

# How to Play Video Poker – What You Need to Know



A Free eBook Presented by:  
**Big “M” Casino Myrtle Beach**

*Learn more by visiting [www.BigMCasino.com/Myrtle-Beach](http://www.BigMCasino.com/Myrtle-Beach), or by calling (877) 250-5825.  
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## How to Play Video Poker – What You Need to Know

*When you walk by a video poker machine, do you wish you knew more about the games?*

*Here's your chance to brush up on the basics, as well as the odds, strategies, and tips.*

*Learn the correct strategies and how to find liberal pay tables.*

*Then set your own pace and experience video poker!*



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# How to Play Video Poker – What You Need to Know

## 1: History of Video Poker

Long before there was video poker, before the lights and bells and jingles, before you could draw with the push of a button and watch your winnings flash on screen, there was plain old-fashioned poker making its way across America as settlers and pioneers pushed westward. The game has its origins in Persia, then Europe, then in the first settlements of the New World.



*Photo Courtesy of Todd Klassy*

As frontiersmen made their way toward the Pacific, they brought cards--and poker--with them. New

Orleans in the 1800s was a hub for travelers and speculators on their way to new territory, and poker tables soon began to crop up on the riverboats that plied the Mississippi and in the saloons that dotted the French quarter. As railroads connected the far corners of the nation, poker became the quintessentially American game.

### Popularity Continues to Grow

This popularity continued through the centuries that followed. As time passed and technology progressed, gambling kept pace with the trends in the wider world.

First mechanical slot machines came on the market in the early 1900s. These gaming machines were set-up similar to poker: cards flipped around a spindle and cash payouts were based on the hand that turned up.

As technology advanced in the 1970s and the first personal computers began appearing in households, inventors developed electronic poker games. By 1981, video poker had become the most popular new addition to casinos.

Today, hundreds of video poker variations exist with thousands of different pay tables. For poker enthusiasts, this has become an exciting way to play!

**Can't wait to play video poker? [Reserve your spot](#) on The Big "M" Casino Gambling Cruise!**

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## 2: The Basics of Video Poker Games

For anyone interested in trying his or her hand at video poker, there are many options on the market. Before you sit down to play, you will want to do your research on the particular game you'll be playing. That way you can decide on your best strategy.

### Most Popular

The most popular video poker games being played right now are:

- Bonus Poker
- Jacks or Better
- Double Bonus
- Double Double Bonus.

The Big "M" Casino offers Game King video machines, as well as Pot O'Gold machines. All the games are multi-denominational, which means there are multiple options for betting: 5 cents, 10 cents, 25 cents, 50 cents, and 1 dollar. The games include Bonus Poker, Deuces Wild, Double Bonus Poker, and others.

### The Rules

No matter which game you choose, all video poker games follow the same rules:

- The game uses a standard fifty-two card deck, except if jokers are being played.
- To play, you first must make a wager. Once you select the denomination you wish to play, you hit the "deal" button and the game will give you five cards randomly selected from the deck.
- You decide which cards to keep and which to discard. The game replaces your discarded cards with more cards randomly chosen from the deck.
- You receive a payout based on the cards in your hand. The winning amount is determined by the game's particular pay table.

**You can earn points redeemable for cash by playing video poker on The Big "M" Casino! [Learn more.](#)**



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## 3: Video Poker Odds and Strategies

When it comes to odds, you'll often hear people say about gaming tables that the house always has an advantage. But video poker is one of the rare exceptions to this rule. If you look for the most liberal pay tables and approach your game with an optimal strategy, then you will have an advantage over the house. Some machines have high long-term payouts, especially those offering wild card games. If you factor in incentives like cash back, free plays, and other bonuses, you can see a 100% return.

### Strategies

For the best payouts, you'll need a specific strategy. And some of the best strategies are the simplest! One easy-to-use tactic is to keep a mental list of ranking hands. Then, depending on what you're dealt, hold on to the cards that are highest on that list. For instance, depending on the video poker game you choose to play, your list might look like this:

EXAMPLE
Four of a Kind, Straight Flush, Royal Flush
4 to a Royal Flush
Three of a Kind, Straight, Flush, Full House
4 to a Straight Flush
Two Pair
High Pair
3 to a Royal Flush
4 to a Flush
Low Pair
4 to an Outside Straight
2 Suited High Cards
3 to a Straight Flush
2 Unsuited High Cards
<i>(if more than 2 then pick the lowest 2)</i>
Suited 10/J, 10/Q, or 10/K
One High Card
Discard Everything

You simply have to evaluate the cards you're holding and keep the hand that sits highest on the list!



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## 4: Helpful Video Poker Tips

Video poker is fun and may be lucrative -- if you play your cards right. There are a few tips to remember that will maximize your game playing. One key point to keep in mind is pacing. You don't have to rush through a game. One of the best parts about video poker is that you're not sitting at a table where other players set the pace. You decide the rhythm of your games. It's a good idea to go slowly, especially if you're new to the game.



