

Mini-Tex 3 Card Hold ‘Em

Gaming Equipment

Rules of the Games

Proposed Amendments: N.J.A.C. 19:40-1.2; 19:46-1.17, 1.18 and 1.19

Proposed New Rules: N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13Y and 19:47-36

Authority: N.J.S.A. 5:12-5, 69a, 70f, 99a and 100

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Submit written comments by November 19, 2010 to:

Lon E. Mamolen, Senior Counsel
Casino Control Commission
Arcade Building
Tennessee Avenue and the Boardwalk
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

The proposed new rules and amendments govern the implementation of the game of mini-tex 3 card hold ‘em poker in Atlantic City casinos. The actual rules of the game are set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.1 through 36.13.

Mini-tex 3 card hold ‘em is a variation of poker played against the dealer which is derived from the authorized game of hold ‘em poker, which pits players against each other. Mini-tex 3 card hold ‘em is played using a standard 52-card deck and a layout similar to a let it ride poker table. The object of the game is for a player to make a better three-card poker hand than the dealer where both use a combination of an individual two-card hand and three community cards.

To start the game, each player must place a wager in the designated area at the player’s betting position for his or her ante. At this time, players also have an option to place a supplemental wager, known as the “pocket poker wager”, independent of the main game, based solely on the player’s two cards

against a posted pay table. Each player, as well as the dealer, is then dealt two cards face down.

After receiving two cards dealt face down, each player evaluates his or her cards and decides whether to fold the hand or continue to play. If a player elects to fold, the player's ante shall be forfeited. Any pocket poker wager placed by the player shall remain unresolved until the end of the round of play. If a player elects to continue play, the player is required to place a flop wager, which must be equal to the amount of the ante wager, on the betting area designated "flop."

Once all players have either folded or placed a flop wager on the flop betting area, the dealer shall burn a card. The dealer shall deal face up the next two cards in the deck (flop) and arrange them in the designated central area of the layout. The flop cards represent two of the three community cards for use by all players and the dealer to complete their respective hands. Next, starting from the dealer's left, the dealer shall proceed in a clockwise manner and ask each remaining player if he or she desires to place a third or "river" wager, or fold prior to dealing the third and final community card. If a player elects to fold, the players ante and flop wagers shall be forfeited. Any pocket poker wager placed by the player shall remain unresolved until the end of the round of play. If a player chooses to bet, he or she must bet an amount equal to the amount of the player's ante wager on the betting area designated "river."

Once all players have either folded or placed a river wager, the dealer shall burn another card. The dealer shall then deal the next card in the deck (river card) face up and place it in the center of the table on the designated area of the layout. Like the flop cards, the river card is for use by all players and the dealer to complete their respective hands.

Starting from the dealer's left again, the dealer shall proceed in a clockwise manner and ask each player if he or she desires to place a fourth or "play" wager or fold prior to showing the dealer's and players' hands. If a player elects to fold, the players' ante, flop and river wagers shall be forfeited.

Any pocket poker wager placed by the player shall remain unresolved until the end of the round of play. If a player chooses to bet, he or she must bet an amount equal to twice the amount of the player's ante wager on the betting area designated "play."

After all players have decided whether or not to place a play wager or fold, the dealer shall turn his or her two cards face up and determine the best three-card poker hand in accordance with mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker rankings that can be formed from the five cards - two in the dealer's hand and the three community cards. The player and dealer may not use all three community cards to form his or her best three-card poker hand. The dealer then announces the poker ranking of his or her hand.

The dealer shall then, starting with the player at his or her right and moving counterclockwise around the table, turn face up each player's two card hand and evaluate the best three-card poker hand of each player similarly formed from the five cards - two in the player's hand and the three community cards. The dealer then announces the poker ranking of the player's hand and/or, if a supplemental pocket poker wager has been made, the two-card hand ranking of the player's cards.

