

Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament

General Provisions

A (i)

All Texas hold'em poker tournaments conducted in Manitoba must be licensed by the Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Authority of Manitoba (LGCA) or by a local gaming authority named or authorized by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

A (ii)

The LGCA may license charitable and/or religious organizations to conduct Texas hold'em poker tournaments within Manitoba in accordance with Section 207(1)(b) of the *Criminal Code (Canada)*.

A (iii)

Licensees must follow the requirements of *The Liquor, Gaming and Cannabis Control Act*, associated regulations and the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament Terms and Conditions. The LGCA may add or change terms and conditions of a licence at its discretion.

Penalties

B (i)

Licensees that breach any term or condition, or fail to conduct a Texas hold'em poker tournament as approved by the LGCA, are subject to remedial action deemed necessary by the LGCA.

B (ii)

The LGCA may suspend a licence at any time, with or without notice, for the breach of any term or condition or, if in the opinion of the LGCA, it is in the public interest to do so.

Definitions

“**all-in**” means a player bets all their chips.

“**betting interval**” means the period of play when each player has an opportunity to bet, check, raise, call or drop (fold).

“**big blind**” means a mandatory bet (typically twice the amount of the small blind) placed by the player

to the left of the small blind position before any cards are dealt.

“**burn**” means to discard the top card face down from the deck.

“**call**” means a player places enough chips into the pot to make their contribution equal to the contribution of any other player, but not greater.

“**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 interval.

“**community cards**” means the five cards dealt face up in the middle of the table which may be used by all players in constructing a standard five-card poker hand.

“**dealer**” means the individual responsible for dealing the cards and controlling the playing table.

“**dealer button**” means an object used to designate the player in the dealer position as if that player was actually dealing the cards.

“**drop**” or “**fold**” means a player discards their hand and no longer participates in the round of play.

“**flop**” means the first three community cards to be placed face up during a round of play.

“**hand**” means any combination of two pocket cards and/or five community cards which are used to create a standard five-card poker hand.

“**gaming service provider**” means a person who is licensed by the LGCA to provide gaming management services directly or indirectly to a person who holds a gaming event licence.

“**LGCA Standard Rules of Play**” are those established by the LGCA as provided in Section 7 of these terms and conditions.



“**misdeal**” means a wrong distribution of cards by the dealer to the players.

“**mucked cards**” means the pocket cards being discarded when a player drops or folds.

“**pit boss and/or manager**” means the individual who volunteers or is contracted to manage or assist in managing the general play at the tables, which includes but is not limited to handling player disputes and relocating players.

“**pocket cards**” means the two cards dealt face down to each player that can only be used by that player in constructing their standard five-card poker hand.

“**raise**” means a player places enough chips in the pot to call, plus one or more chips.

“**rebuy**” means the fee paid by any player, prior to being eliminated, to purchase more chips to stay in the game.

“**river**” means the fifth and final community card to be placed face up during a round of play.

“**round of play**” means the period of play commencing with the first card dealt by the dealer and concluding with the awarding of the pot.

“**side pot**” means a new pot(s) established by the dealer after a player has gone all-in and additional bets have been placed.

“**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.

“**tournament chairperson**” means the member of the organization named in the application who must ensure that all aspects of the tournament are conducted in compliance with the approved application and these terms and conditions and, further, must make final decisions on player disputes and ensure that all required reports are submitted to the LGCA.

“**tournament rules**” are rules established by the licensee that describe required conduct of players and the conduct or operation of the event. All tournament rules must comply with these terms and conditions.

“**turn**” means the fourth community card to be placed face up during a round of play.

General

1.01

Licensees must ensure the honesty and integrity of the individuals involved in the conduct and operation of the Texas hold'em poker tournament.

1.02

Licensees must notify the LGCA without delay about anything that has, is or is likely to compromise the honest conduct and management of their Texas hold'em poker tournament.

1.03

The LGCA and its representatives may, at any time before, during or after the Texas hold'em poker tournament, audit or inspect anything related to the Texas hold'em poker tournament. This includes, but is not limited to, event facilities, buildings, equipment, expenses, documents, records and recipients of funds.

1.04

The LGCA and its representatives must be given free access at all times and must be allowed to remove anything they consider relevant to the Texas hold'em poker tournament for inspection, examination or audit.

1.05

Applicants must identify all gaming service providers and the types of services on the application. The LGCA will determine if these service providers require licensing.

1.06

Licensees must not do business with a gaming service provider that is not licensed, if the LGCA has determined that licensing is required.

1.07

Licensees cannot assign the conduct or management of the Texas hold'em poker tournament to any gaming service provider on their behalf.

Use of Funds

2.01

Funds generated from Texas hold'em poker tournaments must be used for the advancement of education, religion, health or the relief of poverty, or they must benefit the community through the promotion of sport, recreation, culture or any other area considered appropriate by the LGCA.



