



“Eastern Poker Tour”

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

SECTION I – TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION AND ENTRY:

1. “EPT” and “Eastern Poker Tour” means Eastern Poker LLC. Eastern Poker LLC reserves the right to refuse anyone entry into the tournament at its sole and absolute discretion.
2. Entry into an EPT event is limited by the house rules of the venue. Establishment may have age requirements or other requirements in which EPT and its members are bound to. Players must be 21+ to participate in any events that are held in a casino environment.
3. Players must be registered members of EPT to participate in an event. New players are required to fill out a registration form or register online and submit valid information to participate.
4. Players are responsible for payment of any and all taxes or fees associated with the reception of any prizes distributed by EPT.
5. No teams, substitutes, transfers or assisted play will be permitted. EPT reserves the right to accommodate players who have specific needs.
6. EPT is not responsible for any prizes, or management of sponsored charity tournaments. EPT is present for promotional purposes only as a sponsor to publicize local pub poker events and to help advertise for the charity hosting that day’s event.
7. Tournament access in pub tournament is a reward for those that patronize the venue that evening with their special.
8. EPT or any employee does not charge an entry fee to participate in any tournament we host. Venues might require players to participate in a dinner buffet that evening to justify usage of building and expenses incurred for that use. This is not to be confused for an entry-fee or buy-in to play poker.
9. **NO GAMBLING.** Any player found in violating local gambling laws during play will be dismissed permanently from any EPT pub-tournament. (ie “side bets” or putting any monetary item at risk dependent on a game of chance during our tournaments)
10. Late registrants are subject to the following rules in addition to all other rules. Late registrants are defined as a person that registers ofr the event after the tournament has officially started. In pub events, late registrants will be penalized a full small and big blind for every level they have missed. In charity and special events, the rules may vary and will be noted otherwise in charity rules or the specific event’s rules.
11. Participants acknowledged that Eastern Poker events, results, and player nams will be recorded and published through various mediums. That such publication shall included, but is not limited to, participants “hole cards” and other elements of strategic information. Any participant who delays or refuses to display hole cards or

otherwise interferes with said request shall be subject to penalties and possible disqualification based on the sole discretion of Eastern Poker, LLC.

12. Participants acknowledge and give permission for their results, pictures, videos, and player names to be published across various mediums, including but not limited to print, television, websites, radio

SECTION II - TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING:

1. EPT tournament times are approximate and can change with certain circumstances. EPT reserves the right to change all tournament times/dates in its sole and absolute discretion.
2. EPT reserves the right to cancel, modify, relocate, or reschedule tournaments for any reason with prior notification on www.easternpokertour.com. All changes of schedules will be posted on the regional page or home-page of the website.
3. EPT is not responsible for injuries or losses arising or resulting from participating EPT events and is not liable for any actions or omissions by employees, whether negligent or willful. This includes, but is not limited to, any loss of tournament chips players leave at playing tables. This also includes, but is not limited to, any loss of personal property at tournaments.
4. Qualified Tournaments, Special Tournaments, Championship Events, ect. Players that have qualified for a certain event, and cannot make that event for whatever reason, will lose out on that tournament and any value or perceived value that entry would have. EPT reserves the right to modify, reschedule, or relocate these tournaments at their discretion. Players who cannot attend the event, even if rescheduled, will also have no right to play in a future event or seek any value or perceived value from the loss of that entry.

SECTION III – PRIZES AND SEATING:

1. Winners are responsible for payment of any and all taxes, licenses, registrations, and other fees associated with tournament prizes.
2. Prizes and entries are non-transferable unless specifically noted otherwise.
3. Tournaments with entrants over 30 players will be assigned to a table through random selection based on expected participation. Tournament staff reserves the right to accommodate players based on special needs.
4. If the participant is not present at the beginning of the tournament, all forced antes and blinds will be removed from an absent player's stack accordingly. If the player shows up and still has chips remaining, [s] he may play his or her chips.
5. No-value tournament chips are used for the tournament and are the exclusive property of EPT and may not be removed from the tournament area. Players found to be transferring chips from one event to another will be disqualified from EPT tournaments.
6. Participation bonuses (nightly prizes) in pub events are based on players who participate in the venue's special that evening. Players who advance through special promotions, coupons, or other means are not considered a participant when computing the participation prize.
7. EPT may impose penalties of any kind upon any person who gives, endorses, any statement or action having a detrimental effect to the best interest of the contest. This may include, but not limited to, expulsion from event and property, forfeiture of players' prizes and/or tournament of champion seats.
8. EPT will disqualify any person for any prize based upon fraud, dishonesty, and violation of rules or other misconduct. EPT also reserves the right to exclude any individual(s) acting in a disruptive or inappropriate manner.

