buy cost structure may be offered.
- (j) Wild cards are prohibited.
- (k) “Straddle bets,” which are blind bets that are usually double the size of the Big Blind that a player may raise when actions get to him, are prohibited.
- (l) The tournament must comply with all applicable municipal, provincial and federal laws.

### **Prize Limits**

- (m) Total prizes, including cash and the total retail prize value of merchandise prizes, excluding bonus prizes, shall not exceed \$5,000 per tournament. Individual prizes per player, excluding bonus prizes, may not exceed \$2,000, in cash or retail prize value, based on the method used for determining the order of finish. An entry into an on-line poker tournament or other on-line gaming event may not be offered as a prize. The retail value, including taxes, of bonus prizes may not exceed \$100 per prize, to a maximum of five (5) bonus prizes.

### **Table Set-up**

- (n) The games shall be played at tables of sufficient size, but not to exceed seating for a maximum of ten (10) players, to ensure that the players may examine their cards without disclosing their value to other players. Players must also have sufficient room to examine their cards without disclosing their value to other players or spectators.

- (o) Tables shall be located in a clearly defined area that is not accessible to anyone, other than players or tournament workers.
- (p) If there are multiple tables participating in the tournament, the number of players at each table will be kept equal or as equal as possible. If a player is required to move to balance the tables, it will be done in a manner that is fair to all players according to position of the blinds.
- (q) The tournament shall be conducted in an area that has adequate lighting and physical space for the Chairperson and for SLGA Investigators to properly monitor the play. The area must also provide sufficient room that spectators do not interfere with play.
- (r) The seating at tables shall be determined on a random basis.
- (s) If a player is to be moved to a different table, the player's chips shall be transferred by a Table Manager under the supervision of the Chairperson.

### ***Dealing***

- (t) Players must be seated at the commencement of a tournament or they cannot participate in the tournament.
- (u) Cards may only be dealt by the Dealer; players and potential players are prohibited from dealing cards;
- (v) The Dealer Button shall start in the seat immediately to the right of the Dealer, and progress around the table in a clockwise direction.

### ***Betting***

- (w) A player shall not bet on more than one hand in any round of play.
- (x) Raises are limited to three per betting round.
- (y) All tournament play will be conducted with chips only.
- (z) All players shall place his/her bets and antes as prescribed by the tournament betting structure.
- (aa) Each player shall be allowed one (only one) marker or chip not similar to those in play to be used to protect his cards.
- (bb) Players shall keep all of their cards and chips on the table and visible at all times.

### ***Behaviour at the Table***

- (cc) A player is eliminated from the tournament when the following occurs:
  - (i) The player has lost all his/her chips.
  - (ii) The player is absent and has been blinded out; or
  - (iii) The player is unable to post a minimum of the Small Blind when in the Big Blind position. (The eliminated player's remaining chips will be removed from play.)
- (dd) The only language allowed at the tables shall be the designated language.
- (ee) The use of any cell phone or electronic device during tournament play is prohibited.
- (ff) Persons who appear to be intoxicated shall not be allowed to participate in the tournament.

- (gg) The Chairperson may remove disruptive players from the tournament. The Chairperson may determine a system of warnings and penalties to deal with disruptive players.
- (hh) The Chairperson may call the clock on a player who has not made a decision on the next action. The player shall have one minute, including a ten-second countdown, to act. If the time expires without action, the player's hand is dead.

***Order of Finish***

- (ii) Play continues until either:
  - (i) All but one player is eliminated, or;
  - (ii) The finishing time is reached, whichever comes first.
- (jj) The order of finish for the tournament shall be determined as follows:
  - (i) If play continues until all but one player is eliminated, the order of finish shall be the order of elimination from last to first. The last remaining player shall be declared the winner.
  - (ii) If more than one player remains at the finishing time, the order of finish shall be determined by ranking the value of chips held by each player at the end of play from highest to lowest. The player or players having the highest value of chips shall be declared the winner. Prize money will be distributed according to chip count, and payouts will be made according to a pre-determined payout structure.

### **A.3 RULES OF THE GAME**

#### **General**

- (a) All suits have the same rank. The rank of cards, from highest to lowest, shall be ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2; an ace may be counted low.
- (b) The Dealer shall shuffle the cards using a wash prior to each round of play.
- (c) Prior to the deal, the deck will be cut by the Dealer using a cut card. The deck shall not be passed for a further cut.
- (d) The player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button shall post the required Small Blind before the beginning of each round of play.
- (e) The player immediately to the left of the Small Blind position shall post the required Big Blind before the beginning of each round of play.

**NOTE:** When all but two players have been eliminated from the table, the player with the Dealer Button shall post the Small Blind and the other player shall post the Big Blind.

- (f) All cards shall be dealt in a clockwise direction beginning with the player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button.
- (g) The Dealer shall commence the round of play by dealing one card to each player face down, then a second card to each player face down. The first betting round will commence once players have received both hole cards.
- (h) Each player may examine his/her hole cards at any time. It is a player's responsibility to protect his/her hand from other players and the Dealer. The hole cards may be protected by keeping the cards in your hand, or by placing a small object on top of the cards.
- (i) Each player must keep his/her hole cards in full view of the Dealer at all times and must ensure that they are examined in a manner that does not disclose to other players their value. Any cards that fall off the table are dead. Players may not exchange information concerning their cards.
- (j) Players that fold from the round of play shall not reveal their hole cards.
- (k) The first betting round shall proceed as follows:

- (i) The player immediately to the left of the Big Blind position is the first to act and must call, raise, or fold;

**NOTE:** When all but two players have been eliminated from the table, the player with the Dealer Button is the first to act and must verbalize call, raise, or fold.

