

LIVE CRAPS

The Complete Beginner's Guide

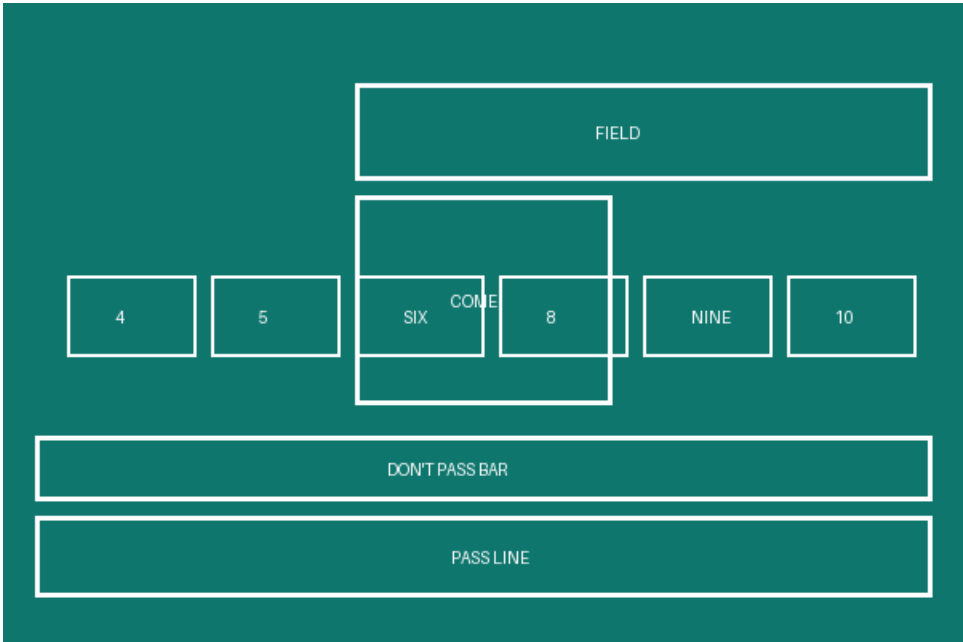


Craps is one of the most exciting and social casino games. While it may look intimidating at first, the basic rules are simple. This guide will teach you everything you need to know to confidently play live craps.

What is Craps?

Craps is a dice game where players bet on the outcome of the roll of two dice. The game is played on a large table with a specific layout for different types of bets. One player (the 'shooter') rolls the dice, and all players at the table can place bets on the results.

The Craps Table Layout



How the Game Works

Step	What Happens
1. Come Out Roll	The shooter makes their first roll. This establishes the "point."
2. Point Established	If 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10 is rolled, that becomes the point number.
3. Point Phase	The shooter continues rolling until they either roll the point again (win) or roll a 7 (lose).
4. New Round	After a decision, a new come out roll begins.

Essential Bets for Beginners

1. Pass Line Bet (Best Bet for Beginners)

How it works: You win if the come out roll is 7 or 11. You lose if it's 2, 3, or 12. Any other number becomes the 'point,' and you win if that number is rolled again before a 7.

Payout	House Edge	When to Place
1:1 (Even money)	1.41%	Before come out roll

2. Don't Pass Bet

How it works: This is the opposite of Pass Line. You win if the come out roll is 2 or 3 (12 is a push). You lose on 7 or 11. If a point is established, you win if 7 comes before the point.

Payout	House Edge	Best Strategy
1:1 (Even money)	1.36%	Lowest house edge!

Understanding All Craps Bets

Bet Type	Payout	House Edge	Recommendation
Pass Line	1:1	1.41%	Excellent
Don't Pass	1:1	1.36%	Best Odds
Come Bet	1:1	1.41%	Good
Don't Come	1:1	1.36%	Good
Place 6 or 8	7:6	1.52%	Good
Place 5 or 9	7:5	4.00%	Fair
Place 4 or 10	9:5	6.67%	Fair
Field	1:1 or 2:1	5.56%	Avoid
Big 6/Big 8	1:1	9.09%	Avoid
Any 7	4:1	16.67%	Never Bet
Any Craps	7:1	11.11%	Avoid
Hardways	7:1 to 9:1	9-11%	Avoid

Free Odds Bets (The Best Bet in the Casino!)

Once a point is established, you can place an 'odds bet' behind your Pass Line bet. This bet has **0% house edge** – it's a completely fair bet! You're paid true odds based on the probability of rolling the point.

Point Number	True Odds	Payout	Probability
4 or 10	2 to 1	2:1	33.33%
5 or 9	3 to 2	3:2	40.00%
6 or 8	6 to 5	6:5	45.45%

Essential Craps Terminology

Term	Meaning
Shooter	The player rolling the dice
Come Out Roll	The first roll of a new round
Point	The target number established on come out roll (4, 5, 6, 8, 9, or 10)
Natural	Rolling a 7 or 11 on the come out roll (automatic win for Pass Line)
Craps	Rolling a 2, 3, or 12 on the come out roll (automatic loss for Pass Line)
Seven Out	Rolling a 7 after the point is established (round ends)
Snake Eyes	Rolling two 1s (total of 2)
Boxcars	Rolling two 6s (total of 12)
Hard Way	Rolling doubles (e.g., two 3s to make 6)
Easy Way	Rolling a number without doubles (e.g., 2 and 4 to make 6)
Hot Table	When shooters are winning consistently
Cold Table	When shooters are losing frequently

Winning Strategy for Craps

1. Start Simple

Begin with Pass Line bets only. Once comfortable, add Free Odds bets for maximum value. These two bets give you the best odds in craps (and one of the best in the entire casino).

2. Maximum Odds

Always take the maximum odds allowed behind your Pass Line bet. Since this bet has 0% house edge, it lowers the overall house edge on your combined bets. Many casinos allow 3x-4x-5x odds or even higher.

3. Avoid Proposition Bets

The center of the table has many tempting bets with big payouts (Any 7, Hardways, etc.). These bets have house edges of 10-16% – terrible odds! Stick to the simple bets with low house edges.

4. Bankroll Management

Have at least 10 times your average bet as your session bankroll. For example, if you're betting \$10 on Pass Line with \$20 odds, bring at least \$300 for a session. This gives you enough runway to weather the natural variance.

5. Table Etiquette

- Don't reach over the table while dice are being thrown
- Keep your hands visible when holding the dice
- Roll the dice so they hit the back wall
- Cheer for everyone – craps is a team game!
- Tip the dealers when you're winning

Sample Betting Sequence for Beginners

Roll	Action	Result	Next Step
Come Out	Place \$10 on Pass Line	Roll is 6	Point established at 6
Point Phase	Add \$20 Free Odds behind Pass	—	Hoping for another 6
Point Phase	Shooter rolls	Roll is 6!	Pass Line wins \$10, Odds wins \$24

New Round	Start over with Pass Line bet	—	New come out roll
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**** Final Tips for Success**

- **Best Bets:** Pass/Don't Pass with Maximum Odds
- **House Edge:** Can be as low as 0.4% with full odds
- **Avoid:** All proposition bets in the center of the table
- **Atmosphere:** Craps is loud, social, and exciting – enjoy it!
- **Learning Curve:** Start online or with low minimums
- **Remember:** The simpler your strategy, the better your odds