

1 **Title 36 STATE LOTTERY AND**
2 **GAMING CONTROL AGENCY**

3
4 **Subtitle 05 TABLE GAMES**

5
6 **Chapter 06 Poker Rules**

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8 **Authority: State Government Article, §§ 9-1A-02(b) and 9-1A-04(d), Annotated Code of**
9 **Maryland**

10 **ALL NEW REGULATION**

11 **.19 Five-card Omaha Poker; Procedures for Dealing; Completion of Play.**

12 A. A facility operator that offers Five-card Omaha High or Five-card Omaha High-low Split
13 Eight or Better Poker shall follow the procedures in this regulation.

14 B. No more than eight players may participate in a Five-card Omaha Poker game.

15 (1) A player who elects to participate in a round of play may be required to place an Ante bet.

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17 (2) The rules governing the placement and amount of an Ante bet, and the Kill or Half-kill
18 option, must be specified in the facility operator's Rules Submission under COMAR
19 36.05.03.19 and posted on a sign at each Poker table.

20 C. The dealer shall use a button to indicate the order in which the cards shall be dealt and the
21 order in which players shall bet in accordance with following procedures:

22 (1) At commencement of play, the dealer shall place the button in front of:

23 (a) The first player to the right of the dealer; or

24 (b) A player randomly determined by rank of a single card dealt.

25 (2) Thereafter, the dealer shall rotate the button around the table in a clockwise manner
26 after each round of play.

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27 D. Before any cards are dealt, the player to the immediate left of the button shall initiate the first
28 betting round by placing a Blind Bet.

29 (1) A facility operator may require additional Blind Bets to be made immediately after
30 the initial Blind Bet.

31 (2) The amount and number of all Blind Bets required must be specified in the facility
32 operator's Rules Submission under COMAR 36.05.03.19 and posted on a sign at the
33 table.

34 E. If the facility operator offers the Straddle Bet, the player to the left of the player who placed a
35 Blind Bet may place a Straddle Bet.

36 (1) The rules governing the placement of a Straddle Bet and the amount of the Straddle
37 Bet shall be specified in the facility operator's Rules Submission under COMAR
38 36.05.03.19 and posted on a sign at each Poker table.

39 (2) No more than one Straddle Bet may be made during a round of play.

40 F. Starting with the player to the immediate left of the button and continuing around the table in
41 a clockwise manner, the dealer shall deal five rounds of cards face down to each player, so that
42 the player with the button shall be the last player to receive a card each time.

43 G. After each player has been dealt five cards in accordance with § F of this regulation, each
44 player, starting with the player to the left of the player or players who were required to place a
45 Blind Bet or the player who placed a Straddle Bet, and continuing around the table in a
46 clockwise manner, may fold, call or raise the bet.

47 (1) The option to raise also applies to a player who made a Blind Bet or Straddle Bet.

48 (2) After the last player has responded to the most recent bet, the betting round is
49 complete.

50 H. The dealer shall then burn the top card of the deck and proceed to deal three community
51 cards face up in the center of the table.

52 (1) The first player to the left of the button who has not folded shall commence the next
53 betting round and may bet or check.

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- 54 (2) Each subsequent player may, in clockwise rotation, fold, call, raise or, if preceding
55 players have not made a bet, make an opening bet or check.
- 56 (3) After the last player has responded to the most recent bet, the betting round is
57 complete.
- 58 I. Upon completion of the betting round, the dealer shall burn the top card of the deck and deal a
59 fourth community card face up in the center of the table, and commence and complete the next
60 betting round as required under § H of this regulation.
- 61 J. Upon completion of the betting round, the dealer shall burn the top card of the deck and deal a
62 fifth and final community card face up in the center of the table, and commence and complete the
63 final betting round as required under § H of this regulation.
- 64 K. If more than one player remains in the round of play after the final betting round has been
65 completed, a showdown shall be used to determine the winner of the pot.
- 66 (1) Each player remaining in the game shall form a five-card hand using two of the five
67 cards dealt to the player and three of the five community cards.
- 68 (2) The winner of the pot shall be:
- 69 (a) In Five-card Omaha High Poker, the player with the highest ranking five-card
70 high hand; or
- 71 (b) In Five-card Omaha High-low Split Eight or Better Poker.
- 72 (3) The player with the highest ranking five-card high hand and the player with the
73 highest ranking five-card low hand, subject to § L of this regulation, shall divide the pot
74 equally.
- 75 (4) If a pot cannot be divided equally, the excess amount, which may not exceed \$1, shall
76 be given to the player with the highest ranking high hand.
- 77 (5) If a tie exists between two or more players for the highest ranking high hand, the high
78 hand share of the pot shall be divided equally among the tied players.

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79 (6) If the high hand share of the pot cannot be divided equally among the tied players, the
80 excess, which may not exceed \$1, shall be given to the player with the highest ranking
81 high card by suit or to the player specified in the facility operator's Rules Submission
82 under COMAR 36.05.03.19.

83 (7) If a tie exists between two or more players for the highest ranking low hand, the low
84 hand share of the pot shall be divided equally among the tied players.

85 (8) If the low hand share of the pot cannot be divided equally among the tied players, the
86 excess, which may not exceed \$1, shall be given to the player with the lowest ranking
87 low hand Poker card by suit or to the player specified in the facility operator's Rules
88 Submission under COMAR 36.05.03.19.

89 (9) For purposes of this subsection, the cards shall be ranked by suit with the highest to
90 lowest rank suit in order as follows: spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs.

91 L. In Five-card Omaha High-low Split Eight or Better Poker:

92 (1) A winning low hand may not contain a pair, a three-of-a-kind or a four-of-a-kind or a
93 9, 10, jack, queen or king.

94 (2) If none of the hands of the remaining players satisfies the requirement in §L(1) of this
95 regulation, the entire pot shall be awarded to the player with the highest ranking high
96 hand.

97 (3) The player may form two different hands of five cards each, enabling that player to
98 contend for both the high hand and low hand share of the pot.

99 (4) A hand shall consist of any three of the community cards and any two of five cards
100 dealt to the player.

101 (5) A player may use the same five-card grouping to make a high hand and a low hand.

102 (6) An ace may be used concurrently as a low hand card to make up a low hand and as a
103 high card to make up a high hand.

104 M. In Five-card Omaha High-low Split Eight or Better Poker the facility operator may use either
105 the Half-kill or Kill option.

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106 N. If a facility operator elects to use either option described in § M of this regulation, the facility
107 operator shall indicate which option is being used in the facility operator's Rules Submission
108 under COMAR 36.05.03.19 and post on a sign at each Omaha Poker table which option is being
109 used and the minimum value of a qualifying pot.

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