



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**GAMBLING COMMISSION**

*"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest"*

June 29, 2015

Michael Templeman  
Paradigm Table Games, Inc.  
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, Inc., 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 June 17, 2015 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.



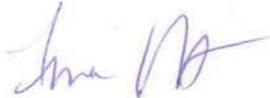
Mr. Templeman  
June 29, 2015  
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- Manufacturers and distributors of graphic layouts and/or any other equipment associated with the game must be certified by the state and licensed by the Tribe prior to the sale of the equipment.

Any modifications to this game may affect this approval. If you have any questions on commercial implementation, please contact Jess Lohse at (425) 277-7017. 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 Operations Division

cc: Mark Harris, Assistant Director Field Operations  
Julie Lies, Assistant Director Tribal Gaming Division  
Jess Lohse, Special Agent Field Operations  
Kelly Main, Special Agent Supervisor Tribal Gaming  
File

# **HALF BACK™** **BLACKJACK**

## **Training Manual**

**Version 2.0**

**Washington State Version**

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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.

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.

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. Half Back Blackjack is played on a layout similar to Exhibit 1.
3. Half Back Blackjack is played with either six or eight decks of cards, dealt from a shoe or continuous shuffling machine.
4. All cards have the same value in Half Back Blackjack as they do in regular blackjack.
5. Half Back Blackjack can be played with either the dealer hitting soft-17 or standing on soft-17.
6. The player hitting and standing options, and the dealer's hitting play, are as in regular blackjack.
7. Play begins after each player places a Main wager in the large betting circle and an equal wager in the Half Back betting circle. Both wagers must be within the house limits.
8. The dealer will case all bets in the normal house manner.
9. Each player is then dealt two cards face up and the dealer is dealt one card face up and one card face down.
10. If the dealer's face up card is a three, four, five or six pip card, the dealer will slide the original up card 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. The original upcard of a three, four, five or six pip card will then be placed in the discard rack face down.
11. Similar to normal blackjack procedures, the dealer will offer insurance on a Ace upcard and check for blackjack on any ten value card in the normal house procedure for regular blackjack.
12. 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.
13. 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.

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

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

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

17. 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.

18. 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.

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# HALF BACK™ BLACKJACK

INSURANCE PAYS 2 TO 1    **DEALER MUST HIT SOFT 17**    INSURANCE PAYS 2 TO 1  
BLACKJACK PAYS 3 TO 2

DEALER MUST REPLACE FIRST UP CARD 3 THROUGH 6  
HALF BACK on initial 13-16 • double down on hard 9-11 • HALF BACK pays for the first split

