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Type of poker game

Heads-up poker is a form of poker that is played between only two

players.

It might be played during a larger cash game session, where

the game is breaking up and only two players remain on the table, or where two

players are trying to start a game and playing heads-up while waiting for other opponents.

It is also a necessary phase in most sit-and-go (SNG) poker tournaments; the single

remaining tournament winner will at some point have to face only a single opponent.

Alternatively, heads-up poker may be played on purpose, either in a cash game

format, or as a SNG, where two players play a winner-take-all tournament for a

fixed, previously agreed upon amount of money. On larger online poker rooms

and during certain tournament series, one may stumble upon larger heads-up tournaments, usually

in the shoot-out format. Usually, in order to ensure the fairness of the game,

all players finishing at the same level of the tournament bracket will be paid out the same amount

of money, no matter what their finishing place is.

Strategy

The rules of heads-up poker are the same as in a game with three or more players, except

in community card poker, the blinds are usually reversed in order to decrease the positional advantage

in matches between two players of similar skill. Nevertheless, the strategy employed tends to be vastly different from a multi-handed

poker game. Since only two players take part in the hand, the chance of having the best hand is much

higher than in a multi-handed game, which causes the game to become more aggressive

than normal. Bluffs for example become easier to pull off in a heads-up game since it is only necessary to bluff a single opponent in order to win the pot,

whereas in a multi-handed game there is a greater risk of someone having a big hand

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