

DIVISION 7 - TOURNAMENT PLAY

Section 1	Interpretation
Section 2	Conditions of Entry
Section 3	Wagers
Section 4	Rules for Tournament Play
Section 5	End of Session
Section 6	Application - Blackjack
Section 7	Application - Roulette
Section 8	Application – Baccarat

1.0 Interpretation

In this division unless the contrary intention appears:

“Applicant” means an applicant for entry to a tournament;

“Pass card” means a pre-approved wager form used by a player pursuant to rule 4.14;

“Play-off” means a session, or more if required, held to determine a winner as between two or more players at a table in the event that those players hold an equal value of tournament chips at the end of a session at the table, and a result is needed to determine who wins or is a place-getter in the tournament, or who progresses to a further session;

“Player” means a person accepted to participate in a tournament;

“Pre-approved wager form” means pass cards and/or secret wager cards, the use of which is provided for in rules 4.14 and 4.15, respectively;

“Secret wager card” means a pre-approved wager form used by a player pursuant to rule 4.15;

“Session” means a set period of play, the duration of which is (subject to rules 5.1 to 5.4 inclusive) determined either by time or by a number of shoes, rounds or spins, at the completion of which a winner and/or place-getters, as applicable, is or are determined either for the tournament or for advancement to a further session;

“Tournament” means a competition based on the playing of the game as provided for in these rules, which provides all players with an equal chance of winning;

“Tournament Chips”, in relation to a tournament, means chips approved by the Authority for use in tournaments, and designated by the casino operator for use in the tournament concerned; and

“Tournament Director”, in relation to a tournament, means an employee of the casino operator. Such an employee shall be present while the tournament is in progress and be responsible for the conduct of the tournament.

2.0 Conditions of Entry

2.1 The casino operator may charge a fee for entry to a tournament.

2.2 Before accepting applications for entry into a tournament the casino operator shall determine, in relation to the tournament:

- (a) the form of the entry form;
- (b) the amount of any entry fee;
- (c) the value of tournament chips to be held by the players at the beginning of a session for the purposes of use in the session;
- (d) whether tournament chips are to be issued gratuitously or at their face value;
- (e) the minimum and maximum wager limits permitted at each gaming table;
- (f) the minimum and maximum number of players in the tournament (if any);
- (g) the duration of the sessions (including play-offs);
- (h) the tournament prize list and the manner in which the prizes shall be distributed;
- (i) the version of play relating to cutting cards in tournament blackjack; and
- (j) the version of play in baccarat (i.e. whether mini, midi or full baccarat).

2.3 The casino operator may:

- (a) refuse any application for entry to a tournament;
- (b) determine entries may be transferable;
- (c) disqualify any player who fails to:
 - (i) comply with the rules of the tournament, or

- (ii) attend at designated playing times;
 - (d) determine:
 - (i) the allocation of players to sessions, and
 - (ii) the seating of players; and
 - (e) cancel a tournament before it begins due to lack of participation.
- 2.4 All entry fees received by the casino operator in respect of a tournament shall, subject to these rules, form part of a prize pool for distribution to the winning players in the tournament in accordance with the conditions of entry. The casino operator may also contribute money, goods or services to the prize pool. No additional sum paid by a player for the issue of tournament chips shall be deemed to be part of the player's entry fee.
- 2.5 No entry fee or part thereof shall be refunded to a player unless:
- (a) the player withdraws from the tournament either:
 - (i) not less than 2 days before the beginning of tournament play, or
 - (ii) before the beginning of tournament play and the casino operator consents to the refund; or
 - (b) the tournament does not proceed,
- in which event the entry fee shall be refunded.
- 2.6 No entry fee or part thereof shall be refunded to any player who is disqualified.
- 2.7 The casino operator shall notify an applicant in writing of the matters determined by it pursuant to rule 2.2 in relation to the tournament before accepting an entry from the applicant.
- 2.8 The tournament director may alter the starting time of any session, subject to reasonable notice first being given to the participants.

3.0 Wagers

- 3.1 All wagers shall be made with tournament chips, or non-value chips, or pre-approved wager forms provided for in rules 4.14 and 4.15, used for tournament play.
- 3.2 No player who has made a wager by placing tournament chips on the layout shall handle, withdraw or alter the wager except as permitted or required by these rules.