2.02

An organization using Texas hold'em poker tournament funds to purchase, build or renovate real property must ensure the proceeds from the subsequent sale, mortgaging or other disposition of that property (at least an amount equal to the value of funds raised by the Texas hold'em poker tournament) are used for a charitable or religious purpose.

2.03

An organization using Texas hold'em poker tournament funds to purchase, build or renovate property owned by the licensee must have a dissolution clause that comes into effect should the organization fold or wind up. This clause must be included as a specific provision for distribution of assets in the organization's constitution and/or in its articles of incorporation to ensure the organization's assets are used for charitable purposes upon dissolution.

2.04

An organization using Texas hold'em poker tournament funds for a future capital project may place Texas hold'em poker tournament funds into an interest-bearing investment or bank account until the organization has sufficient funds to begin the project. Special reporting is required while funds are invested outside of the organization's lottery bank account.

Fees and Expenses

3.01

Licence fees are set by the LGCA and must be submitted as required.

3.02

Texas hold'em poker tournament expenses must not exceed 15% of gross anticipated entry fee revenue. Licence fees, playing cards and poker chip expenses are not included in this 15% limit.

3.03

Licensees that own the premises in which their Texas hold'em poker tournament takes place must not deduct rent as an expense.

Licence Applications

4.01

Applicants must provide all information required on the application form. In addition, the LGCA may request any other information it deems necessary.

4.02

The LGCA may limit the number of events held by a licensee during any specific time period.

4.03

Licensees may hold Texas hold'em poker tournaments in:

- a) publicly-owned premises;
- b) premises owned by another charitable or religious organization;
- c) premises they own; or,
- d) private premises, if approved by the LGCA.

4.04

A licence to conduct a Texas hold'em poker tournament will generally be granted to a single organization. This organization must retain full responsibility for the operation of each Texas hold'em poker tournament.

4.05

Applicants must ensure enough funds are available to award all prizes offered. Applicants may be required to provide a prize guarantee in a form satisfactory to the LGCA.

4.06

Licensees or applicants may ask in writing for an exemption from any term or condition, and must satisfy the LGCA that compliance with that term or condition would cause them unreasonable hardship:

Equipment and Supplies

5.01

Texas hold'em poker tournament equipment must be in good working order and is subject to inspection and approval by the LGCA.

5.02

Texas hold'em poker must be played with a high-quality, standard 52-card deck without jokers. Decks must be replaced when worn. Wild cards are not allowed.

5.03

Texas hold'em poker must be played at tables large enough to accommodate a dealer and a maximum of 10 players. Players must have sufficient room to examine their cards without disclosing their value to other players or to spectators.



5.04

Licensees are responsible to ensure only chips sold at their event are used and that the chips are clearly identified.

5.05

At least three colours (i.e. denominations) of chips must be available.

Conduct

6.01

A Texas hold'em poker tournament licence may not be transferred, assigned, lent or borrowed.

6.02

Licensees must post the following at each Texas hold'em poker tournament location:

- a) a copy of the current licence;
- b) all posters provided by the LGCA; and,
- c) any other information required by the LGCA.

6.03

Copies of the following must be available to players prior to each event:

- a) the tournament rules, as approved by the LGCA;
- b) the LGCA Standard Rules of Play (see Section 7); and,
- c) any rules that relate specifically to pre-registration.

6.04

The LGCA Standard Rules of Play and the approved tournament rules supersede any other standard poker rule book referenced during the event.

6.05

Licensees must not permit spectators into the tournament play area and must ensure spectators do not interfere with any table in play.

6.06

Tables cannot be left unattended by tournament workers once players are seated.

6.07

People under 18 years of age are not permitted to play, work or volunteer at Texas hold'em poker tournaments.

6.08

Texas hold'em poker must be conducted as a tournament where all players pay an established entry fee for the same amount of chips.

6.09

Unidentified chips must be removed from play and any chips not provided by the licensee for that event must be provided to the LGCA with an incident report.

6.10

Any deck found to be defective or containing damaged cards must be removed immediately from play. Suspected marked cards must be provided to the LGCA with an incident report.

6.11

Tournament chips must have no cash value.

6.12

Dealers cannot sell tournament chips.

6.13

Licensees may offer a maximum of three rebuy units to players. Sale of all rebuys must cease at a specified time during the event.

6.14

Licensees are responsible to ensure all workers are appropriately trained, thoroughly knowledgeable about the game, and able to provide consistent conduct and operation of the event.

6.15

The tournament chairperson must:

- a) be a member of the licensed organization;
- b) be present throughout the event(s);
- c) ensure fair and consistent determinations when disputes or questions arise;
- d) ensure that all disputes or irregularities are properly recorded and reported to the LGCA;
- e) immediately report any incident that might compromise the integrity of the event(s) to the LGCA;
- f) ensure that all required reports are submitted to the LGCA; and,
- g) ensure compliance with all terms and conditions of the licence.