A player's ante, flop, river and play wagers shall lose if the player's three-card hand is ranked lower than the dealer's three-card hand. Conversely, a player's ante, flop, river and play wagers shall win if the player's three-card hand is ranked higher than the dealer's three-card hand and the dealer's hand has a qualifying rank of ace-king. If a player's three-card hand is ranked higher than the dealer's three card hand and the dealer's hand does not qualify in rank, only the player's ante, flop and river wagers shall win, and the play wager shall be deemed a push. All winning ante, flop, river and play wagers are paid at odds of 1 to 1. If the player and dealer hands are the same rank, the player's hand is treated as a push and the player's wagers are neither collected nor paid.

The optional pocket poker wager shall win if the player's two-card hand qualifies as one of the posted payout hands. Payout odds range from 50 to 1 if a player's cards are a royal straight flush (ace and king of the same suit) to 1 to 1 if a player has a straight depending on the pay table chosen by the casino licensee.

The proposed amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:40-1.2 adds mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker to the list of authorized table games. Proposed new rule N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13Y contains the requirements governing the physical characteristics of the mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker layout. The proposed amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.17 specifies the use of a standard 52 card deck for mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker. The proposed amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18 specifies the frequency that cards are to change and card inspection requirements for mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker. The proposed amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.19 authorizes dealing mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker from a manual or automated dealing shoe or from the dealer's hand and authorizes the use of an automated shuffling device.

The remainder of the proposed new rules and amendments in subchapter 36 are technical proposals that govern the operation of mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker in Atlantic City casinos. Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.1 sets forth definitions applicable to mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker. Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.2 sets forth the procedures for cards used with an automated shuffling device. Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.3 describes the procedures for opening a mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker table. Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.4 sets forth the procedures for shuffling and cutting the cards. Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.5 lists the rankings of mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker hands.

Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.6 specifies procedures for placing wagers at mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker. Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.7, 36.8 and 36.9 sets forth the procedures for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe, from the hand, and from an automated dealing shoe, respectively. Proposed

N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.10 sets forth the procedure for the completion of each round of play, including the resolution of wagers at mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker and the collection of cards. Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.11 specifies the payout odds for wagers at mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker. Proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.12 lists types of irregularities at mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker and their disposition. Finally, proposed N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.13 prohibits a player from wagering at more than one player position at a mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker table.

This notice of proposal is not required to be referenced in a rulemaking calendar since a public comment period of 60 days is being provided. See N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

Full text of the proposal follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in boldface brackets [thus]):

19:40-1.2 Definitions

(a) (No change.)

(b) The following words and terms, when used in these rules, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

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“Table game” means one of the following authorized games approved by the Commission pursuant to N.J.S.A. 5:12-5: asia poker, baccarat, big six, blackjack, boston 5 stud poker, caribbean stud poker, casino war, colorado hold 'em poker, craps, double attack blackjack, double cross poker, double down stud, fast action hold 'em, flop poker, four card poker, let it ride poker, minibaccarat, mini-craps, mini-dice, **mini-tex 3 card hold 'em**, mississippi stud, pai gow, pai gow poker, poker, pokette, red dog, roulette, sic bo, spanish 21, supreme pai gow, texas hold 'em bonus poker, three card poker, two card joker poker, ultimate texas hold 'em and winner's pot poker.

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19:46-1.13Y Mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker table; physical characteristics

(a) Mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker shall be played on a table having positions for six players on one side of the table and a place for the dealer on the opposite side.

(b) The layout for a mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker table shall be approved by the Commission and shall contain, at a minimum:

- 1. The name or trade name of the casino licensee;**
- 2. A separate designated betting area at each player position for the placement of ante wagers;**
- 3. Three separate designated areas at each player position for the placement of flop, river, and play wagers, which areas shall be located immediately below the ante betting area and arranged from left to right as viewed by the player and inscribed with "1x" for the flop and river wagers and "2x" for the play wager;**
- 4. A separate designated area at each player position for the placement of an optional pocket poker side wager, which area shall be located immediately above the ante wager betting area as viewed by the player;**
- 5. A separate designated area for the placement of the three community cards, which area shall be located in the center of the table between the table inventory container and the player betting areas;**
- 6. A separate designated area for the placement of the dealer's two cards, which area shall be located between the table inventory container and the designated area for the community cards described in (b)5 above;**
- 7. An inscription indicating that the dealer's hand must qualify to the rank of ace-king in order for a player to be paid on a play wager;**

8. An inscription indicating that all three community cards cannot be used by the player or the dealer to form the best three card hand; and

9. If offered by the casino licensee, an inscription indicating the payout odds for the ante bonus and that it shall be paid regardless of the qualification or rank of the dealer's hand.