9. EPT, it's employees, affiliates, sponsors, and sub-contractors will use reasonable commercial efforts to consider the best interests of the tournament and fairness a top priority. Unusual circumstances can dictate that the technical interpretation of the rules be balanced against the interest of fairness. EPT's decisions are final and cannot be appealed or give rise to any monetary damages, as each participant understands that. Even though poker is largely a game of skill, the outcome of any particular hand or event is dependent on many factors.
10. If participant is not present at the start of the tournament, all forced blinds and/or antes will be removed from absent players stack. If players shows up and still has chips remaining, [s]he may play his or her chips.
 1. Any player who directs any profane and/or abusive language at another player, dealer or tournament staff member will be penalized in accordance to rules V-#8 or IV-#2.
- 11.
12. Excessive celebration through extended theatrics, inappropriate behavior, or physical actions, gestures, or conduct may be subject to penalty in accordance to rules V-#8 or IV-#2.
13. EPT reserves the right to deny any person a prize based on evidence of collusion, chip-dumping, chip stealing, or cheating in any form.
14. Repeated etiquette violations such as touching another players chips, cards, delay of game, exposing hole cards to players, and excessive banter will result in penalties in accordance to rules V-#8 or IV-#2.
15. Where a situation arises that is not covered by these rules, EPT shall have the sole authority to make judgment, impose penalties, in accordance to the best interests of the tournament and contest.

SECTION IV – Player Etiquette, Conduct and Tournament integrity

2. The integrity and friendly atmosphere at the events is paramount. All participants must adhere to the spirit and to the letter of the Official Rules of the “Eastern Poker Tour” which forbid play or any action that is illegal, unethical or consitutes chearting or collusion in any form.
 - a. Cheating is defined as any act a person engages in to break the rules to gain an advantage
 - b. Cheating includes, but is not limited to, acts such as: collusion, chip stealing, transferring tournaments chips from one event to another; introducing chips not intended for an event, into an event, card marking; card substitution, stacking the deck, or the use of any kind of cheating device.
 - c. Collusion is defined as an agreement between two or more participants to engage in illegal or unethical acts against other participants or EPT. It includes, but not limited to, acts such as: chip dumping, soft play, sharing card information with another, sending or receiving signals to or from another participant, the use of electronic communication with the intent to facilitate collusion, and any act that EPT deems inappropriate.
 - d. Chip dumping is defined as an agreement between two or more participants for one or more of the participants to bet chips with the intent of increasing another participants stack.
 - e. Soft play is defined as an agreement between two ormore participants to not bet or raise eahother in order to minimize the number of chips lost by those participants in the agreement.
 - f. Stacking the deck is defined as when the acting dealer does not use a random shuffle but arranges the cards in any participants favor.
3. EPT may impose penalties of any kind or nature upon any person who gives, makes, issues, authorizes or endorses any statement or action having, or designed to have, an effect prejudicial or detrimental to the best interest of the Tournament as determined by EPT, acting in its sole and absolute discretion. This may include, but shall not be limited to,