6.16

Dealers must maintain full control of their tables at all times including, but not limited to, handling betting order, side pots, chips, mucked cards, cards in play, and player and spectator behaviour.

6.17

Persons directly involved in the conduct, management or operation of the Texas hold'em poker tournament cannot play at that event.



6.18

Gaming service providers who are licensed by the LGCA to assist licensees in the operation of Texas hold'em poker tournaments must not play at any event as long as their contract with the licensee is in effect.

6.19

The approved application, the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament Terms and Conditions and the approved rules are part of the licence. Any change must be applied for and approved in writing by the LGCA before being advertised or implemented. All approved amendments must be available at each event.

6.20

Texas hold'em poker tournaments may only be held in the location and on the date and time specified on the licence or any subsequently-approved amendment.

6.21

Licensees planning to stop operating their Texas hold'em poker tournaments must notify the LGCA in writing of the last scheduled event date.

6.22

Licensees must ensure advertising accurately reflects the approved licence and includes the organization's name and licence number. Advertising of prizes must identify any applicable restrictions.

6.23

Licensees must not sell pre-registrations or advertise Texas hold'em poker tournaments outside Manitoba.

6.24

Licensees may accept orders for pre-registrations through a website under the following conditions:

- Credit card information may be collected online, but the completion of the payment process online is not allowed.
- Online ordering cannot be the sole method offered.
- Immediate confirmation of the registration may be done electronically, but actual tickets must be delivered by mail or in-person to the purchaser.
- Only orders placed within Manitoba may be processed.

Standard Rules of Play

7.01

Tournament rules must be compliant with the Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament Terms and Conditions and must identify:

- entry fee and amount of chips received;
- the procedures and rules for allowing prepaid entry fees or pre-registration, if applicable;
- the prizes offered;
- any minimum limits or conditions for raises;
- the number of blinds and the progression of increase in the blinds;
- the time limit, price charged, amount of chips and method established for rebuys, if allowed;
- the method for eliminating lower value chips;
- the method for handling split pots with an uneven amount of chips;
- the rules for elimination of players;
- the method for determining the order of finish (see 8.04);
- the method for resolving tournament standing ties;
- the rule for allowing players to leave the table;
- any other poker rule book referenced during the event;
- the designated language for the tournament; and,
- any other information essential to a player's understanding of how the tournament will be conducted.

7.02

Licensees must not offer refunds once tournament play has begun.

7.03

Licensees must assign table and player positions randomly.

7.04

All suits have the same rank. The rank of cards, from highest to lowest, must be ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, except where the ace may be counted low (see 8.03).

7.05

Cards must be displayed face-up on each table so that each card can be seen by any player before the start of play at each Texas hold'em poker tournament.

7.06

Players cannot deal. Players who have been eliminated cannot become a dealer for that tournament.



7.07

Player conduct:

- a) A player cannot bet on more than one hand in any round of play.
- b) Side-betting is not allowed.
- c) Substitute players are not allowed.
- d) Players may not give, sell, exchange or redeem chips with another player.
- e) Players may not handle the chips placed in the pot.
- f) Players are responsible to protect their cards.
- g) Players must keep their pocket cards in full view of the dealer at all times.
- h) Players may examine their pocket cards at any time and must do so in a manner that does not disclose their value to other players or spectators.
- i) Players may not exchange information about their cards.

7.08

The dealer will collect all cards and shuffle them prior to each round of play.

7.09

The dealer button must start with the player to the left of the dealer. The dealer will move the dealer button to the next player in a clockwise direction prior to commencing each subsequent round of play.

7.10

The player immediately to the left of the dealer button will post the required blind (small blind, if two blinds are required) before the beginning of each round of play.

7.11

If two blinds are required, the player immediately to the left of the small blind position will post the required big blind before the beginning of each round of play. When all but two players have been eliminated from the table, the player with the dealer button will post the small blind and the other player will post the big blind.

7.12

All cards will be dealt in a clockwise direction beginning with the player immediately to the left of the dealer button.

7.13

The dealer will commence the first betting interval by dealing one card face-down to each player, then a second card face-down to each player.

7.14

The first betting interval will proceed as follows:

- a) The player immediately to the left of the big blind position is the first to act and must call, raise or fold. When all but two players have been eliminated from the table, the player with the dealer button is the first to act and must call, raise or fold.
- b) Betting continues in a clockwise direction until each player has an opportunity to call, raise or fold, with the exception of the player in the big blind position who may also check if no other player has raised.

7.15

The dealer will commence the second betting interval by burning a card and then dealing three community cards face-up in the middle of the table.