(c) A conspicuously displayed sign or an inscription on the table layout that lists the payout odds for all authorized wagers shall be posted at each mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker table.

(d) Each mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker table shall have a drop box and a tip box attached to it on the same side of the table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer, in locations approved by the Commission.

19:46-1.17 Cards; physical characteristics

(a) Cards used to play blackjack, spanish 21, double attack blackjack, baccarat, minibaccarat, pai gow poker, pokette, red dog, casino war, poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, three card poker, fast action hold'em, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker, four card poker, texas hold 'em bonus poker, flop poker, two card joker poker, asia poker, ultimate texas hold 'em, winner's pot poker, supreme pai gow, mississippi stud, **mini-tex 3 card hold 'em** and double down stud shall be in decks of 52 cards with each with card identical in size and shape to every other card in such deck. Notwithstanding the foregoing, decks of cards used to play the following games shall be modified as follows:

1. - 3. (No change.)

(b) - (j) (No change.)

19:46-1.18 Cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use

(a) - (f) (No change.)

(g) Any cards which have been opened and placed on a gaming table shall be changed at least every 24 hours. Notwithstanding the foregoing:

1. (No change.)

2. Cards opened for use on a pai gow poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker, four card poker, texas hold 'em bonus poker, ultimate texas hold 'em poker, two card joker poker, flop poker, asia poker, winner's pot poker, supreme pai gow, mississippi stud, **mini-tex 3 card hold 'em** or three card poker table and dealt from a dealing shoe and cards opened for use on a double down stud table and dealt from the hand shall be changed at least every eight hours;

3. Cards opened for use on a pai gow poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker, four card poker, texas hold 'em bonus poker, ultimate texas hold 'em poker, flop poker, two card joker poker, asia poker, winner's pot poker, supreme pai gow, mississippi stud, **mini-tex 3 card hold 'em** or three card poker table and dealt from the dealer's hand shall be changed at least every four hours;

4. - 7. (No change.)

(h) – (m) (No change.)

(n) When the envelopes or containers of used cards and reserve cards with broken seals are returned to the casino security department, they shall be inspected for tampering, marks, alterations, missing or additional cards or anything that might indicate unfair play.

1. - 2. (No change.)

3. The casino licensee shall also inspect:

i. - ii. (No change.)

iii. All cards used for pai gow poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker, four card poker, texas hold 'em bonus poker, ultimate texas hold 'em

poker, flop poker, two card joker poker, asia poker, winner's pot poker, supreme pai gow, mississippi stud, **mini-tex 3 card hold 'em** or three card poker;

iv. - v. (No change.)

4. - 11. (No change.)

(o) – (r) (No change.)

19:46-1.19 Dealing shoes; automated shuffling devices

(a) (No change.)

(b) Cards used to game at blackjack, spanish 21, double attack blackjack, pai gow poker, minibaccarat, red dog, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, three card poker, fast action hold'em, colorado hold 'em poker, casino war, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker, four card poker, texas hold 'em bonus poker, ultimate texas hold 'em poker, flop poker, two card joker poker, asia poker, winner's pot poker, supreme pai gow, mississippi stud, **mini-tex 3 card hold 'em** and double down stud shall be dealt from a manual or automated dealing shoe which shall be secured to the gaming table when the table is open for gaming activity and secured in a locked compartment when the table is not open for gaming activity. Cards used to game at baccarat shall be dealt from a dealing shoe which shall be secured in a locked compartment when the table is not open for gaming activity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, cards used to game at:

1. Pai gow poker, double down stud, caribbean stud poker, three card poker, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker, flop poker, four card poker, texas hold 'em bonus poker, ultimate texas hold 'em poker, asia poker, winner's pot poker, supreme pai gow, mississippi stud, **mini-tex 3 card hold 'em** and two card joker poker may be dealt from the dealer's hand in accordance with the rules for each game in N.J.A.C. 19:47; and

2. (No change.)

