



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
GAMBLING COMMISSION

P.O. Box 42400 • Olympia, Washington 98504-2400 • (360) 486-3440 • TDD (360) 486-3637 • FAX (360) 486-3627

October 5, 2017

Paradigm Table Games, Inc.  
Michael Templeman  
30376 Esperanza, Suite 100  
Rancho Santa Margarita, CA 92688

RE: Half Back Blackjack

Dear Mr. Templeman

We have reviewed the changes made to Half Back Blackjack. Based on our review of the documentation we received from Paradigm Table Games, the Washington State Gambling Commission will approve the game under the conditions listed below:

- The game shall be played and operated under the terms and conditions set forth under the “Half Back Blackjack Rules of Play” you provided on July 5, 2017 and are enclosed.

**Commercial Card Rooms**

- Commercial card room operators seeking to operate this game must first submit their internal controls and receive approval from the Commission prior to implementing.
- Manufacturers and distributors of graphic layouts and/or any other equipment associated with the game must be licensed by the state prior to the sale of the equipment.

**Tribal Casinos**

- Each Tribal Gaming Operation must request and obtain approval from their respective Tribal Gaming Agencies (TGA).
- Before TGA allows your game to operate, they will seek concurrence from our agency as well.
- In addition to your approved rules, the Tribal submission to us must include all supplemental information required by Tribal-State Compact Appendix A, Section 18.



Mr. Templeman  
October 5, 2017  
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- Manufacturers and distributors of graphic layouts and/or any other equipment associated with the game must be certified by the state and licensed by the Tribe prior to the sale of the equipment.

Any modifications to this game may affect this approval. If you have any questions on commercial implementation, please contact Brian Lane at (509) 886-6231. If you have any questions on Tribal implementation, please contact Kelly Main at (206) 423-4260.

Thank you for your cooperation and willingness to comply with the gambling laws of Washington State.

Sincerely,



Tina Griffin  
Assistant Director  
Licensing, Regulation and Enforcement Division

Enclosure

cc: Danny Lisa, Special Agent in Charge, Regulation Unit  
Cathy Harvey, Special Agent in Charge, Tribal Gaming Unit  
Jess Lohse, Special Agent, Regulation Unit  
Brian Lane, Special Agent, Regulation Unit  
Kelly Main, Special Agent Supervisor, Tribal Gaming Unit  
File

# **HALF BACK™** **BLACKJACK**

**W/ UPCARD BONUS**

# **Training Manual**

**WSGC Version 3.0**

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## **OVERVIEW**

Half Back Blackjack is a blackjack variant game that can be played with six or eight decks of cards.

The play begins with the player making two equal wagers: the Main blackjack wager and the "Half Back" wager. Players may also make the optional Upcard Bonus wager.

The player receives two cards face up and the dealer receives two cards, one face up and one face down.

If the dealer's face up card is a three through six, it is immediately replaced by the next card in the shoe. The Upcard Bonus bet is settled based on whether the dealer's original Upcard is replaced combined with the result of this Upcard replacement using the posted pay table.

Assuming the dealer nor the player have a natural blackjack, the player has four options to continue the hand:

- If the player's two cards total 13 through 16 (hard or soft), the player may request their Half Back wager be returned and subsequently play out the hand with only their Main blackjack wager in action.
- If the player's first two cards are a "pair", the player may split the pair into two hands with their Main wager in action for the first hand and their Half Back wager in action for the second hand. Any subsequent splits require an additional player wager equal to their Main wager. Players may split any pair up to four times excluding Aces. Alternatively, the casino may allow re-splitting and/or hitting split Aces.
- If the player's two cards total a hard 9 through 11, the player may "Double" by placing an additional wager equal to their Main wager only. Subsequently the player will receive one hit card only to complete their hand. Doubling is allowed on any split hand that results in a two-card hard total of 9 through 11.
- If none of the above situations apply, the player plays out their hand normally with their Main & Half Back wagers in action.

After the players have played out their hands taking into account the rules above, the dealer will play out their hand according to the normal house blackjack rules for hitting and standing. All wagers will be resolved based on the comparison of the player's hand to the dealer's hand with winning wagers paying even money.

## **RULES**

1. Half Back Blackjack is standard blackjack with some revised rules. All rules pertaining to blackjack as posted on the WSGC website will remain the same and are not altered in this game except as noted in these rules of play.
2. When offering Half Back Blackjack, card room operators must not allow wagering limits to exceed authorized limits set out in WAC 230-15-040 and WAC 230-15-140.
3. Half Back Blackjack is played on a layout similar to the layout exhibited below.
4. Half Back Blackjack is played with either six or eight decks of cards, dealt from a shoe or continuous shuffling machine.
5. All cards have the same value in Half Back Blackjack as they do in regular blackjack.
6. Half Back Blackjack can be played with either the dealer hitting soft-17 or standing on soft-17.
7. The player hitting and standing options, and the dealer's hitting play, are as in regular blackjack.
8. Play begins after each player places a Main wager in the large betting circle and an equal wager in the Half Back betting circle. Players may also make an optional Upcard Bonus bet. All wagers must be within the house limits.
9. The dealer will case all bets in the normal house manner.
10. Each player is then dealt two cards face up and the dealer is dealt one card face up and one card face down.
11. If the dealer's Upcard is not a three, four, five or six pip card, skip to Step 14.
12. If the dealer's Upcard is a three, four, five or six pip card, the dealer will slide the original Upcard six inches to the right of their down card and replace it with a new Upcard placed on top of the original downcard. The replacement Upcard must be played by the dealer and cannot be subsequently replaced.

