

Omaha Hi/Lo

Omaha Hi/Lo - A Quick Look:

Omaha Hi/Lo Split is one of the most popular poker variations.

Play in Omaha Hi/Lo goes through four sequential rounds of betting: pre-flop, on the flop, the turn and the river. Each of these rounds is described below in a separate section.

Hi/Lo games are played so that the pot is split between the best high hand and the best low hand. The PartyPoker.com Rank of Hands page shows the relative rank of both high hands and low hands.

Hi/Lo games at PartyPoker.com are played with an 8 as the qualifier for low. This means that to qualify as a low hand, the hand must contain 5 unpaired cards of the rank of 8 or lower. For purposes of the low hand, the ace is considered to be the lowest card in the deck and straights and flushes do not count for low. If no hand qualifies as a low hand then the high hand wins the whole pot.

For purposes of finding the winning low hand, the wheel - A, 2, 3, 4, 5 - is the best possible low hand and a straight 8 - 8, 7, 6, 5, 4 - is the worst possible low hand.

In the instance of a wheel - A, 2, 3, 4, 5 - the player has the best possible low hand and a 5 high straight for high.

The next-lowest high card can also be used to determine the winning hand. Take these two hands, for example:

- Player A: 8s, 6c, 5h, 4d, 2s
- Player B: 8h, 7c, 3d, 2c, Ah

In this case, Player A will win the hand as his 6c is the next-lowest high card.

To start the hand the deck is shuffled, the blinds are posted and each player is dealt four cards face-down, his hole cards. There is a round of betting which is limited to one bet and three raises.

When this first round of betting action is complete the dealer will place three cards face-up on the table. These three cards are called the flop. All cards dealt face-up on the table are community cards.

In Omaha Hi and Omaha Hi/Lo all legitimate hands consist of two hole cards and three board cards. A player may use any two of his four hole cards, but he must use exactly two of his hole cards combined with any three of the five board/community cards to make his best low hand, best high hand or both.

The flop is followed by another round of betting. In limit games this second round of betting is the last round at the lower limit. After this round all bets and raises will be at the higher limit.

After the action on the flop is complete, the dealer will place a fourth card, face-up, on the table. This is the turn card and is another community card that any player may combine along with any two other board cards and any two of his hole cards.

After the turn card is dealt the third round of betting begins. In limit games all bets and raises on the turn are for the higher amount. The action on all rounds is limited to one bet and three raises.

When the betting on the turn is complete the fifth and final card, the river card, is dealt face-up on the board. All remaining players now have nine cards from which they may make their best hand. Of these nine cards players must use any two, but exactly two, of their four hole cards plus any three of the five board cards to make their hand.

Once the river card has been dealt the final round of betting begins. This last, fourth, round of betting is at the higher limit. When the action is complete, the pot is split between the best high hand and the best low hand. If there is no remaining low hand that qualifies then the best high hand gets the entire pot.

The pot is awarded, the dealer button moves one position in a clockwise direction, the blinds are posted and another hand begins.

Conduct of the Game

In the text and graphics below you will see a clear demonstration of the look of the table, and the conduct of play for each of the four rounds of betting in a typical limit Omaha Hi/Lo game.

For each hand of Omaha Hi/Lo the cards are shuffled, the dealer button is placed, the blinds are posted and four cards are dealt facedown to every active player at the table beginning with the first player in a clockwise (to the left) direction from the dealer button. These four cards are each player's hole/private cards.

Pre-Flop



Seats at poker tables are numbered from the dealer box in a clockwise direction.

In Texas Hold'em and in Omaha games there is an advantage in having a late position at the table. The advantage is that players in late position get to act after players in earlier positions, and thus have information about the other players' intentions.

Because of this advantage the cards are dealt and action begins from a dealer button that rotates around the table in a clockwise direction. This rotation takes the blinds, early, middle and late position to all players equally.

After the cards are dealt, the pre-flop betting action begins. On this round only, the betting begins with the first player to the left (clockwise) from the big blind. On all subsequent rounds the action begins with the first player to the left of the dealer button.

In limit Omaha Hi/Lo the big blind is equal to a small bet. The small blind is usually 1/3 to 2/3 of the big blind. In the game pictured above the stakes are \$3/\$6. The big blind is \$3, which is equal to a small bet and the small blind is \$1, which is equal to 1/3 of the big blind.

Pre-Flop all betting will be for the lower limit, which is \$3. There is

a limit of one bet and three raises for all rounds.