(c) A device which automatically shuffles cards may be utilized at the game of blackjack, spanish 21, double attack blackjack, pai gow poker, minibaccarat, red dog, poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, three card poker, fast action hold'em, colorado hold 'em poker, casino war, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker, four card poker, texas hold 'em bonus poker, ultimate texas hold 'em poker, flop poker, two card joker poker, asia poker, winner's pot poker, supreme pai gow, mississippi stud, **mini-tex 3 card hold 'em** and double down stud in addition to a manual or automated dealing shoe, provided that:

1. - 2. (No change.)

(d) - (h) (No change.)

SUBCHAPTER 36. MINI-TEX 3 CARD HOLD 'EM

19:47-36.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicated otherwise:

“Ante” or “ante wager” means the initial wager required to be made prior to any cards being dealt in order to participate in the round of play.

“Ante bonus” means the payout for a player’s three card royal flush offered at the option of the casino licensee.

“Burn” means to remove the top or next card from the deck and place it face down in the discard rack without revealing it to anyone.

“Community card” means any of the three cards dealt face up in the center of the table that are used by each player and the dealer with his or her individual two cards to form the best possible three-card poker hand.

“Flop” means the first two community cards dealt face up to the area designated for the placement of the community cards.

“Flop wager” means the second wager, equal to the amount of the player’s ante, that is required to be placed prior to the flop being dealt in order for the player to continue participation in the round of play.

“Fold” means the withdrawal of a player from a round of play by electing not to make the wager required to continue to participate in the round of play.

“Hand” means the highest ranking three-card hand that can be formed from the three community cards and the two cards dealt to the dealer or a player, using at least one of the two cards dealt to the player by the dealer.

“Hole card” means either of the two cards dealt to each player by the dealer at the beginning of each round of play.

“Push” means a tie, as defined in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.10(h)3.

“Play wager” means the fourth wager, equal to twice the amount of the player’s ante, that is required to be placed prior to the showing of the dealer’s cards.

“Pocket poker hand” means the two cards dealt face down to each player which determine the result of the optional pocket poker wager placed by the player.

“Pocket poker wager” means the optional, supplemental wager on whether the two cards dealt to a player qualify for a posted payout.

“Rank” or ranking means the relative position of a card or group of cards as set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.5.

“River” or “river card” means the third and final community card dealt face up to the designated area of the layout.

“River wager” means the third wager, equal to the amount of the player’s ante, that is required to be placed prior to the river being dealt in order for the player to continue participation in the round of play.

“Round of play” or “round” means one complete cycle of play during which all players playing at the table have been dealt a hand, have folded

or wagered upon it, and have had their wagers paid or collected in accordance with the rules of this subchapter.

“Stub” means the remaining portion of the deck after all cards in the round of play have been dealt.

“Suit” means one of the four categories of cards: club, diamond, heart or spade, with no suit being higher in rank than another.

19:47-36.2 Cards; number of decks

(a) Except as provided in (b) below, the game of mini-tex 3 card hold ‘em poker shall be played with one deck of cards that meets the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.17 and two additional solid yellow or green cover cards.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is used, a casino licensee shall be permitted to use a second deck of cards to play the game, provided that:

1. Each deck of cards complies with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.17;
2. The backs of the cards in the two decks are of different color;
3. One deck is being shuffled by the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being dealt or used to play the game;
4. Both decks are continually alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play; and
5. The cards from only one deck shall be placed in the discard rack at any given time.

19:47-36.3 Opening of the table for gaming

(a) After receiving the cards at the table in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18, the dealer shall, as applicable, comply with the requirements of either N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18(e)1 and (b) through (d) below or N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18(e)2 and (r).

(b) Following the inspection of the cards by the dealer and the verification by the floorperson assigned to the table, the cards shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first player to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread out in horizontal fan shaped columns by deck according to suit and in sequence. The cards in each suit shall be laid out in sequence within the suit.

(c) After the first player is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards shall be turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a “washing” or “chemmy shuffle” of the cards and stacked. Once the cards have been stacked, they shall be shuffled in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.4

(d) If a casino licensee uses an automated card shuffling device to play the game and two decks of cards are received at the table pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18 and 19:47-36.2, each deck of cards shall be separately sorted, inspected, verified, spread, inspected, mixed, stacked and shuffled in accordance with the provisions of (a) through (c) above.