7.16

The second betting interval will proceed as follows:

- a) The player immediately to the left of the dealer button is the first to act and must bet, check or fold.
- b) Betting continues in a clockwise direction until each player has an opportunity to check, call, raise or fold.

7.17

The dealer will commence the third betting interval by burning a card and dealing one community card face up.

7.18

The third betting interval will proceed as in 7.16.

7.19

The dealer will commence the fourth betting interval by burning a card and dealing one community card face-up.

7.20

The fourth betting interval will proceed as in 7.16. Upon completion of four betting intervals:

- a) 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 their hand.
- b) If two or more players remain in the round of play:
 - i) it will be the obligation of the player who made the last bet to show their hand; or,
 - ii) if no player has placed a bet, it will be the obligation of all players to show their hands.



7.21

Any combination of a player's pocket cards and/or community cards may be used to construct a standard five-card poker hand.

7.22

If a tie cannot be broken, the pot will be split among all equal hands for that round of play.

7.23

When a player is eliminated, they must not be allowed to re-enter the tournament.

7.24

As players are eliminated, tables must be maintained, as closely as possible, with an equal number of players.

7.25

When relocating players, the new position must be as close as possible to the player's position at the previous table. Relocated players must assume all responsibilities of the new position.

7.26

No misdeal may be called after the first bet. In the event of a misdeal, additional blinds cannot be required.

7.27

The use of any cell phone or electronic device is prohibited during tournament play.

7.28

The tournament chairperson is responsible for handling all disputes. Any player dissatisfied with the tournament chairperson's decision may contact the LGCA.

Prizes and Winners

8.01

Tournament entries, rebuys or chips must not be awarded or given away as a bonus or prize unless the LGCA has approved a method of ensuring financial accountability.

8.02

Promotional prizes are allowed only if there is no charge or consideration, including the requirement to pay a registration fee, for the chance to win.

8.03

For every round of play, the last remaining player will be declared the winner or the winning hand among all remaining players will be determined in accordance with the following ranking of poker combinations:

Royal Flush is a hand containing an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 of the same suit.

Straight Flush is a hand containing five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking. An ace may count high or low.

Four of a Kind is a hand containing four cards of the same rank.

Full House is a hand containing three of a kind and one pair.

Flush is a hand containing five cards of the same suit but not in consecutive ranking.

Straight is a hand containing five cards of consecutive rank regardless of suit. An ace may count high or low.

Three of a Kind is a hand containing three cards of the same rank.

Two Pairs is a hand containing two pairs.

One Pair is a hand containing two cards of the same rank.

High Card is a hand that does not contain one pair or better.

8.04

The order of finish for the tournament will be determined by one of the following methods:

- a) If play continues until all but one player is eliminated, the order of finish will be the order of elimination from last to first. The last remaining player will be declared the winner; or
- b) If play stops at a set time as defined in the tournament rules, the order of finish will be determined by ranking the value of chips held by each player at the end of play from highest to lowest. The player having the highest value of chips will be declared the winner; or,
- c) Any other method approved by the LGCA.

8.05

Cannabis cannot be given as a prize.



Records and Reporting

9.01

Licensees must maintain complete Texas hold'em poker tournament records. These records must include, but are not limited to, event sheets, player registration forms and lists of winners.

9.02

Licensees must keep all records relating to the conduct and operation of Texas hold'em poker tournaments for at least three years after the expiration of the licence, unless otherwise approved in writing by the LGCA.

9.03

All Texas hold'em poker tournament revenue must be deposited immediately into a separate lottery bank account. This bank account must be separate from other organizational bank accounts and used for the sole purpose of depositing and disbursing funds earned by conducting LGCA-licensed events.

9.04

Licensees must make payments directly from their lottery bank account to providers of goods and services and charitable purpose as approved by the LGCA. All forms of payment from the lottery bank account must be supported by invoices and/or receipts. Cash payments for expenses at an event are only allowed if they are supported by receipts that are attached to the applicable event sheet.

9.05

Licensees must submit required financial reports in an approved paper or electronic format. Reports must be complete and accurate and must include copies of all applicable bank statements.

9.06

Within 60 days after the final event, licensees must:

- a) disburse all funds as approved in the licence; and
 - b) submit required financial information on approved forms;
- unless otherwise approved by the LGCA.

9.07

Licensees must make available to the public on request, information regarding the charitable use of Texas hold'em poker tournament revenue.

9.08

Licensees must provide the LGCA with supporting documentation for the use of Texas hold'em poker tournament revenue upon request. This documentation must include, but is not limited to, invoice copies, receipts and written acknowledgements from each recipient.

9.09

Upon written request from the LGCA, licensees must provide an independent audited financial statement or financial review of their Texas hold'em poker tournament operations.

This document is available in alternate formats, upon request.