Make sure you know the rules of poker before you sit down to play. This will ensure that you have the best shot at earning the highest payout. Also remember that each type of video poker game has its own optimal strategy. Winners familiarize themselves with the games before they start to play.

One great way to optimize your payout is to bet the maximum number of coins for each hand. Most machines offer a bonus on the highest hands if you've put in the maximum coinage.

### Two Helpful Tips to Keep in Mind While Playing:

- 1) If you're dealt a minimum winning hand, always keep that hand. The best players know not to trade in a winner -- even if it's a low-ranking pair.
- 2) If you're holding three-of-a-kind, always trade in the two other cards. This is true even if the other cards are high-ranking. Trading them both in gives you a shot at four-of-a-kind or a full house.

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## 5: Playing Online Video Poker

With the advent of the Internet, you can now enjoy gaming from home. Feel like playing a few hands in your pajamas? Thousands of [online casinos](#) offer video poker options any time of the day or night. Not only does this give you the freedom to play on your own schedule, it's a great way to hone your skills for real-life casinos.



### A Few Pointers to Consider

Here are a few points to keep in mind so that you have an exceptional online gaming experience.

For starters, be sure to choose a reputable online casino. Look for quality in both the website design and the free games available to play. This typically indicates a trustworthy operation. Also take into consideration the rules of each site -- they can vary widely. Look for an online casino that has a sign-up bonus (money added to your bankroll) and determine if there are any fees or charges.

Once you have found an online casino you like, you'll need to open an account with that site. This is often done using a credit or debit card. Once you have linked your card, you can begin playing. You have the option of cashing out at the end of your session or returning to play later. But keep in mind that unlike in real casinos, where you experience the thrill of your winnings instantly, online casinos may take longer to payout your winnings -- up to one month.

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## 6: Video Poker Tournaments

For players who enjoy the fun and strategy of video poker but want the thrill and challenge of competition, then video poker tournaments are the way to go!

Video poker tournaments are usually timed -- five, ten, fifteen, or twenty minutes. The goal is to play as many hands as possible in that amount of time and rack up the most points. The player with the highest score when the buzzer sounds wins the tournament prize.



Most tournaments begin with qualifying rounds. The winners of each of these matches advance to the championship round. Often a few randomly chosen wild card players who didn't qualify will also be included. During the championship round, competitors play as many hands as they can in the time given. In fifteen minutes of play a person might go through 300 hands.

There are many strategies to winning a video poker tournament. Experienced players often suggest a royals-only strategy, which means discarding everything -- even three or four of a kind -- if you're not holding cards that will produce a royal flush. The logic behind this strategy is that you need to win big in order to earn enough points to be the champion. While holding two of a kind might make sense in a non-tournament setting, the tournament's all-or-nothing payout policy means winners must aim high.



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## 7: Why People Love Playing Video Poker

Since video poker first appeared on the scene in the 1970s, players have fallen in love with the game. Video poker offers many advantages for the serious and not-so-serious poker player.

For one, you set the pace of the game. No longer is the rate of play dictated by others at the table. If you've ever sat at a poker table and had to wait and wait while someone decided what to discard, then you know all about this. Or maybe you've wanted to take your time making a decision but the other players at the table pushed you into moving. Either way, with video poker you decide how quickly or slowly you want to play.

People also love video poker because it offers some of the best returns in the house. While luck is involved, video poker is also a game of strategy.

Winners know how to use the payout tables and game techniques to their advantage. With optimal play and the right strategy, players can earn a 100% return. That's one of the highest payouts in the casino!

Video poker combines all the fun and excitement of gaming -- plus the big payoffs! -- with the chance to control your own game. No wonder players love it.



Check out our [“Recent Winners”](#) Photo Gallery! Want to be added?

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- 2) Make [reservations online](#).
- 3) Brush up on your [knowledge](#) of all our casino games.
- 4) Join us on a cruise and Win Big!

## How to Play Video Poker – What You Need to Know

### 8: Win a Free Video Poker Cruise on The Big “M”

Now that you know all about video poker, it's time to try your skills at the electronic gaming tables! The Big "M" Casino offers an exciting selection of the most popular video poker games on the market today. You'll find some of the best payout tables in the business and you can use the strategies you've learned here.

Plus, the Big "M" Dinner Cruise offers all the fun of Vegas -- not just video poker but roulette, craps, and blackjack. There's also live entertainment and a delicious buffet. It's a dynamite way to spend an evening!

What could be more exciting? Having all this for free. The Big "M" Casino holds monthly drawings for two free tickets on its dinner cruise. You can win in three easy steps:

1. Go to The Big "M" Casino's website on the [“Win A Cruise”](#) page.
2. Then pull the lever on the virtual slot machine until you get three Big "M" logos across the reels.
3. Your name will automatically be entered into the drawing. You can play every day!

Step aboard our luxury casino ship for an unforgettable experience of great entertainment, fine dining, and heart-racing gaming.



What are you waiting for? [Enter today!](#)

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