19:47-36.4 Shuffle and cut the cards

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play and after each round of play has been completed, the dealer shall shuffle the cards, either manually or by use of an automated card shuffling device, so that they are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack, provided, however, that nothing in this section shall be deemed to prohibit the use of an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the shuffling of the cards, inserts the stack of cards directly into a dealing shoe.

(b) After the cards have been shuffled and stacked, the dealer shall:

1. If the cards were shuffled using an automated card shuffling device, deal or deliver the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.7, 36.8 or 36.9, or

2. If the cards were shuffled manually, cut the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in (c) below.

(c) If a cut of the cards is required, the dealer shall:

1. Cut the deck, using one hand, by:

i. Placing the cover card on the table in front of the deck of cards;

ii. Taking a stack of at least 10 cards from the top of the deck and placing them on top of a cover card;

iii. Placing the cards remaining in the deck on top of the stack of cards that were cut and placed on the cover card pursuant to (c)1ii above; and

iv. Removing the cover card and placing it in the discard rack; and

2. Deal the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.7, 36.8 or 36.9.

(d) Notwithstanding (c) above, after the cards have been cut and before any cards have been dealt, a casino supervisor may require the cards to be recut if he or she determines that the cut was performed improperly or in any way that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game.

(e) Whenever there is no gaming activity at a mini-tex 3 card hold 'em table that is open for gaming, the cards shall be spread out on the table either face up or face down. If the cards are spread face down, they shall be turned face up once a player arrives at the table. After the first player is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the procedures outlined in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.3(c) and, if applicable, (d) shall be completed.

19:47-36.5 Mini-tex 3 card hold' em hand rankings

(a) The rank of the cards used in mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker, for the determination of winning hands, in order of highest to lowest rank,

shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a “straight flush” or a “straight” formed with a 2 and 3. In determining either the dealer’s or player’s best three-card poker hand, at least one hole card must be used in combination with the community cards.

(b) The permissible poker hands at the game of mini-tex 3 card hold ‘em poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

1. “Straight flush” is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with ace, king and queen being the highest ranking three-card straight flush and ace, two and three being the lowest three-card straight flush; provided however, that an ace may not be combined with any other sequence of cards for purposes of determining a winning hand (for example king, ace and two);

2. “Three-of-a-kind” is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank, with three aces being the highest ranking three of a kind and three twos being the lowest ranking three of a kind;

3. “Straight” is a hand consisting of three unsuited cards of consecutive rank, with an ace, king and queen being the highest ranking straight and an ace, two and three being the lowest ranking straight; provided, however, that an ace may not be combined with any other sequence of cards for purposes of determining a winning hand (for example king, ace and two);

4. “Flush” is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit, not in consecutive order, with ace, king and jack being the highest ranking flush and two, three and five being the lowest ranking flush;

5. “Pair” is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two twos being the lowest ranking pair; and

6. “High value card” is a hand that is not listed in (b)1 through 5 above, the value of which is determined by the highest ranking card in the hand.

(c) When comparing two hands which are of identical rank pursuant to the provisions of this section, or which contain none of the hands authorized in this section, the hand which contains the highest ranking card as provided in (a) above which is not contained in the other hand shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of identical rank after the application of this subsection, the hands shall be considered a push.

(d) The permissible poker hands at the game of mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker, for purposes determining the result of a pocket poker wager, shall be:

- 1. "Royal straight flush" is a hand consisting of ace-king of the same suit;**
- 2. "Pair of aces" is a hand consisting of two aces;**
- 3. "Straight flush" is a hand consisting of two cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking;**
- 4. "Pair" is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank;**
- 5. "Straight" is a hand consisting of two unsuited cards of consecutive rank.**

19:47-36.6 Wagers

(a) All wagers at mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker shall be made by placing gaming chips or plaques, and, if applicable, a match play coupon on the appropriate betting areas of the table layout. A verbal wager accompanied by cash shall not be accepted.

