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SpinKings Pai Gow Poker Rules: A Step-by-Step Guide

Pai Gow Poker is a fascinating blend of ancient Chinese dominoes and modern American poker, offering a relaxed pace and a low house edge. This guide breaks down the rules and strategy for playing at SpinKings casino, providing you with the concrete knowledge needed to play confidently and effectively.

Understanding the Pai Gow Poker Table Layout

Before you place your first bet, familiarize yourself with the virtual table. You will see a designated area for your main bet. Some tables may also offer optional side bets, like the “Fortune Bonus,” which pays out for specific high-value hands regardless of the main game outcome. The dealer’s area will display their two hands once they are set. Recognizing these elements is your first step to engaging with the game at SpinKings.



How to Play: The Step-by-Step Process

Each hand of Pai Gow Poker follows a specific sequence. The game uses a standard 52-card deck plus a single Joker. The Joker is semi-wild; it can only complete a straight, a flush, or be used as an Ace. Here is the exact flow of a typical round:

1. **Place Your Bet:** You start by placing your wager in the main bet circle. The game will have clearly displayed table limits, for example, £5 to £5000.
2. **Receive Your Cards:** You are dealt seven cards face down. The dealer also receives seven cards.
3. **Set Your Hand:** This is the core strategic decision. You must split your seven cards into two separate hands:
 - A five-card hand (the “high” hand).
 - A two-card hand (the “low” hand).

The five-card hand must be of higher rank than the two-card hand. If you set them incorrectly, the hand will be declared dead.

4. **Reveal and Compare:** The dealer reveals their cards and sets their hand according to the casino’s “House Way” rules. Both your high and low hands are



compared to the dealer's corresponding hands.

5. **Determine the Outcome:** You win the bet if both of your hands beat the dealer's. You lose if both of your hands are beaten. If one hand wins and the other loses, it's a "push" (a tie), and your bet is returned. A commission, typically 5%, is charged on net wins.

Key Rules and Hand Rankings

Hand rankings follow standard poker hierarchy, with a few nuances. Aces are high, and the best possible hand is Five Aces (four Aces plus the Joker). The most important rule to remember is that the five-card hand must always outrank the two-card hand. For the two-card hand, only pairs or high cards matter; straights and flushes do not exist for two cards. For example, a two-card hand of Ace-King loses to a pair of 2s.

House Edge, RTP, and Strategy Tips

Pai Gow Poker is known for its player-friendly odds. The house edge is relatively low, typically around 2.5% after accounting for the 5% commission. This translates to a theoretical Return to Player (RTP) rate of approximately 97.5%. While the dealer's play is dictated by the House Way, you have agency in how you set your hand. A fundamental strategy is to always maximize the potential of your five-card hand without making your two-card hand too weak. For instance, if you have a pair, usually place it in the five-card hand unless you can make two strong hands by splitting it.

Pai Gow Poker Hand Setting Strategy Guide

Your Seven-Card Hand	Recommended Action
One Pair	Almost always keep the pair in the five-card hand.
Two Pair	Place the higher pair in the five-card hand and the lower pair in the two-card hand.
No Pair, No Straight/Flush	Put your highest card in the two-card hand and your next five highest cards in the five-card hand.
Three Pair	Split the highest pair to create a strong two-card hand, using the two remaining pairs in the five-card hand.



Maximizing Your Play with a SpinKings Bonus

Using a casino bonus can significantly extend your gameplay. New players can often kickstart their experience with a SpinKings no deposit offer or a matched deposit bonus. Before claiming any promotion, always check the wagering requirements. Most bonuses require you to wager the bonus amount a certain number of times (e.g., 35x) on eligible games. It's also worth keeping an eye out for a SpinKings promo code that might unlock free spins on slots or bonus cash specifically for table games. Remember, any SpinKings bonus comes with Terms and Conditions, so read them carefully to understand which games contribute the most to clearing your requirements.

For a hands-on experience with this unique and strategic game, visit [SpinKings](#) to explore their live dealer and RNG Pai Gow Poker tables.