- (ii) Betting continues in a clockwise direction until each player has an opportunity to call, raise, or fold. The player in the Big Blind position may check if no other player has raised, or has the option to raise;

**NOTE:** If only two players remain and they are playing heads-up, raises are unlimited;

- (iii) If a player opts to raise, he/she must verbalize raise and place the proper amount of chips on the table. A raise is minimum double the previous bet. A player may not place chips as if calling then go back to his/her chips to indicate a raise; it must all be done in one motion, and it is considered a string bet and is not allowed.

- (l) The Dealer shall commence the second betting round by burning a card and then turning three community cards face up in the middle of the table; these three cards are commonly referred to as the flop.
- (m) The Dealer shall commence the third betting round by burning a card then placing the fourth community card on the table; this fourth card is commonly referred to as the turn.
- (n) The Dealer shall commence the fourth betting round by burning a card then placing the fifth community card on the table; this fifth card is commonly referred to as the River.
- (o) Betting for the second, third and fourth betting rounds shall begin with the player immediately to the left of the Dealer Button and shall otherwise proceed in the same manner as betting round one.
- (p) Upon completion of four betting rounds:
  - (i) If only one player remains in the round of play (i.e., all but one player has folded), the player is not obligated to show his/her hand;
  - (ii) If two or more players remain in the round of play:
    - a. It shall be the obligation of the player who made the last bet to show their hand when called by another player or players;
    - b. If no player has placed a bet, it shall be the obligation of all players to show their hands;
- (q) Any combination of a player's hole cards and/or community cards may be used to construct a standard five-card poker hand.

### ***Winning Combinations***

- (r) The dealer shall:
  - (i) Declare the last remaining player the winner or determine the winning hand among the remaining players in accordance with the following ranking of poker combinations:
    - a. "ROYAL FLUSH" is a hand containing an ace, king, queen, jack, and 10 of the same suit.
    - b. "STRAIGHT FLUSH" is a hand containing five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking. An ace may count high or low.
    - c. "FOUR OF A KIND" is a hand containing four cards of the same rank.
    - d. "FULL HOUSE" is a hand containing three-of-a-kind and one pair.
    - e. "FLUSH" is a hand containing five cards of the same suit, but not in consecutive ranking.
    - f. "STRAIGHT" is a hand containing five cards of consecutive rank, regardless of suit. An ace may count high or low.
    - g. "THREE-OF-A-KIND" is a hand containing three cards of the same rank.
    - h. "TWO PAIR" is a hand containing two pairs.
    - i. "ONE PAIR" is a hand containing two cards of the same rank.
    - j. "HIGH CARD" is a hand that does not contain one pair or better.

- (ii) Resolve ties in the following manner:
  - a. In the event of equal ranking poker combinations of four-of-a-kind, three-of-a-kind, two pair, or one pair, the high card not used in the poker combination, commonly known as the kicker, shall break the tie.
    - i. If a tie cannot be broken, the pot shall be split or chopped equally;
    - ii. In the event there is an extra chip that cannot be split, the player closest to the Dealer Button receives the extra chip.
  - (iii) At the end of the final betting round (referred to as the “showdown” when all players show/turn their cards face up to see who the winner is), the Dealer will muck all losing hands, and then award the pot to the winning hand.
- (s) The Dealer shall ensure blinds are posted.

### ***All-In/Side Pots***

- (t) If only two players remain in a round of play and one player does not have enough chips to call the bet made by the other player, the player with the fewest chips may move all-in; the player with the most chips will receive chips back exceeding the chips of the all-in player. The round of play will then continue with no further betting.
- (u) In tournament play if a player is all-in and there are only two players remaining, there is no more betting and the cards are exposed to everyone before the Dealer continues to deal.
- (v) If two or more players wish to bet more than the bet of another player moving all-in, the Dealer shall establish a side pot(s). Players may raise all-in:
  - (i) The player moving all-in is eligible to win only the main pot, consisting of the antes, blinds, all previous bets, the bet of the player moving all-in, and the bets of the other players matching the all-in bet;
  - (ii) The players with chips remaining may continue placing bets into the side;
  - (iii) Additional side pots may be created if other players are all-in. There is no limit as to how many side pots can be in play.

### ***Elimination***

- (w) A player is eliminated from the tournament when the following occurs:
  - (i) The player has lost all his/her chips.
  - (ii) The player is absent and has been blinded out.
  - (iii) The player is unable to post a minimum of the Small Blind when in the Big Blind position. (The eliminated player's remaining chips will be removed from play.)

### ***Misdeal***

- (x) In the event of a misdeal, the Dealer will retrieve all cards, re-shuffle and deal a new hand. A misdeal may NOT be called after substantial action has occurred. The following would be cause for a misdeal:
  - (i) Dealing to the wrong person first;

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- (ii) Dealing too few or too many cards to a player;
  - (iii) Finding more than one boxed card (that is, a card that was mixed face up) in the deck;
  - (iv) Finding the deck to be defective;
  - (v) Finding a joker in the deck;
  - (vi) Dealing a player out that has requested a hand, or has money invested in the hand;
  - (vii) Failure to shuffle and/or cut the deck before dealing;
  - (viii) Dealing one of the blind's first card face up;
  - (ix) Dealing two or more cards face up.
- (y) In the event of a misdeal, additional antes or blinds shall not be required.