(b) All wagers shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing "No more bets" in accordance with the dealing procedure in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.7, 36.8 or 36.9. Except as provided in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.10, no wager shall be made, increased, or withdrawn after the dealer has announced "No more bets."

(c) Upon placing an ante wager, a player may also place a pocket poker wager in at least the minimum amount established by the casino

licensee by placing the desired amount on the designated betting area of the layout. The outcome of the pocket poker wager shall have no bearing on any other wager made by the player at the game of at mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker.

(d) Flop, river and play wagers shall be made in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.10.

(e) Only players who are seated at the mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker table may place a wager at the game. Once a player has placed a wager and received cards, that player must remain seated until the completion of the round of play.

19:47-36.7 Procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe

(a) If a casino licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from a manual dealing shoe, the dealing shoe shall meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.19 and shall be located on the table in a location as approved by the Commission. Once the procedures required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.4 have been completed, the stacked deck of cards shall be placed in the dealing shoe either by the dealer or by the automated card shuffling device.

(b) The dealer shall announce "No more bets" prior to dealing any cards.

(c) Each card shall be removed from the dealing shoe with the hand of the dealer that is the closest to the dealing shoe and placed on the appropriate area of the layout with the opposite hand.

(d) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to his or her left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal the cards as follows:

1. One card face down to each player;
2. One card face down to the area designated for the dealer's hand under a cover card;

3. A second card face down to each player; and
4. A second card face down to an area designated for the dealer's hand under the cover card.

(e) After two cards have been dealt to each player and to the area designated for the dealer's hand, and after all community cards have been dealt in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.10, the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and, except as provided in (f) below, place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

1. If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

2. If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player or the area designated for the placement of the dealer's hand has more or less than two cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.12. If the cards have not been misdealt, all hands shall be considered void and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18.

19:47-36.8 Procedure for dealing the cards from the hand

(a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:46 or this chapter, a casino licensee may, in its discretion, permit a dealer to deal the cards used to play mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker from his or her hand.

(b) If a casino chooses to have the cards dealt from the dealer's hand, the following requirements shall be observed:

1. The casino licensee shall use an automated shuffling device to shuffle the cards.

2. Once the procedures required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-28.4 have been completed, the dealer shall place the stacked deck of cards in either hand.

i. Once the dealer has chosen the hand in which he or she will hold the cards, the dealer shall use that hand whenever holding the cards during that round of play.

ii. The cards held by the dealer shall at all times be kept in front of the dealer and over the table inventory container.

3. The dealer shall announce "No more bets" prior to dealing any cards. The dealer shall deal each card by holding the deck of cards in the chosen hand and using the other hand to remove the top card of the deck and place it face down on the appropriate area of the layout.

(c) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to his or her left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal the cards as follows:

1. One card face down to each player;

2. One card face down to the area designated for the dealer's hand under a cover card;

3. A second card face down to each player; and

4. A second card face down to the area designated for the dealer's hand under the cover card.

(d) After two cards have been dealt to each player and the area designated for the hand of the dealer and all community cards have been dealt in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.10, the dealer shall, except as provided in (e) below, place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(e) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still in the deck. The stub shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.7(f).

19:47-36.9 Procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of N.J.A.C. 19:46 or this chapter, a casino licensee may, in its discretion, choose to have the cards used to play mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker dealt from an automated dealing shoe which dispenses cards in stacks of two cards, provided that the shoe, its location and the procedures for its use are approved by the Commission.

(b) If a casino licensee chooses to have the cards dealt from an automated dealing shoe, the following requirements shall be observed:

- 1. Once the procedures required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.4 have been completed, the cards shall be placed in the automated dealing shoe.**
- 2. The dealer shall then announce "No more bets" prior to the shoe dispensing any stacks of cards.**

(c) The dealer shall deliver the first stack of two cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe face down to the player farthest to his or her left who has placed a wager in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.6. As the remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe, the dealer shall, moving clockwise around the table, deliver a stack face down to each of the other players who has placed a wager in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.6. The dealer shall then place a cover card on top of the dealer's stack of two cards in the automated dealing shoe and deliver the stack face down with the cover card on top to the area designated for the dealer's hand.

