

# SHORT DECK

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## What Is Short Deck Poker?

Short Deck Poker (also known as 6+ Hold'em) is a variation of Texas Hold'em played with a 36-card deck instead of the standard 52. All 2s, 3s, 4s, and 5s are removed, so the deck runs from 6 through Ace.

The betting structure and community cards look very similar to regular Hold'em, but the reduced deck changes the odds dramatically:

- Straights are easier to hit
- Flushes are harder to hit
- Hand rankings are often slightly different from classic Hold'em

Short Deck is usually played with an ante structure instead of blinds, which naturally creates more action and more hands played per hour.

## Basic Rules of Short Deck Hold'em

### (Online) Game Format

- 36-card deck (6, 7, 8, 9, 10, J, Q, K, A in each suit)  
Each player is dealt 2 hole cards
- 5 community cards are dealt: flop, turn, river
- Players make the best five-card hand using any combination of their hole cards and the board
- Uses antes instead of traditional blinds
- Most Short Deck games online are no-limit

Your NBDP client handles the antes, dealing, betting order, and pot calculation automatically.

## Game Flow Overview

1. Hole Cards Dealt
  - Each player receives two hole cards face down.
2. First Betting Round (Preflop)
  - Action usually starts with the player to the left of the button.
3. Flop
  - Three community cards are dealt face up.

4. **Second Betting Round (Flop)**
5. Turn
  - A fourth community card is dealt.
6. **Third Betting Round (Turn)**
7. River
  - A fifth and final community card is dealt.
8. **Final Betting Round (River)**
9. Showdown
  - If two or more players remain, hands are revealed.
  - The best five-card hand according to the Short Deck ranking in use wins the pot.

## Hand Rankings in Short Deck Poker

Because of the smaller deck, the relative frequency of hands changes:

- Straights become more common
- Flushes become rarer
- **Three of a Kind is often ranked above a flush Common Short Deck Hand Ranking (Most Popular Variant)**

Combination	Visual representation
Royal Flush	
Straight Flush	

<p><b>Four of a Kind</b></p>	
<p><b>Flush</b></p>	
<p><b>Full House</b></p>	
<p><b>Three of a Kind</b></p>	
<p><b>Straight</b></p>	
<p><b>Two Pair</b></p>	

<b>Pair</b>	
<b>High Card</b>	

## Straights in Short Deck

With 2–5 removed, straights work slightly differently. Lowest straight: A-6-7-8-9

- Highest straight: 10-J-Q-K-A

There are fewer unique straight combinations than in Texas Hold'em (but they're still easier to hit because of the compressed deck).

In most Short Deck formats:

- The Ace can be used low (in A-6-7-8-9)
- Or high (in 10-J-Q-K-A)

## Betting & Ante Structure

### Betting Rounds

Just like Hold'em, there are four betting rounds:

1. Preflop
2. Post-flop
3. Turn
4. River

Short Deck is most commonly played no-limit, but you may also see pot-limit or capped betting structures on some platforms.

## Key Differences: Short Deck vs Texas Hold'em Deck Size

## **Short Deck: 36 cards (6–A)**

- Texas Hold'em: 52 cards (2–A)

## **Hand Strength / Rankings**

- Straights are easier to make
- Flushes are harder to make (fewer cards of each suit)
- Many Short Deck games rank Three of a Kind above Flush Action & Variance
  - More playable starting hands
  - More multi-way pots
  - Bigger swings and higher volatility
  - Larger average pot sizes due to antes and stronger hands