In the above game:

In the above graphic Squishalish, the player in seat #5 has the big blind. The player in seat #6 posted the small blind, player #7 just sat down and was not involved in the hand and player #8, ENEPort, posted the big blind.

Player #9 and player obstante in seat #10 folded and then the player in the #1 seat raised the big blind. Everyone, including the small blind, folded and now the action pointer indicates that it is the player in the #8 that is next to act.

In this case with a suited A2 and three cards to the best straight, ENEPort would certainly call the bet. That call would complete the pre-flop action and the dealer would place three cards, the flop, face-up on the board.

Pre-Flop Tip for Beginners:

- Try to only play hands than can go both ways. It is hard to imagine a good Omaha Hi/Lo starting hand that doesn't include at least one ace. Make sure that all four of your hole cards work together in some way to add value to the hand.

On The Flop



The betting on the flop is the last round at the lower limit, \$3. On the flop all bets and raises will be for \$3 and the action is limited to one bet and three raises.

In the above game:

The action begins with the first active player to the left, clockwise, from the Dealer Button, the player in seat #3.

The players in seat #3 and seat #4 have both elected to check their hands and now the action pointer indicates it is up to the player in seat #8 to act.

At this point player ENEPort has a made high hand of a pair of aces and a pair of twos with a three as her kicker.

She has no made low hand but does have four very good low cards. Her ace and her two are duplicated on the board. While a 4 on the board would give her a wheel, at this point she only has A, 2, 3, 5 as a low hand with no fifth low card to complete the hand.

As the other two players have checked and as the three action buttons indicate she may fold her cards, check her cards or bet \$3.

The action will continue around the table until complete and then another card, the turn card, will be placed face-up on the board and

So we have player ENEPort in the driver's seat with the nut hand, the nut draw and no possible low.

Turn Tip for Beginners:

- With a made nut hand for either a high or a low bet, raise to build the pot you will probably win.

When the betting action on the turn is complete the river card, the final card, is placed on the board and the last round of betting begins.

The River



Once the river, or final, card has been dealt, all hands are complete and all bets and raises are for the higher limit, \$6.

Action on the river is limited to one bet and three raises.

From the above game:

Before the betting begins, players will note that there are three low cards on the board so a low hand is possible. The best possible low hand is a 4, 5 in the hole, to make a wheel - A, 2, 3, 4, 5.

With no possible straight or royal flush the best possible high hand is a pair of tens in the hole.

The first person to act on the river is the first active player to the left, clockwise from the dealer button. Here this is happybeer, the player in seat #4, and happybeer has bet \$6. The player in seat #6 has called the bet and now the action pointer indicates that player ENEPort, in seat #10, is next to act.

ENEPort's hand is (10, 10, 10, 10, A) and is the best possible hand the nuts. Her hand cannot be beat and cannot be tied for high. She will most certainly raise the bet.

River Tips for Beginners:

- When the pot is big, and in the absence of true strength, consider a value call with any made hand, high or low.

General Omaha Hi/Lo Poker Tips for Beginners:

- . •Be very selective in the hands you play.
- . •Almost every good Omaha Hi/Lo starting hand will contain at least one ace.
- . •Don't play hands with cards of middle rank, 6-10.
- . •Tight and aggressive is the style that usually does the best.
- . •To continue with any Omaha Hi/Lo hand you must have the nuts or be drawing to the nuts.
- . •Top poker pros and all of us at PartyPoker.com agree that good poker manners make good poker sense, make the game more enjoyable and can add to your poker bottom line. Professional players know that to anger or offend other players can sometimes cause an otherwise very loose player to play more conservatively, or a bad player to play better. When the game flow is adversely affected he sees fewer hands/opportunities per hour. [Click here to learn more about poker etiquette, and PartyPoker.com's standards of acceptable behavior at the table.](#)

You will find further information on the PartyPoker.com Site Tour, from our PartyPoker.com FAQs or in our Poker Glossary.

Most poker variations including Omaha Hi/Lo are played according to one of four betting schemes or protocols. These are: limit, pot-limit, no-limit and spread limit. [Click here to see a complete explanation of each.](#)

At PartyPoker.com, Omaha Hi/Lo is offered at 6- and 10-handed tables. Omaha Hi/Lo is offered in cash game, multi-table tournament

and play money formats. A [click here](#) will show all of the Omaha Hi/Lo cash game stakes offered at PartyPoker.com. Cash games are subject to minimum buy-in requirements and are played as table stakes games.

In these links you will find a complete description of all of the tournament fees, and cash game rakes collected at PartyPoker.com.

As always if you have any questions as you explore this section, please feel free to contact our 24/7 Customer Care Support Team.