











The playing rules of Yangtze Hold'em Poker

The playing and betting rules of the Yangtze Hold'em poker game follows closely with those for the popular Texas Hold'em game. The difference of course is that the Yangtze Hold'em poker is played with the 52-card Dragon Deck and not with the International 52-card pack. Whereas there are no built-in wild cards for the latter set, there are five wild cards (The Feng Shui cards) in the former. But only one wild card can be used to make up the 5-card poker hand. The comparison between the rankings of the 5-card hand and individual cards between the International 52-card pack (West) and the Dragon Deck (East) is illustrated in the pictorial below.

West	East
None	Wild Cards
	
	4 of a kind
	
	Full house
	
	Flush
	
	Straight
	
	3 of a kind
	
	2 Pairs
	
	1 Pair
	
	Individual card
	
	

As shown in the pictorial, for every 5-card poker hand in the International 52-card pack, there is a corresponding 5-card hand in the Dragon Deck. With the exception of the five wild cards, the rankings of the 5-card hand in descending order from top to bottom are correspondingly shown for the West and East decks in the pictorial. The rankings of individual cards for the two decks are also shown in the bottom row of the pictorial.

Following the playing rules of the Texas Hold'em, the game starts with the two players to the left of the dealer (the button) putting a predetermined amount of money into the pot before any cards are dealt. This maneuver is called "posting the blinds". Most often, the "first blind" – player to the left of the dealer – puts up half the minimum bet, and the "second blind" puts up the full minimum bet. Each player is dealt two cards, face down. These are known as the "hole cards".

A round of betting takes place, beginning with the player to the left of the "second blind". Players can call, raise, or fold when it's their turn to bet.

After the betting round, the dealer discards the top card of the deck. This is called burning the card and is done to ensure that no one accidentally saw the top card, and to help cheating. The dealer then flips the next three cards on the table. These cards are called the "flop" after the flop, another round of betting takes place, beginning with the player to the left of the dealer (the button). During this and all future rounds of betting, player can check, call, raise or fold when it's their turn to bet.

The dealer then burns another card and plays one more face-up card on the table. This, the fourth community card, is called the "turn". The player to the left of the dealer begins the third round of betting.

The dealer then burns another card before placing the final face-up card on the table. This card is called the "river".

Players can now use any combination of seven cards – the five community cards and the two hole cards known only to them – to form the best possible five-card poker hand. The fourth and final round of betting starts with the player to the left of the dealer (button). After the final betting round, all players who remain in the game reveal their hands. The player who made the initial bet or the player who made the last raise shows their hand first. The player with the best hand wins.

As mentioned before, the only difference between the Texas Hold'em and the Yangtze Hold'em has to do with the deck of cards used to play the game. In particular the Yangtze Hold'em poker game uses the Dragon Deck which has five wild cards. Only one of the five wild cards can be used to form the player's 5-card hand irrespective whether the wild cards find themselves in the two hole cards, the flop, the turn or the river cards.

A special situation is worthy of note. Since only one wild card can be used to form a 5-card hand, and if none of the players can form a legal 5-card hand, namely their hole cards and the community cards together have too many wild cards, then it is a draw. Whosoever cannot form a legal 5-card hand is automatically eliminated from winning the pot.