## HOW TO PLAY

## PONTOON

Pontoon is a variation of Blackjack, the world's most popular casino card game. Pontoon is a friendly and easy game to play. Both traditional Blackjack enthusiasts and new players will enjoy the game with its exciting bonus payouts and different payout odds.

You can learn to play Pontoon in a couple of minutes, and then spend the rest of your life refining your technique and appreciating the finer points of the game.

## the Aim of the game

The aim of the game of Pontoon is to draw cards totalling closer to 21 than those in the Dealer's hand - without exceeding 21. Card values are the same as Blackjack "picture" cards (Jack, Queen, King) each count as 10. An Ace can count as 1 or 11. Tens (not picture cards) are removed from the deck prior to play. All other cards have their face value.

## THE PONTOON TABLE LAYOUT

The Pontoon table seats up to seven Players on one side, and the Dealer on the other. Its layout is marked out with boxes in which the Players place their bets before the cards are dealt. All cards in Pontoon are dealt face up so that you can see the point value of the Players' and Dealer's hands. A first card is dealt to each of the Players, and then finally to the Dealer. A second card is then dealt to the Players only. The Dealer will call out the value of all hands.

## PLAYING THE CARDS

You may "stand" on the two original cards in your hand, or "draw" additional cards to improve your total. If you "bust" - that is, go over 21 - you lose.
When all Players have completed their hands, the Dealer draws a second card. The Dealer has no optional drawing and must stand on hard 17 or more and soft 18 or more. If the cards in your hand total closer to 21 than the Dealer's, you win. If the Dealer busts, all remaining hands win.


## ACE + PICTURE $=$ PONTOON

"Pontoon" is when the Player or the Dealer draws a picture card and an Ace in their first two cards. If you get Pontoon or the total of your hand is 21 , you win (see splitting), even if the Dealer goes on to get Pontoon. Depending on the way you make 21 , you may be paid at odds of up to 3 to 1 (see TABLE OF PAYOUT ODDS). In instances where the Dealer gets Pontoon, the Dealer takes original bets only. That is, if a Player has split pairs or doubled down, the Dealer would only take the original wager, the double down bet and second bet on a split pair would be void.

## SURRENDER

If the Dealer has an Ace or a picture card as their first card, then you may "surrender" half of your original stake. However, if the Dealer gets Pontoon, the surrender is void and the Player loses the entire wager.
A Player must indicate their intention to surrender immediately after the original deal and before any other cards are dealt. No further cards are dealt to a surrendered hand.

## INSURANCE

When the Dealer's first card in is an Ace you may insure your bet against the Dealer getting Pontoon. Your insurance bet, up to half your original bet, should be placed on the "insurance line" immediately after the initial deal and before any further cards are dealt. If the Dealer draws Pontoon, your insurance bet will be paid 2 to 1 .

## DOUBLING

You may 'double down' on your original bet at any time on any total except Pontoon or 21 . To double down, place an additional bet up to the value of your original bet and receive only one more card. Winning double down wagers are paid at odds of (1 to 1 ). Any aces dealt to the Player's hand that the Player elects to double down have a value of 1 not 11. If the Dealer draws Pontoon, your original bet will lose but the double down portion of the wager is not taken by the Dealer.

## FORFEIT

After doubling down and receiving only one card, if the point count of the Player's hand is not more than 20, the Player may elect to forfeit the original bet and withdraw the double down part of the bet.

## SPLITTING

If your first two cards have the same value you may ask the Dealer to "split" them to create two separate hands. You must then place an additional bet, equal to your original bet, on the second hand. Cards will be dealt to the first hand until play is completed on the hand. Cards will then be dealt to the second hand in the same manner. If you split Aces or picture cards then you cannot get Pontoon on either hand. Split Aces will receive only one card to each Ace. If you split suited sevens then the super bonus is not available to either hand, however all other bonus payouts apply. You may double down on either of the hands after receiving a second or additional cards, please refer to DOUBLING.

## SUPER BONUS

If the Player has three suited sevens and the Dealer has a seven (any suit) as their first card, the Player receives a super bonus payout (see WINNING SUPER BONUS HAND) of \$1000 or \$5000 depending upon the amount of the Player's original wager. All other Players who have made a wager on that round of play receive an "envy" bonus of \$50.

## HOW TO SIGNAL THE DEALER

 FOR MORE CARDSPontoon Players use hand signals to communicate with the Dealer. If you wish to draw a card tap on the table behind your betting box. If you wish to stand, move your hand, palm down, in a horizontal cut off motion behind your betting box.