- 3.3 The minimum and maximum wager limits pertaining to a game shall be displayed on a sign at each table. Unless stated on the sign, wagers are not required to be made in multiples of the minimum. Other than subject to rule 4.13, no minimum wager limit shall be raised, nor shall any maximum wager limit be reduced, during a session.
- 3.4 The casino operator may require that wagers be placed in increments of a specific amount, which amount shall not exceed the minimum wager limit specified for the table concerned. The amount of any such increment shall be displayed at the table on the sign on which the minimum and maximum wager limits are displayed.
- 3.5 Subject to rule 4.14, a player shall wager at least the minimum and no more than the maximum bet on each hand during the session. A player who fails to wager on each hand as stated on the sign displayed at the table shall be disqualified, unless he/she has played a pass card in accordance with rule 4.14.
- 3.6 Where a wager is inadvertently made and accepted in contravention of the applicable wager limits, it shall:
- (a) if less than the permissible minimum be required to be increased to the minimum;
 - (b) if in excess of the permissible maximum be void to the extent of such excess.
- 3.7 Subject to rule 3.8, any player who loses all of his/her tournament chips before the end of a session shall be eliminated from the session, and no other player shall be permitted to wager on the player's box or seated position.
- 3.8 If all of the participants in a session either:
- (a) lose all of their chips; or
 - (b) are reduced to holding less than the required minimum wager in tournament chips,
- in the same round, the casino operator may issue each of those players with a further amount of chips, which amounts shall be equal in value and shall not exceed in value the amount required to be held by each of the players at the beginning of the session, and a play-off shall take place.
- 3.9 Subject to reasonable notice, the tournament director may limit the time allowed to the players for making their respective wagers. If a player does not make a wager within the time so allowed, his/her wager may be limited to the table minimum.

4.0 Rules for Tournament Play

- 4.1 The tournament director shall be present while the tournament is in progress.
- 4.2 At the beginning of each session players shall be allocated a gaming table and a box number or seat at which to play. A player may wager on and control only the box or seat allocated to him/her.
- 4.3 At the request of the game supervisor a player shall provide his/her name for recording purposes.
- 4.4 At the beginning of a session each participating player shall hold tournament chips, which shall have been issued by the casino operator in accordance with the conditions of entry to the tournament. Subject to rule 3.8, no player may be issued with any further chips during a session.
- 4.5 No player may lend or borrow tournament chips, or introduce additional tournament chips to a table, during play.
- 4.6 No player may leave the table while a session is in progress, except in an emergency or with the consent of the tournament director.
- 4.7 At the beginning of a session the dealer shall place the betting marker in front of the player at the farthest point to the dealer's left, or in the case of a left hand roulette table the dealer's right, to indicate the player who is to make the first wager in the first round of the session. After that player has made his/her wager the other players at the table shall then each in turn, moving in a clockwise direction from the first player, place their wagers.
- 4.8 At the end of each round of a session the dealer shall move the betting marker in a clockwise direction to the next player at the table. That player shall then make the first wager in the next round, following which the remaining players at the table shall wager in sequence moving in a clockwise direction.
- 4.9 Subject to rule 4.15, all players shall at all times keep their tournament chips in front of them and in clear view of the other players and the game supervisor, until the session has ended and the winner and/or place-getters, as the case may be, have been determined. The chips shall be kept in such a manner that the total value of chips can be seen by the other players at the table.
- 4.10 Subject to rule 4.15, any player who pockets or otherwise conceals chips, or removes chips from the table during tournament play shall be disqualified.
- 4.11 No player may request advice regarding his/her decisions of play from any other player or spectator, and no such other player or spectator may offer such advice.

- 4.12 The tournament director may permit the use of writing implements by the players at a table subject to such conditions as he/she thinks fit.
- 4.13 For all tournament games (with the exception of roulette) up to four cutting cards may be used. Two of the cutting cards may be used as table limit change indicators. When the indicator card appears, the minimum and maximum table limits may be raised to the values determined prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- 4.14 Players may be issued with up to three pass cards per session of play. When used, the pass card shall indicate that no wager is being made on that round of play.
- 4.15 Players may be issued with up to three secret wager cards per session of play. These secret wager cards may be used to wager on any round of play. The amount of the wager is not disclosed to the other players at the table until after the conclusion of the hand on which the secret wager was played.

