**Introduction**

To win the WSOP, you need to work very hard, and you will also need a lot of luck. To become a winning player will take a lot less work and only a little bit of luck.

Most players don’t understand basic holdem principles. The surest way to learn to play correctly is by reading.

**Math Fact**

There are **2,598,960** different 5-card poker hands that can be drawn from a 52-card deck. This total number of combinations is calculated by computing **52 choose 5 (52C5)**.

The strength of a poker hand category is determined by the probability of drawing that category from the total combinations of poker hands. For example, a straight flush is the strongest hand category in poker. Out of 2,598,960 combinations there are 10 straight flushes per suit for a total of 40 across all four suits. This translates to a 40 / 2,598,869 = 0.001539% chance to drawing a straight flush or 64,964-to-1 against drawing a straight flush.

Hand Strength (in descending order):

1. Straight Flush (high card is the tiebreaker, **40** combinations)
2. Four of a Kind (quads, **624** combinations)

Nuts & Bolts (1 – 34)

Limit Hold’em (35 – 112)

Big Blind

Unraised Pot Raise **(8.1%)** 99+ **(2.7%)**, ATs+ **(1.2%)**, KJs+ **(0.6%)**, AJ+ **(2.7%)**, KQ **(0.9%)**

Check **(91.9%)**

Open In-Front Re-Raise **(3.3%)** JJ+ **(1.8%)**, AQs+ **(0.6%)**, AK **(0.9%)**

Call **(10.7%)** TT-22 **(4.1%)**, AJs-A2s **(3.0%)**, KQs-K9s **(1.2%)**, QJs-Q9s **(0.9%)**,

JTs-87s **(1.2%)**, J9s-T8s **(0.6%)**, AQ **(0.9%)**

Fold **(84.0%)**

3-Bet In-Front Re-Raise **(1.7%)** QQ+ **(1.4%)**, AKs **(0.3%)**

Fold **(98.3%)**

No-Limit Hold’em (113 – 146)

* In general, weak and drawing hands are not valuable in no-limit. You should oftentimes fold even strong flush or straight draws.
* The goal of no-limit is to induce players with weaker hands than yours to call (or make) large bets.

No-Limit Tournaments (147 – 182)

Miscellaneous Topics (183 – 199)

* You make money in poker from your opponents’ mistakes. The best table has opponents that make the most and worst mistakes.
* Good Limit Hold’em Games
  + Play only the very best hands – fold the rest. If you see an opponent chronically losing after showing down substandard hands from weak position, you can categorize that opponent as a weak **loose** player.
  + Protect good hands with bets and raises. **Passive** players fail to bet and raise their strong hands.
  + Give up on weak hands if the implied odds are worse than the break-even pot odds. **Passive** players tend to call too much with weaker hands.
  + On the river, bet your likely winners for value. **Passive** players tend not to recognize value betting opportunities when they arise.