

California Draw Poker

Rules of Play

California Draw Poker is a house banked poker game played using one standard deck of 52 cards. Players play their primary hand against the dealer's with the option of making two additional side wagers.

To begin, players place the required Ante wager and may also place an optional Action Bet and/or Up Card Wager. Each player and the dealer then receive three cards face down. The players' fourth card will be dealt face up beside the Up Card Wager, and the dealer's fourth card will be dealt face down. The dealer also receives a fifth card dealt face up.

The player reviews his hand and may fold, forfeiting the ante wager, or play out the hand by placing a call bet equal to the ante wager on the Call position.

In the event the player decides to play against the dealer by making a Call bet, the player may also decide to draw a card, discarding one of his original four cards. The dealer deals the player's new card to make up the player's new four card hand.

The dealer then exposes the house hand. The dealer sets the house hand which consists of the face up card and the three cards that make up the best four card poker hand. One of the dealer's four face-down cards is turned perpendicular to the rest of the hand to signify that it will not be used to complete the house hand. This rule creates a situation where the Dealer's up card weakens the dealer's hand, benefiting the player. The reverse is also possible with the up card improving the dealer's hand. For example, the dealer's four down cards are suited king through ten, consisting of a straight flush, which is beatable only by a four of a kind. However, the dealer's up card is an unsuited deuce, making the dealer's hand a king high hand.

If the player's four card poker hand beats the dealer's (house) four card poker hand, the player wins even money on the Ante and Call bets. If the player's hand loses to the dealer's hand, the player loses both wagers. In the event of a dealer/player tie, both wagers push.

An Ante Bonus is paid to the player in the event that a player obtains a straight flush or four of a kind. The ante wager is paid 25 to 1 for a straight flush and 50 to 1 for a four of a kind, regardless of the dealer's hand.

The Action Bet is a side wager which plays against a payable regardless of the dealer's hand. However, the Action Bet is linked to the primary wager in that the wager is forfeited in the event the player decides to fold rather than make a Call bet. The Action Bet pays odds according to the following paytables.

Hand	Payout
Four of a Kind	300 to 1
Straight Flush	75 to 1
Three of a Kind	10 to 1
Straight	6 to 1
Flush	5 to 1
Two Pair	4 to 1

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The Up Card Wager is a side wager which pays 10 to 1 when the dealer's up card and player's up card are both an ace. When the player's up card and dealer's up card are the same number, the wager pays 3 to 1. The Up Card Wager pays 2 to 1 when both up cards are the same suit.