(d) After each stack of two cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with this subsection, the dealer shall remove the remaining

cards from the automated dealing shoe and, following the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.8(b)2 and 3, deal from his or her hand the three community cards in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.10. After all community cards have been dealt, the dealer shall, except as provided in (e) below, place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(e) The dealer shall be required to count the stub at least once every five rounds of play in order to determine that the correct number of cards are still in the deck. The stub shall be counted in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.7(f).

(f) Notwithstanding the provisions of (e) above, the counting of the stub shall not be required if an automated card shuffling device is used that counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are still present. If the automated card shuffling device reveals that an incorrect number of cards are present, the deck shall be removed from the table in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18.

**19:47-36.10 Procedure for completion of each round of play;
collection and payment of wagers**

(a) After the dealing procedures required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.7, 36.8 or 36.9 have been completed, each player shall examine his or her cards without exposing them to any person, replace the cards face down on the layout and either place a flop wager or fold and forfeit the ante wager.

1. If a player chooses to place a flop wager, the wager shall be placed in the designated flop betting area.
2. If a player folds, the player's ante shall be collected by the dealer and placed in the table inventory container.

i. If the player has also placed a pocket poker wager, the player's cards shall remain on the table pending resolution of the pocket poker wager at the conclusion of the round of play.

ii. If no pocket poker wager has been made, the dealer shall immediately spread the cards of the folded hand face down, collect the cards and place them in the discard rack.

(b) Once all players have either placed a flop wager or folded, the dealer shall burn the next card. The dealer shall then turn face up the next two cards in the deck (the flop) and place them in the designated area for the community cards.

(c) Prior to revealing the river card, the dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left who has placed a flop wager and proceeding around the table in a clockwise manner, ask each player if he or she wishes to place a river wager or fold and forfeit the ante and flop wagers.

1. If a player elects to place a river wager, the wager shall be placed in the designated river betting area.

2. If a player folds, the player's ante and flop wagers shall be collected by the dealer and placed in the table inventory container.

i. If the player has also placed a pocket poker wager, the player's cards shall remain on the table pending resolution of the pocket poker wager at the conclusion of the round of play.

ii. If no pocket poker wager has been made, the dealer shall immediately spread the cards of the folded hand face down, collect the cards and place them in the discard rack.

(d) Once all remaining players have either placed a river wager or folded, the dealer shall burn the next card face down. The dealer shall then turn face up the next card in the deck (the river) and place it in the designated area for the community cards.

(e) Once the dealer has revealed the river card, the dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left who has placed a river

wager and proceeding around the table in a clockwise manner, ask each player if he or she wishes to place a play wager or fold and forfeit the ante, flop and river wagers.

1. If a player elects to place a play wager, the wager shall be placed in the designated play betting area.

2. If a player folds, the player's ante, flop and river wagers shall be collected by the dealer and placed in the table inventory container.

i. If the player has also placed a pocket poker wager, the player's cards shall remain on the table pending resolution of the pocket poker wager at the conclusion of the round of play.

ii. If no pocket poker wager has been made, the dealer shall immediately spread the cards of the folded hand face down, collect the cards and place them in the discard rack.

(f) Once all remaining players have either placed a play wager or folded, the dealer shall remove the cover card on top of the dealer's cards and place it on the table layout. The dealer shall then turn the dealer's two cards face up, and announce and place the cards to indicate the best possible three-card poker hand that can be formed using a minimum of one of the dealer's two cards and not more than two of the community cards.

(g) Starting with the player farthest to the dealer's right who has placed a play wager and proceeding in a counterclockwise manner around the table, the dealer shall turn face up the two cards of each player who has placed a play wager and announce the best possible three-card poker hand that can be formed using a minimum of one of the player's two cards and not more than two of the community cards. The wagers of each player shall be resolved one player at a time regardless of outcome. Unless a player has placed a pocket poker wager, the hand of the player shall then be immediately collected by the dealer and placed in the discard rack.

1. The dealer's hand shall qualify if it has a rank of ace-king or better.

2. If the player's three-card hand has a lower rank than the dealer's three-card poker hand, the player shall lose and the dealer shall immediately collect any ante, flop, river and play wagers made by the player and place the wagers in the table inventory container.