13. With both the original Upcard and the replacement Upcard visible, the Dealer will resolve the Upcard Bonus wagers by:
  - a) Collecting all Upcard Bonus wagers if their original Upcard was not a three through six pip card.
  - b) If the dealer's original Upcard was a three through six pip card, the dealer will pay, push or collect the players Upcard Bonus wager based on the Upcard Bonus Pay Table selected by the casino. Note: If the dealer's replacement Upcard is an Ace, the dealer will offer insurance prior to checking for blackjack.
  - c) Winning Upcard Bonus wagers and their payouts are pushed back to the player.
14. The dealer's original Upcard of a three, four, five or six pip card will then be placed in the discard rack face down.
15. If not previously completed during the settlement of the Upcard Bonus above, the dealer will offer insurance on an Ace Upcard and check for blackjack on any ten value card Upcard in the normal house procedure for regular blackjack.
16. If the dealer does have blackjack, the dealer will collect both the Main and Half Back losing wagers from all players that do not also have a blackjack. Player's that also have blackjack will push both their Main and Half Back wagers.
17. If the dealer does not have blackjack, the player has five options available to them depending on the value and ranks of their two-card hand:
  - If the player has a blackjack, both the Main wager and the Half Back wager will be paid 3:2.
  - If the player's two cards total 13 through 16 (hard or soft), the player may request their Half Back wager be returned. Subsequently the player may hit or stand as in regular blackjack to complete their hand. As in regular blackjack, if the player's hand exceeds 21, the player hand will "bust" and wagers left in play will be collected. Subsequently, the player's cards will be placed in the discard tray face down.
  - If the player's two cards are equal in rank, a "pair", similar to regular blackjack, the player may split the pair into two hands. However, no additional wager is required for the initial split as the dealer will use their Main wager for the first hand and their Half Back wager for the second hand. As in regular blackjack, the player will initially receive one additional card on their split hands. Any resulting pair (excluding Aces) is eligible to be "re-split" until the player has a maximum of four hands. Any "re-split" requires the player to post an additional wager equal to their Main wager for each "re-split" hand. Following splits (excluding Aces), the player will be allowed additional hit cards to play out each split hand. As in regular blackjack, if any of the player's split hands ever exceed 21, that player

hand will "bust" and wagers associated with the busted hand will be collected and the player's cards will be placed in the discard tray face down.

- If the player's two cards total a hard 9 through 11, the player may "Double" by placing an additional wager equal to their Main blackjack wager. Subsequently the player will receive only one hit card to complete their hand. Doubling is also allowed on any split hand that results in a two-card hard total of 9 through 11.
- If none of the above situations apply, the player will play out their hand in a similar manner to regular blackjack. Both the Main wager and Half Back wager will win or lose depending on the outcome of the player's hand.

18. House rules may allow the re-splitting and/or hitting of split Aces.

19. No late surrender is allowed in Half Back Blackjack.

20. Following all player action, the dealer will play out their hand according regular blackjack hitting procedures per the house rules.

21. After the dealer's hand is complete, all player hands will be compared to the dealer's hand. All winning wagers are paid even money.

## Upcard Bonus Wager Paytable Options

The following paytables are available for use by operators:

<b>Event</b>	<b>Paytable 1</b>	<b>Paytable 2</b>	<b>Paytable 3</b>	<b>Paytable 4</b>	<b>Paytable 5</b>	<b>Paytable 6</b>
Replace, Suited Blackjack	40 to 1	20 to 1	20 to 1	12 to 1	15 to 1	20 to 1
Replace, Unsuited Blackjack	15 to 1	20 to 1	20 to 1	12 to 1	15 to 1	20 to 1
Replace, Ace-Up, No BJ	8 to 1	8 to 1	8 to 1	6 to 1	4 to 1	4 to 1
Replace, Ten Value-Up, No BJ	3 to 1	3 to 1	4 to 1	4 to 1	4 to 1	3 to 1
Replace, 7 – 9 Up	1 to 1	1 to 1	Push	2 to 1	2 to 1	2 to 1
All Others	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss	Loss

The “Event” above is based on the Dealer’s original upcard being a 3 – 6 requiring replacement under the game rules. The value of the resulting replacement determining the winning pay amount based on the table in use by the operator.

# HALF BACK™ BLACKJACK

BLACKJACK PAYS 3 TO 2  
INSURANCE PAYS 2 TO 1

REALER MUST HIT SOFT 17

HALF BACK on initial 12-18 • double down on hard 9-11 • HALF BACK void for first split

**PAYOUT TABLE**

Hand	Payout
Blackjack	3 to 2
21	1 to 1
Soft 17	1 to 1
Hard 17	1 to 1
Soft 18	1 to 1
Hard 18	1 to 1
Soft 19	1 to 1
Hard 19	1 to 1
Soft 20	1 to 1
Hard 20	1 to 1
Soft 21	1 to 1
Hard 21	1 to 1

**BLACKJACK PAYS 3 TO 2**

Hand	Payout
Blackjack	3 to 2
21	1 to 1
Soft 17	1 to 1
Hard 17	1 to 1
Soft 18	1 to 1
Hard 18	1 to 1
Soft 19	1 to 1
Hard 19	1 to 1
Soft 20	1 to 1
Hard 20	1 to 1
Soft 21	1 to 1
Hard 21	1 to 1

**INSURANCE PAYS 2 TO 1**

Hand	Payout
Blackjack	3 to 2
21	1 to 1
Soft 17	1 to 1
Hard 17	1 to 1
Soft 18	1 to 1
Hard 18	1 to 1
Soft 19	1 to 1
Hard 19	1 to 1
Soft 20	1 to 1
Hard 20	1 to 1
Soft 21	1 to 1
Hard 21	1 to 1