- a. expulsion from the event and property, forfeiture of chips and/or loss of the right to participate in this and/or any other tournament conducted by EPT. Additionally,
 - b. EPT may in its sole and absolute discretion impose penalties of any kind or nature upon any person who, in EPT's view engages in inappropriate conduct during the events.
4. Any attempt by any person to deliberately damage, corrupt or undermine the operation of the EPT tournament may be a violation of criminal and civil laws and should such an attempt be made, EPT reserves the right to seek damages from any such person to the fullest extent of the law.
 5. All decisions regarding the interpretation of Eastern Poker Tour Rules, player eligibility, scheduling and staging of the Tournament, and penalties for misconduct lie solely with EPT tournament staff, whose decisions are final.
 6. EPT employees will use reasonable commercial efforts to consider the best interests of the Tournament and fairness as the top priority in the decision-making process, with the understanding that "best interests of the Tournament and fairness" shall be determined by EPT, acting in its sole and absolute discretion. Unusual circumstances can, on occasion, dictate that the technical interpretation of the rules be balanced against the interest of fairness. EPT's decisions are final and can not be appealed and shall not give rise to any claim for monetary damages, as each participant understands that, while poker is primarily and largely a game of skill, the outcome of any particular hand or event is dependent on many factors, including but not limited to the cards dealt, the cards retained and the actions of other participants.
 7. EPT prohibits the use of obscene or foul language in any of our participating venues at any time. Any participant that uses foul, profane, obscene or vulgar statement, or speaks abusively or in an intimidating manner to another participant, a dealer or a tournament staff member, we be penalized. These penalties will be levied based on rules section V, rule 8, section IV-rule 2.
 8. Player or staff abuse will not be tolerated. A player may incur a penalty up to and including disqualification for any abuse towards another player or staff member, and player could be asked to leave the property.
 9. Repeated etiquette violations such as touching another player's cards or chips, delay of game and excessive chatter will result in penalties.
 10. Where a situation arises that is not covered by these rules, EPT floor manager shall have the sole authority to render a judgment, including the imposition of a penalty, in accordance with the best interests of the Tournament and the maintenance of its integrity and public confidence.
 11. Tournament rules and any and all changes in rules will be available online at www.easternpokertour.com/ept_officialrules.pdf

SECTION V – PUB POKER TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. Floor Managers are to consider the best interest of the game and fairness as the top priority in the decision-making process. Unusual circumstances can on occasion dictate that decisions in the interest of fairness take priority over technical rules. The floor person's decision is absolute final.
2. Chip-Up Rule is the removal of denomination of chips no longer in use. When it is time to color up chips, floor manager will round chip value up to the smallest chip now in play. Players found to have lower denomination chips remaining in their stack after the chip-up break will forfeit those chips. Players are encouraged to watch their chip stacks.
3. Each side pots during an all in situation are to be split as separate pots. Dealers should note not to mix together these chips before they are split.
4. Odd chips of lowest denomination in play will go to the player closest to the dealer in the clockwise direction.

5. Calling-for-clock procedure: Once a reasonable amount of time which is no less than 1 minute and clock is called a player is given 30 seconds to act. If player has not made his decision a 5 second countdown will take place. If player has still not acted, the hand will be dead. Any players intentionally stalling the progress of the game will incur penalty in accordance to Rule #8.
6. Dead button rule will be used. Dead button is a button that cannot advance due to the elimination of a player or the seating of a new player into the position between the small blind and the button.
7. Any player exposing his or her cards with action pending may incur a penalty, but will not have a dead hand. The penalty will begin at the end of the hand. All players are entitled to see the exposed card(s), if requested. A penalty may also be imposed if player throws cards off the table, violates the one player-to-a-hand rule or engages in similar behavior. All penalties will be imposed in accordance to Rule #8.
8. **PENALTIES.** In its sole and absolute discretion, EPT may impose penalties that include verbal warnings and missed-hand penalties. A missed-hand penalty will be assessed as follows:
 - a. The offender will miss one hand for each player at the table multiplied by the number of rounds specific to the penalty. Staff can assess one, two, three, four-round penalties or disqualification.
 - b. Repeat infractions are subject to escalating penalties. Repeat infractions do carry across multiple events.
9. Determining Dealer. In all games, the button is decided by high card. In the event the high card is a tie, another card is drawn. In games where dealer alternates, someone is asked to take the initiative in turning out the high cards.
10. A player who is disqualified shall have his or her chips removed from play.
11. A player must be at his or her seat by the time all players have been dealt complete initial hands to have a live hand. "At your seat" is defined as within reach or touch of your chair.
12. All cards will be turned face up once a player is all in and all action is complete. If a player accidentally folds/mucks their hand before cards are turned up, floor manager reserves the right to retrieve folded/mucked cards if they are clearly identifiable.
13. Raises. There is no cap on the number of raise in no-limit games. A raise must be at least the size of the previous raise. Preflop raises must be at least double the big blind.
14. If a player puts in a raise of 50 % or more of the previous bet but less than the minimum raise, he or she will be required to make a full raise. The raise will be exactly the minimum raise allowed.
 - a. In no-limit, an all-in bet of less than a full raise *does not* reopen betting to a player who has already acted.
15. Putting a single oversized chip into a pot will be considered a call if the player doesn't announce a raise. Putting in two \$500 chips on a 400-800 without an announcement will also be considered a call even though it is two chips. If a player puts an oversized chip into the pot and says, "Raise", but doesn't state the amount, the raise will be the maximum allowable up to the denomination of that chip. To make a raise with a single oversized chip, a verbal declaration must be made before the chip hits the surface. After the flop, an initial bet of a single oversized chip without comment will signify the bet equal to the size of the chip.
16. Verbal declarations in response to betting are binding. Two witnesses are necessary to constitute verbally binding action, so speak clearly.
17. In no-limit, a raise must be made by:
 - a. placing the full amount in the pot in one or more continuous motion(s) without going back towards the players stack or
 - b. verbally declaring the full amount prior to the initial placement of the chips into the pot or