5.0 End of Session

- 5.1 A session shall end immediately where, at the end of a round, all of the players at the table, except for one, hold either no tournament chips or less than the amount of the required minimum wager in tournament chips.
- 5.2 Subject to rule 5.1, where the duration of a session is determined by time and the time elapses while a round is in progress, the session shall end at the end of that round.
- 5.3 Subject to rule 5.1, and as provided for in the conditions of entry for a tournament, where the duration of a session is determined by a number of shoes, the session shall end:
- (a) at the end of the round following the round during which the cutting card or the first of the cutting cards, as the case may be, is reached during the last shoe; or
 - (b) at the end of the round during which the cutting card or the first of the cutting cards, as the case may be, is reached during the last shoe; or
 - (c) whenever the cutting cards or the first of the cutting cards, as the case may be, is drawn as the first card of a new round.
- 5.4 Subject to rule 5.1, where the duration of a session is determined by a number of spins, the session shall end upon completion of the final spin.
- 5.5 At the end of a session all players at the table shall present all of the tournament chips held by them to the dealer, who shall tally the total value of chips held by each such player. Those players who qualify for the next stage of the tournament shall be informed immediately.

- 5.6 Subject to rule 5.7, the winner of a session shall be the player at the table who holds the greatest value of tournament chips at the end of the session. If two or more players at a table are tied at the end of the session, and a result is required to determine who wins or who progresses to the next session of the tournament, those players shall engage in a play-off.
- 5.7 Notwithstanding rule 5.6, the number of players to progress to the next session of a tournament from any given session, or to the final, shall be at the discretion of the casino operator, provided:
- (a) the applicants were notified in writing, before they entered the tournament, of the terms and conditions upon which such discretionary advancement was to be permitted; and
 - (b) the casino operator complies with those terms and conditions.
- 5.8 Only those players who are winners in accordance with either rule 5.6 or rule 5.7 shall proceed to the next session of the tournament.
- 5.9 Subject to rules 5.10, 5.11 and 5.12, the winner of the tournament shall be the player who holds the greatest value of tournament chips at the end of the final session of play, and any other place-getters provided for in the conditions of entry shall be determined in accordance with the value of tournament chips held respectively by the other players at the table at the end of that session.
- 5.10 If there are two or more players each holding the greatest value of chips at the end of the final session, those players shall engage in a play-off to determine the winner of the tournament. If the conditions of entry to the tournament provide for a runner-up, and the play-off to determine the winner does not establish the runner-up (being the player in the play-off who at its end holds the greatest value of chips after the winner), there shall be a further play-off to establish the runner-up.
- 5.11 All placings after that of runner-up which are provided for in the conditions of entry to the tournament shall then be determined in accordance with the value of the chips held by the respective players at the end of:
- (a) firstly, the play-off (if any) to establish the runner-up;
 - (b) secondly, the play-off (if any) to determine the winner of the tournament, should this prove necessary; and
 - (c) finally, the final session of ordinary play, should this prove necessary.
- 5.12 Where two or more players are eligible pursuant to the rules for a particular prize, by virtue of them holding the same number of chips, they shall be entitled to share equally in that prize combined with:
- (a) where two players are so eligible, the subsequent prize (if any);

(b) where three players are so eligible, the two subsequent prizes (if any), and so on. This rule shall not apply to the winner of the tournament or the runner-up.

5.13 Tournament chips in the possession of a player at the end of a session shall:

- (a) where the chips used in the tournament were issued gratuitously by the casino operator, remain the property of the casino operator and be returned to the casino operator at the end of the session at the table at which they were used;
- (b) where the chips in the tournament were issued as part of a cash or colour buy-in remain the property of the casino operator, and be exchanged for cash chips, at the table at which they were issued, at the end of the session.

6.0 Application - Blackjack

6.1 Subject to rule 6.2:

- (a) the general rules contained in division 1 of these rules; and
- (b) the rules of blackjack contained in division 2 of these rules,

shall apply to the game of tournament blackjack. Where there is an inconsistency between any rule contained in this division and any of the general rules or the rules of blackjack, the rules in this division shall prevail when tournament blackjack is being played.

