Five Card Draw Poker Rules

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**Five Card Draw is one of most basic forms of poker, and it's the kind of poker you're used to seeing in movies and on TV.**

Because the game has been around for such a long time, and has been played in countless home games and card rooms across the nation, there are a couple different variations on the traditional rules.

**Below you will find all of the most commonly used rules for playing Five Card Draw.**

The game is simple: make the best 5-card poker hand possible after one draw, and bet accordingly. The player with the best hand after the second betting round takes the pot.

## Antes

The **ante method** is the original way the game was played, and is most commonly the system used in home games around the world. **In this version each player must pay a predetermined ante before being dealt any cards.**

## The Deal

Once all players have paid their ante the dealer deals every player (starting on his left) five cards face down.

**After all players receive their five cards, the first betting round ensues.**

The betting must start with the player to the left of the dealer.

**In an ante game like this, the first player to act is allowed to check** (meaning they are not forced to bet, and can choose to stay in the hand for free).

So in the betting round there are certain commands players are allowed to do:

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| Command | Definition |
| Check | The player does not bet anything but can remain in the game. Note that if both players check, the betting round is over. |
| Bet | The player states an amount that they wish to bet. Other players can call this amount or raise it. |
| Call | If a player calls a bet, it means they’re going to pay the same as what the other player just bet. A call ends a round of betting. |
| Raise | If a player says they’re going to raise, it means are going to increase the amount of the bet by a certain amount. If the other player wishes to remain in the game they need to either call the bet or raise still further. |
| Fold | If a player says they are going to fold it means that they have decided not to play this hand any further and are conceding this round. The remaining player gets all the money from the pot and a new round starts. |

## The Draw Round

When the betting round completes the draw round begins with the player closest to the dealer's left. Assuming this player hasn't already folded, they have the option of changing any amount of cards they choose.

A player can "stand pat", meaning they keep all five cards, or **they can throw away any amount from 1-5 cards**, getting them replaced with an equal number of cards from the top of the deck.

It is almost never correct to call in the first betting round, only to throw away four or all five of your cards.

## The Second Betting Round and Showdown

Once all players have received their new cards, each player must evaluate their hand and proceed to the second (and final) betting round. This betting round works the same way as the initial one. Once the second betting round is completed it's time for the showdown (assuming more than one player still has a hand).

Just like almost every other form of poker, the player with the best 5-card poker hand at showdown wins the pot. [**Head here for a complete list of poker hand rankings**](http://www.pokerlistings.com/poker-hand-ranking/)**.**

**Once the showdown is complete, the dealer collects all the cards, and passes the deal on to the player to his left.**

**Hand Strength**

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| **Royal Flush** | A straight from a ten to an ace with all five cards of the same suit. In poker all suits are ranked equally. |
| **In aStraight Flush** | Any straight with all five cards of the same suit. |
| **Four of a Kind** | Any four cards of the same rank. |
| **Full House** | Any three cards of the same rank together with any two cards of the same rank. Example: 3 Kings and 2 Aces |
| **Flush** | Any five cards of the same suit (not consecutive). The highest card of the five determines the rank of the flush. Our example shows an Ace-high flush, which is the highest possible. |
| **Straight** | Any five consecutive cards of different suits. Aces can count as either a high or a low card. Our example shows a five-high straight, which is the lowest possible straight. |
| **Three of a Kind** | Any three cards of the same rank. Our example shows three-of-a-kind Aces, with a King and a Queen as side cards - the best possible three of a kind. |
| **Two Pair** | Any two cards of the same rank together with another two cards of the same rank. Our example shows the best possible two-pair, Aces and Kings. The highest pair of the two determines the rank of the two-pair. |
| **One Pair** | Any two cards of the same rank. Our example shows the best possible one-pair hand. |
| **High Card** | Any hand not in the above-mentioned hands. Our example shows the best possible high-card hand. |