

GAME RULES

FREE BET BLACKJACK

THE OBJECT OF THE GAME

To win, the player must beat the house's hand without going over 21.

THE CARDS

Free Bet Blackjack is played with 1 to 8 decks of 52 cards. An ace can count as either 1 or 11 points, face cards are worth 10 points, and all other cards are worth their face value. A blackjack occurs when the first two cards of a hand are an ace and any 10-point card (10, jack, queen or king), i.e. a two-card hand with a total value of 21 points, the highest possible score at blackjack.

THE BETS

The maximum number of players at a **Free Bet Blackjack** table, whether seated or standing, is the number of betting spots at the table.

Using chips purchased at the casino, players place an initial bet in accordance with the minimum and maximum limits indicated at the table. Bets must be placed on the designated spot before the first card is dealt. Subject to the player options, bets cannot be placed, changed or withdrawn thereafter.

THE DEAL

The dealer deals the cards to each player. Only the dealer can touch the cards. The dealer deals one card to each player and one card face up to the house. The dealer then deals a second card to each player, and a second card face down to the house.

THE PLAYER OPTIONS

In the event that the house does not get a blackjack and the house's second card has not yet been revealed, players may:

- **HIT** for one or more additional cards to get closer to 21 without going over.
- **STAND** if they are satisfied with their hand.
- **SPLIT**, i.e. separate two cards of the same value cards (e.g. king and 10, pair of 9s) to play more than one hand, for a maximum of four hands. Each hand is then played separately. In the case of a pair of aces, players can split only once and hit for only one additional card for each hand. Each time players split a hand, they must place an additional bet equal to their initial bet or use a "free bet" marker, which can only be used when the cards in the split have a value other than 10. There can be no blackjack on split hands.
- **DOUBLE DOWN**, i.e. bet an additional amount equal to their initial bet on a two-card hand, except if the hand is a blackjack. Players may also double down on each hand after **SPLITTING** two cards of the same value, except in the case of a pair of aces. In any event, once the player doubles down, they are dealt one last card. When a two-card hand totals 9, 10 or a hard 11, the "free bet" marker can be used instead of chips in order to double the bet.

If the house's face-up card is an ace and the value of their face-down card has not been revealed, players may:

- **TAKE INSURANCE**. In this case, players may place, on the designated spot, a bet corresponding to one half of their initial bet. The dealer will then check the house's second card. If the house draws a blackjack, the insurance bet pays 2 to 1. If the house does not draw a blackjack, players lose their insurance bet.

THE HOUSE STRATEGY

After revealing the house's face-down card, the dealer completes the house's hand, if necessary, according to the house strategy indicated at the table which may either be:

- **HIT** on a count of soft 17 or less and **STAND** on a count of hard 17 or more, or
- **HIT** on a count of 16 or less and **STAND** on a count of (soft or hard) 17 or more.

SOFT HAND

Hand in which an ace can have the value of either 1 or 11 without the total value of the hand exceeding 21.

Example: Soft 17 = a hand that could be made up of an ace and a 6 for a total value of 7 or 17.

HARD HAND

Hand with no aces or one ace which can only have the value of 1.

Example: Hard 17 = a hand that could be made up of a 10, a 6 and an ace for a total value of 17.

THE PAYOUTS

GENERAL RULES

The player's bet wins if:

- The point count of the player's hand is 21 or less and is higher than the house's hand.
or
- The point count of the player's hand is 21 or less, while the house's hand exceeds 21, but is not a hard 22.
or
- The player's hand is a blackjack, while the house's hand is not.

If the player gets a blackjack, the bet is paid 3 to 2, except when the house's hand is also a blackjack. The payout on any other winning bet is 1 to 1. Winning "free bet" markers (which have the same value as the initial bet) are also paid 1 to 1.

The hand is a push (neither wins nor loses) if both the player and the house get a blackjack. The same applies if the point count of the player's hand is 21 or less and the house's hand totals the same value or a hard 22.

Players lose their bet if their hand exceeds 21. They also lose if the point count of their hand is lower than that of the house, provided the latter is not over 21 and not a hard 22.

The “free bet” marker bet on a losing hand does not result in the player losing additional chips.

VARIATIONS

If the player gets a blackjack, the payout is issued according to the payout indicated at the table. Where appropriate, the payout may vary between 1 to 1, and 10 to 1, in which case this payout will replace any provision to the contrary indicated in the general rules.

RAKES

Provided it is indicated at the table, the house may require that the player pay a rake:

- For each game.
- As a fee for a game lasting a predetermined length of time.
- As a percentage of a winning bet. If the amount of the bet is not a multiple of 10, the rake is calculated on the next higher multiple of 10.

The amount of the applicable rake, if any, will be indicated at the table.

KING'S BOUNTY SIDE BET

If indicated at the table, players may place a King's Bounty side bet in addition to their initial bet or, if allowed at the table, without making an initial bet. This bet must be made in accordance with the minimum and maximum limits indicated at the table and placed on the designated spot before the first card is dealt. Thereafter, it cannot be withdrawn or changed. A King's Bounty side bet wins if the player's first two cards total 20. Otherwise, it loses. Winning King's Bounty side bet payouts are as follows:

PAYOUT TABLE FOR KING'S BOUNTY SIDE BETS*

<i>Player's first two cards</i>	<i>Payout</i>
Pair – Kings of spades (and the house has a blackjack)	1,000 to 1
Pair – Kings of spades	100 to 1
Pair – Kings of the same suit	30 to 1
Pair – 10s, jacks or queens of the same suit	20 to 1
Total of 20 of the same suit	9 to 1
Pair of kings	6 to 1
Total of 20	4 to 1

*Only the highest payout ratio is paid on a winning bet.

The rules herein are governed by the By-law respecting casino games (CQLR, c. S-13.1, r. 3.1). The Société des casinos du Québec inc. may amend the rules herein at any time.