

OMAHA HI/LO

What Is Omaha Hi/Lo (PLO8)?

Omaha Hi/Lo, often called PLO8, is a split-pot Omaha game where each player gets four hole cards and must use exactly two of them with three community cards to make a hand.

The pot is usually split 50/50 between:

- The best high hand, and
- The best qualifying low hand (if a low exists)

If no player qualifies for a low, the high hand scoops the entire pot. Online, the most common format is Pot-Limit Omaha Hi/Lo (PLO8).

Basic Rules of Omaha Hi/Lo (PLO8)

Game Format

- Each player is dealt 4 hole cards
- 5 community cards are dealt (flop, turn, river)
- You must use exactly 2 hole cards + exactly 3 board cards
- The pot is split between:
 - Best high hand
 - Best qualifying low hand (8 or better)
- A qualifying low must:
 - Use 5 different ranks
 - All 8 or lower
 - Have no pairs

You can use one combo of 2+3 for high and a different 2+3 for low from the same 4 hole cards.

How a Hand of PLO8 Plays Out (Online)

1. Preflop
 - Each player is dealt 4 hole cards.
 - First betting round (preflop) begins, usually with blinds just like PLO.
2. Flop
 - 3 community cards are dealt face up.
 - Second betting round (flop).
3. Turn
 - A 4th community card is dealt.
 - Third betting round (turn).

4. River
 - o A 5th community card is dealt.
 - o Final betting round (river).
5. Showdown
 - o Remaining players reveal their hands.
 - o Pot is split:
 - Best high hand
 - Best qualifying low hand, if any

The NBDP client automatically reads high and low hands and divides the pot accordingly.

High Hand Rankings in Omaha Hi/Lo

The high side of the pot uses standard poker rankings (same as Hold'em and PLO):

1. Royal Flush
2. Straight Flush
3. Four of a Kind
4. Full House
5. Flush
6. Straight
7. Three of a Kind
8. Two Pair
9. One Pair
10. High Card

Low Hand Rankings in Omaha Hi/Lo (8 or Better)

To qualify for the low half of the pot:

- All 5 cards must be 8 or lower
- All 5 ranks must be different (no pairs)
- Straights and flushes do not disqualify a low hand
- Aces are low for the low hand, but high for the high

hand The best possible low in PLO8 is:

A-2-3-4-5 (called the “wheel”)

Low hands are read from the top down, just like high hands, but reversed:

- A-2-3-4-5 (best)
- A-2-3-4-6
- A-2-3-5-6
- ...
- 4-5-6-7-8 (worst qualifying low)

Understanding Split Pots in PLO8

Because PLO8 is a hi/lo split game, pots can be divided in several ways:

1. No Qualifying Low

- If no player has a valid 5-card low (8 or better with no pairs),
- The best high hand wins 100% of the pot.

2. One Player Wins Both (Scoops)

- A player can have both the best high and the best qualifying low.
- In that case, they scoop the entire pot.

3. Tied High or Low

- If players tie for the high, they split the high half.
- If players tie for the low, they split the low half.
- Sometimes the pot is split into quarters (for example, two players tie for low while another wins high).

Example: Split Pot

Board:

3♠ 5♠ 4♥ 9♠ Q♠

- Player A: A♠ 2♥ Xx Xx
 - Low: A-2-3-4-5 → best low
- Player B: K♠ 8♠ Xx Xx
 - High: K-high flush → best high

Result:

- Player A wins the low half
- Player B wins the high half

Pot is split 50/50.

Betting Structures in Omaha Hi/Lo

Pot-Limit Omaha Hi/Lo (PLO8)

- Maximum bet = current size of the pot
- This is the most common online format
- Creates big multi-way pots and lots of action