## THE RANGE OF BETS IN PONTOON

 All Pontoon tables have a sign displaying the minimum and maximum bets allowed on that table. Please check the sign before you sit down at the table.CAN YOU BEAT THE DEALER?
Pull up a chair at a Pontoon table and try your luck at this exciting game. Our helpful gaming team are always available to answer any questions you may have.

| TABLE OF PAYOUT ODDS | PAYOUT |
| :--- | ---: |
| PLAYER'S | ODDS |
| WINNING HAND | 3 to 2 |
| Pontoon | 3 to 2 |
| Five card 21 | 3 to 2 |
| $6,7,8$ mixed suits | 3 to 2 |
| $7,7,7$ mixed suits | 2 to 1 |
| Six card 21 | 2 to 1 |
| $6,7,8$ same suit (not Spades) | 2 to 1 |
| $7,7,7$ same suit (not Spades) | 3 to 1 |
| Seven or more card 21 | 3 to 1 |
| $6,7,8$ all Spades | 3 to 1 |
| $7,7,7$ all Spades | 1 to 1 |
| All other winning wagers |  |
| WINNING SUPER BONUS HAND |  |
| If Player's wager is less than \$25 | $\$ 1000$ |
| If the Player's wager is \$25 or more | $\$ 5000$ |
| Envy bonus | $\$ 50$ |

SOME OF THE CARD COMBINATIONS
AND OPTIONS IN PONTOON

## PONTOON

You are paid immediately (3 to 2 ) when your hand has an Ace and a picture card as its first two cards and cards are removed.

## DEALER HAS PONTOON

Dealer takes original bets only.
FIVE CARD: 21
You are paid immediately (3 to 2 ) and cards removed.

THREE OR FOUR CARD: 21
You are paid immediately (1 to 1 ) and cards removed.

## SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT: 21

You are paid immediately (3 to 2) and cards removed.

THREE SEVENS MIXED SUITS: 21
You are paid immediately (3 to 2 ) and cards removed.

## SIX CARD: 21

You are paid immediately (2 to 1) and cards removed.

SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT, ALL HEARTS,

## DIAMONDS OR CLUBS: 21

You are paid immediately (2 to 1) and cards removed.

THREE SEVENS, ALL CLUBS, DIAMONDS OR HEARTS: 21
You are paid immediately (2 to 1 ) and cards removed. If the Dealer also has any 7 , "super bonus" is paid.

SIX, SEVEN, EIGHT ALL SPADES: 21
You are paid immediately ( 3 to 1 ) and cards removed.

## THREE SEVENS, ALL SPADES: 21

You are paid immediately ( 3 to 1 ) and cards removed. If the Dealer also has any 7, "super bonus" is paid.

## TOO MANY

Your card total has exceeded 21. You lose.

## DOUBLING, ONE CARD ONLY

You decide to double and place an additional wager. You will be dealt one card only.

## FIVE, FIFTEEN

You have soft 15, if you elect to double (on any total including Ace), the Ace cards will count as one not eleven.

PAIR
Your first two cards are a pair you may split or double.

PAIR OF ACES, 2 OR 12
Your first two cards are a pair of Aces.

## SPLITTING ACES, ONE CARD ONLY ON EACH ACE

You may decide to split, you must place an additional bet equal to the amount of your original wager.

## PERFECT PAIRS

Players may have an additional perfect pairs wager on a Pontoon table that provides boxes for perfect pairs.

To place an additional wager simply place an amount between the minimum and maximum limits on a perfect pairs betting area. The additional wager wins when you receive a pair (two cards identical in type* and value) as your first two cards.
The odds paid for winning wagers are:
PERFECT PAIR 25 to 1
Same value, same suit
COLOURED PAIR
10 to 1
Same value, same colour,
different suit
MIXED PAIR
5 to 1
Same value, different colour
Winning bets will be paid and handed off to the Player immediately after the initial deal.
*Jack, Queen and King are identical in value but not in type therefore a Jack and King for example, are not considered a pair.

## THE ODDS OF WINNING

Pontoon is a variation of Blackjack and is commonly referred to as Spanish Blackjack The main difference between Pontoon and Blackjack is the tens (not face cards) have been removed. Other differences are higher payouts for set hands - for example, for three sevens, the Player automatically wins on 21 and Players have the option to surrender half of their wager when the Dealer's first card is an Ace or picture card. The House margin for Pontoon is generally $1.25 \%$.

## RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING

The casinos promote a responsible approach to gambling and offer gambling for your enjoyment. Only you can decide how much time and money you want to spend on gambling at a casino. If you think you may have a problem controlling your gambling behaviour, please contact:
Gambling Helpline 1800858858
gamblinghelponline.org.au
Gambling Help services are independently run and offer free, confidential support (available 24 hours).
Bet with your head, not over it.