- c. verbally declaring “raise” prior to chip placement of the call, then completing the action with one additional motion back to the player’s stack.
18. Deck changes will be on the floor manager that evening. Players may not request a deck change unless a card is damaged or missing from the deck.
19. When time has elapsed in a round and tournament staff announces a new round, the new limits apply to that hand beginning with the first riffle. Posted blinds *do not* constitute the hand has started.
20. TABLE TALK. English only at the table. Players **may not** talk about their hand while any players are still in the hand or be subject to the penalties in section III rule #7 and section IV rule #8.
 - a. Even if players are the only two players in the hand, **the contents cannot be discussed**
21. Players must keep their highest denomination chips visible at all times.
22. Verbal declarations as to the content of the player’s hand are not binding. Any player deliberately miscalling his hand may be penalized in accordance to rule #8 section IV.
23. “Rabbit hunting” in cases where hands are concluded prior to the last card being dealt, the next card to be dealt will not be exposed under any circumstances. This slows the game down and is a nuisance to those not in the hand.
24. **Dead Hand.** Players are responsible for their own cards. A hand is deemed to be dead if the cards go into the muck. However, a hand that is clearly identifiable may be retrieved at management’s discretion, if doing so is in the best interest of the game. The Tournament Director will make an extra effort to rule a hand retrievable if it was folded as a result of false information given to the player.
25. Showdown. At the end of last round of betting, the player who made the last aggressive action in that betting round must show first. If there was no bet on the river it will be the player who acted first on the turn or the flop. In Stud games, the player with the high board must show first
26. Face Up. All cards must be turned face up once a player is all-in and all betting action is complete.
27. Playing the Board. A player must show both cards face up on the table when playing the board in order to get part of the pot.
28. A player who intentionally dodges his or her blinds when moving from a broken table will incur a penalty in accordance with Rule #8 section IV and will have to pay his/her blinds anyways.
29. All chips must be visible at all times. Players may not hold or transport chips in a manner that takes them out of view. Players will be warned at time of first offense and repeat offenders will face disqualification and/or forfeit chips that were hidden.
30. The breaking order for tables of an event is at the discretion of the acting manager on duty. Players going from a broken table to fill in seats assume the rights and responsibilities of the position. Players can get the big blind, the small blind or the button. The only place a player cannot get a hand is between the small blind and the button.
 - a. Basically, a player cannot change the natural order of the blinds and must assume the responsible of the seat they are sat at.
 - b. Floor manager breaks tables and assigns players at random to different tables. It is the ‘luck of the draw’ as to where players sit and whether they get a spot that is favorable or unfavorable in respect to the blinds.
31. Play will halt at any table that is at least four players short in 8 sided games. At certain points in the tournament, it may be necessary for tournament director to continue play at tables down to five players. Director has final say if telling players to continue play at 5. Players are instructed to keep playing unless floor manager orders a stop in play.