6.2 The following rules shall not apply to the game of tournament blackjack:

- (a) section 9 and rules 10.2 and 10.4 of division 1;
- (b) rules 5.3, 5.8 and sections 14 and 15 of division 2;
- (c) subject to rule 5.3(b) and (c) of this division, rules 7.1, 8.7 and 8.8 of division 2; and
- (d) in the case of pass cards only, rule 8.2(a).

6.3 The following equipment shall also be used in the game:

- (a) a betting marker, which shall be used to indicate the player at the table who is to make the first bet at the beginning of a round, pursuant to rules 4.7 and 4.8; and

- (b) where the duration of a session is determined by a number of shoes, a shoe number indicator which shall indicate to the players at the table which shoe (whether the first, second, and so on) of the session is in play at that time.
- 6.4 The dealer shall shuffle the cards so that they are randomly intermixed, in accordance with rule 6.3 of division 2 of the rules:
- (a) immediately before the start of a session; or
 - (b) subject to rule 5.3(a), following the drawing of the cutting card, or the first of the cutting cards, as the case may be; or
 - (c) at the discretion of the casino supervisor following any period during which the table has been vacant.
- 6.5 Subject to blackjack rule 8.2 and 8.3 of division 2, the casino operator may choose to commence the dealing of each round, with the player holding the betting marker. The dealer will continue in a clockwise direction around the table as in rule 8.2 of division 2, until all players have two cards, and the dealer has one.
- 6.6 The dealer will act on the player's hand, with the betting marker, as in rule 8.3 of division 2.
- 6.7 Subject to rule 4.14, a player using a pass card on a round of play shall not have any cards dealt to his/her box for that round.

7.0 Application - Roulette

7.1 Subject to rule 7.2:

- (a) the general rules contained in division 1 of these rules; and
- (b) the rules of roulette contained in division 8 of these rules,

shall apply to the game of tournament roulette. Where there is an inconsistency between any rule contained in this division and any of the general rules or the rules of roulette, the rules in this division shall prevail when tournament roulette is being played.

7.2 The following rules shall not apply to the game of tournament roulette:

- (a) section 9 and rules 10.2 and 10.4 of division 1; and
- (b) rules 3.3 and 3.4 of division 8.

7.3 The following equipment shall also be used in the game:

- (a) a betting marker, which shall be used to indicate the player at the table who is to make the first bet at the beginning of a spin, pursuant to rules 4.7 and 4.8; and
- (b) where the duration of a session is determined by a number of spins, a spin number indicator which shall indicate to the players at the table which spin (whether the first, second, and so on) of the session is in play at that time.

7.4 All wagers shall be made by placing non-value or tournament chips in the appropriate wager position on the roulette layout.

8.0 Application — Baccarat

8.1 Subject to rule 8.2:

- (a) the general rules contained in division 1 of these rules; and
- (b) the rules of baccarat contained in division 5 of these rules,

shall apply to the game of tournament baccarat. Where there is an inconsistency between any rule contained in this division and any of the general rules or the rules of baccarat, the rules in this division shall prevail when tournament baccarat is being played.

8.2 The following rules shall not apply to the game of tournament baccarat:

- (a) section 9 and rules 10.2 and 10.4 of division 1; and
- (b) rules 5.2(c), 5.2(d), 5.4, 5.6, 5.8, 5.9, 5.17, 5.18, 7.1, 7.3, and 11.2 of division 5.

8.3 The following equipment shall also be used in the game:

- (a) a betting marker, which shall be used to indicate the player at the table who is to make the first bet at the beginning of a round, pursuant to rules 4.7 and 4.8; and
- (b) where the duration of a session is determined by a number of shoes, a shoe number indicator which shall indicate to the players at the table which shoe (whether the first, second and so on) of the session is in play at that time.

8.4 The dealer shall shuffle the cards so that they are randomly intermixed, in accordance with rule 6.3 of division 5 of the rules:

- (a) immediately before the start of the session;

- (b) at the end of the round following the round during which the cutting card or the first of the cutting cards, as the case may be, is reached in the shoe;
- (c) at the discretion of the casino supervisor following any period during which the table has been vacant.