

Casino du Québec blackjack - Game Rules

OBJECT OF THE GAME

Players try to obtain a hand with a total value which is greater than that of the dealer, without going over 21.

CARDS

Espacejeux Casino du Québec 3-hand blackjack uses eight 52-card decks that are shuffled after each hand. Aces count as 1 or 11 (player's choice). Kings, Queens, Jacks and Tens count as 10. The 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2 cards are counted at face value.

BETTING LIMITS

Minimum: \$0.50

Maximum: \$250.00

Stakes must be in multiples of \$0.50. Maximum total bet allowed per game is \$250.00.

HOW TO BET

Select the amount of your bet by clicking on the corresponding chip. Place the chip on the table by clicking on one of the three betting spots in front of you. You can bet on one, two or all three betting spots. The value of the chip will be displayed next to it. Continue until the total amount that you wish to bet (within the indicated minimum and maximum limits) is displayed on the table. If you make a mistake, you may click on **UNDO** (to undo the last action) or **CLEAR** (to remove all bets on the table). Then click on **DEAL** to start the game.

HOW TO PLAY

Two cards are dealt to you face up for each betting spot on which you have placed a bet. Each hand is played separately, with game buttons indicating which hand is in play. The dealer is dealt a first card face up, and a second one, face down. Depending on the value of your hands, you have the following options for each hand in play:

Hit

Draw another card by clicking on the **HIT** button.

Stand

Keep your hand as is by clicking on the **STAND** button. If you have other hands in play, the game buttons will move to the next one.

NOTE: If the value of one of your hands is 21, you can no longer draw further cards (hit) for this hand and automatically stand.

Insurance

If the dealer's face up card is an Ace, you can insure your hand by adding an insurance bet. Two buttons appear on the active hand, asking whether or not you wish to insure that hand. You must answer that question, in sequence, for each hand in play. If you choose to insure a hand, the insurance bet amount corresponds to half your initial bet on this hand and is placed automatically. The dealer then checks his face down card to see if he has a blackjack.

If the dealer has a blackjack, you lose your initial bet on that hand but win 2 to 1 on your insurance bet.

If the dealer does not have a blackjack, you lose your insurance bet on the hand and the game continues.

NOTE: If at least one of your hands is a blackjack, you have the option of taking **EVEN MONEY (1 to 1)**. If you take even money, your account will first be debited with an amount equal to half the value of your initial bet. Afterwards, when the game is over, this amount will be refunded to you and your hand will be paid at 1 to 1. This action is the equivalent of taking **EVEN MONEY** on a blackjack table in a traditional casino in Québec.

Double Down

You may choose to double your initial bet on a hand if it is composed of only its two initial cards. In this case, you receive only one additional card.

Split

If your first two cards have the same value, you can split them and start a second hand with one of them by betting the same amount on the new hand as you did initially. Each hand is then played separately.

When you split Aces, you will be dealt only one additional card on each of the two hands. If you are then dealt a 10 or a face card, your hand is counted as 21 but is not considered as a blackjack.

You can split up to three times for each hand in play.

Doubling down after splitting

Once you split and receive a second card, you can double down on your initial bet. When you split Aces, you may not draw additional cards or double down.

Once you have finished, the dealer turns over his face down card and completes his hand using the strategy described below.

BLACKJACK

You have a blackjack when the value of the first two cards dealt to you in one of your initial hands is 21—Ace/King, Ace/Queen, Ace/Jack or Ace/10. If the dealer also has a blackjack, the game is over and you recover your initial bet for this hand. The dealer has to check to see if he has a blackjack whenever his face up card is an Ace, a 10 or a face card.

If your hand totals 21 and the dealer has a blackjack, your hand loses.

TWO ACES

If the first two cards in one of your hands are Aces, your hand is counted as 2 or 12, unlike some blackjack versions in which you would win that hand.

HOUSE STRATEGY

In blackjack, the dealer:

- **Draws on totals of soft 17 or less.**
- **Stands on totals of hard 17 or more.**

A soft hand is one in which an Ace can be counted as 1 or 11, as long as the total value of the hand does not exceed 21.

A hard hand is one without any Aces or in which an Ace can only be counted as 1.

NOTE: If one of your hands goes over 21 (busts), you lose that hand and its initial bet. If you have no other hands in play, the dealer is not required to pursue house strategy. He turns over his face down card and the game automatically ends.

PAYOUTS FOR WINNING HANDS

Your hand is winning if it:

- Totals 21 or less and beats the dealer's hand;
- Totals 21 or less and the dealer goes over 21 (busts);
- Is a blackjack and the dealer's hand is not a blackjack.

A winning hand (a regular winning bet) pays even money (1 to 1).

A blackjack pays 3 to 2.

An insurance bet pays 2 to 1.

When totals are identical (a "push"), you recover your initial bet.

Doubling down pays 2 to 1 on the initial bet.

Doubling down after splitting pays 2 to 1 on the initial bet for each split hand.

Splitting pays even money on each bet that is placed.

NOTE: Winnings are paid into your Espacejeux account.

REBET

At the end of each game, you may click on **NEW GAME** to change the amount of your bet in the next game.

Click on **REBET** to place the same bet as in the previous game.

Then click on **DEAL** to start the game.

RETURN TO PLAYERS

Based on an optimal player strategy, this game has a theoretical Return to Players (RTP) of 99.44%.

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