3. If the player's three-card hand has a higher rank than the dealer's three-card poker hand and the dealer's hand qualifies, the player shall win and the dealer shall pay any ante, flop, river and play wagers made by the player in accordance with the payout odds set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.11.

4. If the player's three-card hand has a higher rank than the dealer's three-card poker hand and the dealer's hand fails to qualify, the player shall win and the dealer shall pay any ante, flop and river wagers. The play wager shall be deemed a push and neither be paid nor collected.

5. If the player's three-card poker hand and the dealer's three-card poker hand are of equal rank, the player's hand shall be a push. In such case, the dealer shall not collect or pay the player's wagers.

6. If the casino licensee has offered the players at the table an ante bonus, the dealer shall pay any player who has been dealt a three-card royal flush (suited ace-king-queen) an ante bonus regardless of the rank or qualification of the dealer's hand.

7. After settling a player's ante, flop, river and play wagers and paying the ante bonus, if offered, the dealer shall settle any pocket poker wager made by the player by determining whether the player's two cards qualify for a payout in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.11(c). A winning pocket poker wager shall be paid without regard to the outcome of any other wager made by the player. After the pocket poker wager of the player is settled, the dealer shall immediately collect the cards of that player and place them in the discard rack.

(h) All cards collected by the dealer shall be picked up in order and placed in the discard rack in such a way that they can be readily arranged to reconstruct each hand in the event of a question or dispute.

19:47-36.11 Payout odds

(a) The payout odds for winning wagers at mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker printed on any sign or in any brochure or other publication distributed by a casino licensee shall be stated through the use of the word "to" or "win," and no odds shall be stated through the use of the word "for."

(b) A casino licensee shall pay each winning ante, flop, river and play wagers at odds of 1 to 1.

(c) A casino licensee shall pay each winning pocket poker wager at the game of mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker at no less than the odds set forth in one alternative pay tables below pre-selected by the casino licensee:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Table A</u>	<u>Table B</u>	<u>Table C</u>
Royal straight flush	25 to 1	40 to 1	50 to 1
Pair of aces	20 to 1	35 to 1	40 to 1
Straight flush	5 to 1	5 to 1	5 to 1
Pair	3 to 1	3 to 1	2 to 1
Straight	2 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1

(d) If a casino licensee has offered an ante bonus, a casino licensee shall pay an ante bonus to each player with a three-card royal flush (suited ace-king-queen) at odds no greater than 30 to 1, as determined by the casino licensee.

19:47-36.12 Irregularities

(a) If any card dealt to the dealer in mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker is exposed prior to each player having either folded or placed a flop, river or play wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.10, all hands shall be void. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a player has placed a pocket poker

wager, such wager shall be settled in accordance with the payout odds set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.11(c).

(b) A card that is found face up in the shoe or the deck while the cards are being dealt shall not be used in the game and shall be placed in the discard rack. If more than one card is found face up in the shoe or the deck during the dealing of the cards, all hands shall be void and the cards shall be reshuffled. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the card(s) are found face up after each player and the dealer has received their initial two cards, any pocket poker side wager shall be settled in accordance with the payout odds set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-36.11(c).

(c) A card drawn in error without its face being exposed shall be used as though it was the next card from the shoe or the deck.

(d) If a player is dealt an incorrect number of cards, that player's hand shall be void and the cards shall be reshuffled. If the dealer is dealt an incorrect number of cards, all players' hands shall be void unless the dealer can deal himself or herself the correct number of cards in sequence, provided that such cards have not already been turned face up.

(e) If an automated card shuffling device is being used and the device jams, stops shuffling during a shuffle, or fails to complete a shuffle cycle, the cards shall be reshuffled in accordance with procedures approved by the Commission.

(f) If an automated dealing shoe is being used and the device jams, stops dealing cards, or fails to deal cards during a round of play, the round of play shall be void and the cards shall be removed from the device and reshuffled with any cards already dealt, in accordance with procedures approved by the Commission.

(g) Any automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe shall be removed from a gaming table before any other method of shuffling or dealing may be utilized at that table.

19:47-36.13 Prohibition against a player wagering on more than one

player position

A player shall not be permitted to wager on more than one player position at a mini-tex 3 card hold 'em poker table.