WELCOME

In this guide, we will explain the basic rules of Blackjack. However, should you require any more information or have any questions, our friendly Casino Staff are always on hand to help you and give you advice.

ENJOY THE GAME AND HAVE FUN!

OTHER TSOGO SUN GUIDES AVAILABLE:

Please ask any of our Casino hosts for our other Gaming Guides and Information Brochures in this series.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT ANY TSOGO SUN CASINO

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Blackjack



BLACKJACK

Derived from the French card game Vingt et un (twenty one) Blackjack is today's most popular casino card game. When Twenty-One was originally introduced to the United States, if the player's hand consisted of an Ace of Spades and a Jack of Spades, it was called a "blackjack", which paid different odds compared to the modern version of the game, and the name stuck. In the version of the game we play today, a blackjack refers to any hand of an ace plus a ten or face card, regardless of suit or colour.

THE AIM OF THE GAME

The aim of Blackjack is to beat the dealer by drawing cards with a value as close to 21 as possible but without going past it. If your hand is better than the dealer's you win; if it adds up to more than 21, you go "bust" and automatically forfeit your bet.

THE VALUE OF THE CARDS



King, Queen or Jack of any suit = 10

Ace = 1 or 11

Number cards = face value

THE TABLE

The Blackjack table seats up to seven players. The layout has seven "betting areas" where bets must be placed before the cards are dealt. The minimum and maximum bets per player are displayed on the table. Up to three players can play one box. However, the person playing at the front of the box makes all decisions concerning the hand in play.

THE DEAL

One card is dealt face up and clockwise to each of the players – including the dealer – followed by a second card, also face up, to each of the players, but not to the dealer. Cards are dealt from a shuffling machine known as the "Shoe." Players aren't allowed to touch their bets at any time once the first card has been dealt from the Shoe.

THE PLAY

Once you have been dealt your two cards, you have a choice of what to do next. You can:

Stand

By telling the dealer not to give you any more cards, normally by saying, "stand".

Or Draw

By asking for more cards to increase your chance of getting as close to 21 as possible. You draw cards until you decide to "stand" or until your hand goes over 21, in which case you "bust" and you forfeit your bet.

Splitting Pairs

If your first two cards have the same value, you can choose to "split" and create two separate hands. You then place an additional bet (equal to your first bet) on the second hand. The dealer will then play each of the two hands separately. If you split Aces, you only receive one card on each Ace. If a picture card is dealt to either of the Aces it counts as 21, not a Blackjack. Pairs can be split more than once.

Double

You may "Double" your initial bet after receiving your first two cards (unless you have a Blackjack), but then you are only allowed to draw one more card. To "Double" simply place an additional bet equal to your initial bet in your betting area.

Surrender

After the initial deal, and if the dealer is not showing an Ace, the dealer will offer you surrender. If you feel your hand is not strong enough to win, you may surrender your bet, forfeiting half your stake and your hand. This must happen before any further cards are drawn from the Shoe.

THE DEALER'S HAND

When all the players have completed their hands, the dealer draws their card(s). The dealer has to draw on 16 or less and stand on 17 or more.

INSURANCE

If the dealer's first card is an Ace, you can insure your bet against the dealer getting a Blackjack by placing an insurance bet (up to half the value of your initial bet) on the table's insurance line after your second card is dealt, but before the dealer draws any more cards. If the dealer draws a Blackjack, your box bet will lose, but your insurance bet will be paid at 2 to 1. However, if the dealer does not draw a 10 or a picture card, you lose your insurance bet.

BLACKJACK

A Blackjack is when you are dealt a 10, Jack, Queen or King plus an Ace as your first two cards. Blackjack pays 3 to 2 (1.5 times your original bet).

SIDE BETS

Some Casinos allow side bets. Please ask your dealer for more information about these.