

# OPEN FACE CHINESE

Open-face Chinese (OFC) poker is a variation of Chinese Poker typically played with two to three players, though it can accommodate up to four. Unlike standard Chinese poker, where all thirteen cards are dealt at once, in OFC each player initially receives five cards, then draws and sets one card at a time until all thirteen cards are placed. All cards are set face up.

## Gameplay

- Players take turns in clockwise order, starting with the player left of the dealer.
- Each player is dealt five cards to begin.
- Players then take turns receiving and placing one card at a time until all thirteen cards have been set.
- All cards are placed face up as they are received.

Each player must arrange thirteen cards into three separate hands:

- **Front Hand** – 3 cards
- **Middle Hand** – 5 cards
- **Back Hand** – 5 cards



The hands must be arranged in ascending order of strength:

- The back hand must be stronger than or equal to the middle hand.
- The **middle hand** must be **stronger** than or **equal** to the **front hand**.

Hand strength follows standard poker rankings, but the front hand is limited to three cards, meaning straights, flushes, and straight flushes are not valid. The best possible front hand is AAA.

The game continues until each player has taken a full turn as the dealer. This ensures fairness, as the last-acting player holds a strategic advantage.

## Fouling, Scoring & Royalties

The goal in Open Face Chinese Poker (OFC) is to accumulate more points than your opponents by winning hands (also known as rows) and collecting royalties on premium hands, while avoiding fouling.

### Fouling

A foul occurs when a player's hand fails to maintain this required hierarchy. If a player fouls, their hand is forfeited, and the following penalties apply:

- The fouling player loses six points per non-fouling opponent.
- The fouling player loses all royalties they would have earned.
- If multiple players foul, no points are exchanged between them.



### Scoring

Players earn or lose points based on row victories and fouling penalties:

- +1 point per winning row.
- -1 point per losing row.

+6 points for winning all three rows (scoop) (1 point per row + 3 bonus points).

- -6 points for fouling (dead hand).

- Players earn additional points for royalties, which are also deducted from losing players.



If a player fouls, their hands are not compared to opponents'; they receive a direct penalty (-6), while a non-fouling player gets (+6) points plus any royalty points.

The most commonly used scoring method in OFC is 1-6.

## Royalties

Extra points, known as royalties, are awarded for premium hands. To earn royalty points, players must form specific combinations in designated rows. When a player achieves a qualifying combination, they receive royalty points from each opponent, with the same amount deducted from the losing players.

### Back hand royalties scoring

Combination	Points
Straight	+2
Flush	+4
Full House	+6
Four of a kind	+10
Straight Flush	+15
Royal Flush	+25

### Middle hand royalties scoring

Combination	Points
Set	+2
Straight	+4
Flush	+8
Full House	+12
Four of a kind	+20
Straight Flush	+30
Royal Flush	+50

### Front hand royalties scoring

Combination	Points
66	+1
77	+2
88	+3
99	+4
TT	+5
JJ	+6
QQ	+7
KK	+8
AA	+9
222	+10
333	+11
444	+12
555	+13
666	+14
777	+15
888	+16
999	+17
TTT	+18
JJJ	+19
QQQ	+20
KKK	+21
AAA	+22

## Fantasyland

Fantasyland is a special bonus awarded to players that make a hand that has a pair of queens (QQx) or stronger in the front hand and does not foul. When fantasyland is achieved, the next hand, the player receives **all thirteen cards dealt at once** while other players must play out the hand as a standard open face.

Players in fantasyland set their hand face down when it is their turn to act. Players can fantasyland repeatedly if they are able to make the required hand.

However, to remain in fantasyland while in fantasyland requires higher royalties, one or more of the following conditions must be met:

Row	Strength of hand
Front (and/or)	Any three of a kind
Middle (and/or)	Full house or higher
Back (and/or)	Four of a kind or higher

## Pineapple OFC

Pineapple Open Face Chinese poker, the most popular variation, is derived from the standard OFC featuring Fantasy Land.

Just as in regular Open Face Chinese poker, players get several cards in turns, and place them face-up before setting a 13-card hand, consisting of the top, middle, and bottom rows, of three, five, and five cards, respectively. The game begins with the players setting their first five cards each before the pineapple part kicks in.

The first five cards are placed just like in the regular OFC, but then players are dealt **three cards instead of just one at a time**. Each player can then use only two of their three cards in any of the rows before discarding the third one face-down.

