

Pre-Shuffling Of Blackjack Cards At Opening Of Table

Rules of the Games

Temporary Amendments: N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.4 and 2.5

Authority: N.J.S.A. 5:12-5, 63, 69, 70, 99 and 100

The temporary rules follow:

Summary

The temporary rule amendments permit a casino licensee, at its option, to pre-shuffle the playing cards at the opening of a blackjack table. The cards may be shuffled prior to the arrival of any players at the table, but only after the cards have been inspected by casino personnel. If the cards are pre-shuffled, the pre-shuffle must be documented in a manner approved by the Commission. See temporary N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.4(c).

If there is no gaming activity after the pre-shuffle, the cards shall be spread face downwards on the table. When the pre-shuffled cards are needed for play, the dealer is required to perform a “strip shuffle” or “riffle shuffle” of the cards, as defined in N.J.A.C. 19:40-1.2(b), and then cut the cards in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.5. See temporary amendment N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.4(c)i. At a player’s request, the pre-shuffled cards shall be turned over for visual inspection prior to the strip shuffle or riffle shuffle. See temporary amendment N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.4(c)ii.

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

19:47-2.4 Opening of table for gaming

(a) (No change.)

(b) [After] **Except as otherwise provided in (c) below, after** the cards [are] **have been inspected in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18(e)1**, the cards shall be spread out face upwards on the table for

visual inspection by the first player or players 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. **After the first player or players is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards shall be turned face downward on the table, mixed thoroughly by a "washing" or a "chemmy shuffle" of the cards and then stacked.**

(c) [After the first player or players is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards shall be turned face downward on the table, mixed thoroughly by a "washing" or a "chemmy shuffle" of the cards and stacked. **If a casino licensee elects to pre-shuffle the cards prior to the first player or players arriving at the table, the dealer shall, after the cards have been inspected in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18(e)1, immediately mix the cards thoroughly by a "washing" or "chemmy shuffle" and then stack and shuffle the cards pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.5 so that they are randomly intermixed. Pre-shuffling at the open gaming table shall be documented in a manner approved by the Commission, which documentation shall include, at a minimum, the date, table number and signature of the dealer and floorperson involved in the pre-shuffle.**

1. Upon completion of the pre-shuffle, if there is no gaming activity at the table, the cards shall be spread face downwards on the table. When the pre-shuffled cards are needed for play, the dealer shall first perform a "strip shuffle" or "riffle shuffle" of the cards and the cards shall then be cut in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.5.

2. If requested by a player, the pre-shuffled cards shall be turned over for visual inspection by the player prior to the dealer completing the procedures set forth in (c)1 above.

(d) If a double shoe is utilized, **the procedures in (b) or (c) above shall be performed separately on the table for** all the decks that comprise [one] **each** side of the dealing shoe [shall be spread for inspection on the table separate from the decks that comprise the other side of the dealing shoe. After the player or players is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, the cards that comprise one side of the dealing shoe and the cards that comprise the other side of the dealing shoe shall separately be turned face downward on the table, mixed thoroughly by a "washing" or a "chemmy shuffle" of the cards and stacked].

(e) (No change.)

19:47-2.5 Shuffle and cut of the cards

(a) Immediately prior to commencement of play, unless the cards were pre-shuffled pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18(r) **or 19:47-2.4(c)**, after any round of play as may be determined by the casino licensee and after each shoe of cards is dealt, the dealer shall shuffle the cards so that they are randomly intermixed.

(b) - (k) No change.