- a. Typical times when tables play at 5 players is, but not limited to, when 3 tables are down to 17 players, there must be two tables of 6 and one of 5 until one more player is eliminated or when two tables are down to 10 players.
32. Tables are only balanced when a table is three players short on 8 handed tournaments and 4 players short in 10 handed games.
33. Misdeal Situations:
 - a. Exposure of one of the first two cards dealt is a misdeal.
 - b. If during the initial deal two or more extra cards have been dealt
 - c. First card was dealt to the wrong person who has seen the card
 - d. Cards have been dealt to an empty seat or a player not entitled to a hand
 - e. A player has been dealt out who is entitled to a hand
 - f. If two players cannot decipher who's cards belongs to who
34. If a dealer kills an unprotected hand, the player will have no redress and will not be entitled to his or her chips back. An exception would be if a player raised and his or her raise had not yet been called, he or she would be entitled to receive his or her raise back. Players are encouraged to **protect your hand**.
35. A dealer cannot kill a winning hand that is face up and was obviously the winning hand. Players are encouraged to assist in reading tabled hands if it appears that an error is about to be made.
36. Poker is a game for individuals. Soft play will result in penalties that may include forfeiture of chips and/or disqualification. Chip dumping will result in disqualification. Do not discuss the content of your hand while that hand is still in play or be subject to penalty in accordance to rule #8. Players may not receive consultation from an outside source or be subject to a penalty in accordance to rule #8.
37. When heads up, the small blind is on the button and acts first. When beginning heads-up play, the button may need to be adjusted to ensure no player takes the big blind twice.
38. At the end of the last round of betting the player who made the last aggressive betting action in that betting round must show first. If there was no bet during the final round, the player to the left of the button shows first, and so on in a clockwise direction.
39. Players that are in the hand are responsible for calling string raises. A string bet/raise is defined as attempting to bet/raise in multiple movements that include a return to a player's stack without a prior verbal declaration of intent or include deception intended to induce action out of turn before a player's action is complete. Raises must be made in accordance to rule #17.
40. Player must show both cards to win the pot if their bet/raise has been called. Players calling an all-in raise must show both cards whether they have won the pot or not.
41. A player who is disqualified shall have his or her chips removed from play and no refund will be provided for that disqualified player. Any player who forfeits play for health or other personal reasons after the start of the tournament will have his or her chips blinded off accordingly.
42. Players are obligated to protect the other players in the tournament at all times. Therefore, whether in a hand or not, players may not:
 - a. disclose contents of live or folded hands
 - b. advise or criticize play at any time
 - c. read a hand that hasn't been tabled. While in a hand, players may not
 - d. discuss hands or strategy with any spectator, or

e. seek or receive consultation from an outside source.

43. Players must act in turn at all times. Action out of turn **may or may not be binding**. If a player acts out of turn and the action does not change by the time it is that player's turn to act, that player's action is binding. Action changes only if a player makes an initial bet or raises before the action gets back to the person that acted out of turn. Action does not change when the player in front of a player acting out of turn checks, calls or folds. If a player acts out of turn and the action changes, the person who acted out of turn may change their action by calling, raising or folding and may have their chips returned. Players may not intentionally act out of turn to influence play before them. Players will receive a warning for the first occurrence of acting out of turn, and will receive a penalty, in accordance with Rule No. 8, every time after.

44. Exposed Cards:

- a. If a card is accidentally dealt off the table it will be treated as an exposed card and remain in play.
- b. Where there is question of whether a card actually flashed or not, the player is entitled to have it replaced if they have not looked at the card.
- c. Dealer errors with action pending:
 - i. Dealer exposes turn prior to a finished round of betting. Natural turn card will be placed aside. The river card will take place of turn after another burned card. The natural turn card is then placed back into the deck and shuffled for the river with no more burn cards.
 - ii. If dealer exposes one (1) player hole card accidentally, the card will be exchanged with what would have been the next burn card.
 - iii. If dealer exposes the first 3 community cards with action pending, the entire deck will be re-shuffled
- d. Boxed Cards:
 - i. If a boxed card is discovered in the deck, it is removed and treated as a non-existent card. If two or more boxed cards are discovered, it is a misplay. If action has already begun, the TD must do everything in their power to continue the hand.

45. Floor manager should have most updated copy of tournament rules with him/her on location. In the event the floor does not, the most updated copy can be found at http://www.easternpokertour.com/ept_officialrules.pdf.