

13:69E-1.10D Switch Hands table; physical characteristics

(a) Switch Hands shall be played at a table having betting positions for no more than six players on one side of the table and a place for the dealer on the opposite side.

(b) The layout for a Switch Hands table shall be approved by the Division and shall have imprinted thereon, at a minimum, the following:

1. The name or trade name of the casino licensee offering the game;

2. One designated betting area at each betting position for the placement of the required blackjack wager and one designated area for the Switch Hands ante which shall be so imprinted;

3. The following inscriptions, unless they are included on the sign required by (c) below:

i. "Blackjack pays 3 to 2";

ii. "Insurance pays 2 to 1";

iii. "Dealer must draw to 16. Stands on all 17's";

iv. "Switch Hands suited or colored bonus blackjack pays 2 to 1"

v. "Ante \$1 for every \$5 bet".

4. The payout odds for Switch Hands, unless they are included on the sign required by (c) below.

(c) A casino licensee shall post a sign approved by the Division at each Switch Hands table, which shall include the payout odds for the Switch Hands blackjacks, if they are not imprinted on the layout.

(d) Each Switch Hands table shall have a drop box and a tip box attached to it on the same side of the gaming table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer, in locations approved by the Division.

(e) In order to collect the cards at the conclusion of a round of play and at such other times as provided in the rules of the Division, each Switch Hands table shall have a discard rack securely attached to the top of the dealer's side of the table. The height of each discard rack shall equal the height of the cards, stacked one on top of the other, contained in the total number of decks that are to be used in the dealing shoe at that table; provided however, that a taller discard rack may be used if such rack has a distinct and clearly visible mark on its side to show the exact height for a stack of cards equal to the total number of cards contained in the number of decks to be used in the dealing shoe at that table.

(f) A Switch Hands table may have attached to it, as approved by the Division, a card reader device which permits the dealer to read his or her hole card in order to determine if the dealer has a blackjack. If a Switch Hands table has an approved card reader device attached to it, the floor-person assigned to the table shall inspect the card reader device at the beginning of each gaming day, to ensure that there has been no tampering with the device and that it is in proper working order.

SUBCHAPTER 2B. SWITCH HANDS

13:69F-2B.1 Definitions

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

"Bart Carter shuffle" means a shuffling procedure in which approximately one deck of cards is shuffled after being dealt, segregated into separate stacks and each stack is inserted into pre-marked locations within the remaining decks contained in the dealing shoe.

"Blackjack" shall mean an ace and any card having a point value of 10 dealt as the initial two cards to a player or a dealer except that this shall not include an ace and a ten point value card dealt to a player who has split pairs.

"Card Reader Device" is described in Division rules and regulations.

“Colored Blackjack” means a two card total of 21 with each card being of the same color – red or black.

"Dealer" shall mean the person responsible for dealing the cards at a Switch Hands table.

“Hole card” means the second card dealt to the hand of the dealer.

"Hard Total" means the total point count of a hand which contains no aces or which contains one or more aces that are each counted as 1 in value.

“Push” means a void wager, as defined in Division rules and regulations, which is returned to the player.

"Soft Total" means the total point count of a hand which contains an ace that is counted as 11 in value.

“Suit” means one of the four categories of cards: club, diamond, heart or spade.

“Switch Hands” means a player’s one-time option to discard his first two face-up cards and play his two face-down cards.

13:69F-2B.2 Cards; number of decks; rank of cards

(a) Switch Hands shall be played with not less than six decks nor more than eight decks of cards, with backs of the same color and design and one additional cutting card all as approved by the Division. The decks shall meet the requirements of Division rules and regulations. The cutting card shall be opaque and a solid color readily distinguishable from the color of the backs and edges of the playing cards, as approved by the Division.

(b) The point value of the cards contained in each deck shall be as follows:

1. Any card from 2 to 10 shall have its face value;
2. Any jack, queen or king shall have a value of 10;
3. An ace shall have a value of 11, unless that value would give a player or the

dealer a score in excess of 21, in which case it shall have a value of one.

(c) The “rank” of the cards, for purposes of the optional match wager, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2. All suits shall be considered equal in rank.

13:69F-2B.3 **Opening of the table for gaming**

(a) After receiving the decks of cards at the table in accordance with Division rules, the dealer shall comply with the rules of the Division regarding table opening and inspection of cards.

13:69F-2B.4 **Shuffle and cut of the cards**

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play, unless the cards were pre-shuffled pursuant to the rules of the Division, 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, either manually or by use of an automated card shuffling device, so that the cards are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack.

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

1. If the cards were shuffled using an automated card shuffling device, place the stack of cards in the dealing shoe and deal the cards in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2A.7; provided, however, that nothing herein 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; or

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

(c) If a cut of the cards is required, the dealer shall offer the stack of cards to be cut, with the backs facing away from the dealer, as determined in accordance with (d) or (e) below.

(d) The player to cut the cards shall be:

1. The first player to the table if the game is just beginning;

2. The player on whose box the cutting card appeared during the last round of play;

3. The player at the farthest point to the right of the dealer if the cutting card appeared on the dealer's hand during the last round of play; or

4. The player at the farthest point to the right of the dealer if the reshuffle was initiated at the discretion of the casino licensee.

(e) If the player designated in (d) above refuses the cut, the cards shall be offered to each other player moving clockwise around the table until a player accepts the cut or all players refuse the cut. If no player accepts the cut, the dealer shall cut the cards.

(f) The player or dealer making the cut shall place the cutting card in the stack at least 10 cards from either end. Once the cutting card has been inserted, the dealer shall take the cutting card and all the cards in front of the cutting card and place them to the back of the stack. The dealer shall then take the entire stack of cards that was just shuffled and align them along the side of the dealing shoe which has the mark required by the rules of the Division. Thereafter, the dealer shall insert the cutting card in the stack at a position at least approximately one-quarter of the way in from the back of the stack. The stack of cards shall then be inserted into the dealing shoe for commencement of play. If the Bart Carter shuffle is utilized, the dealer shall not re-insert the cut card after the stack has been cut.

(g) 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. If a recut is required, the cards shall be recut, at the casino licensee's option, by the player who last cut the cards, or by the next person entitled to cut the cards, as determined by (d) and (e) above.

(h) A reshuffle of the cards in the shoe shall take place after the cutting card is reached in the shoe as provided for in N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2A.7, except that:

1. The casino licensee may determine after each round of play that the cards should be reshuffled;

2. When the "Bart Carter Shuffle" is utilized, a reshuffle shall take place after the cards in the discard rack exceed approximately one deck in number.

(i) If there is no gaming activity at a Switch Hands table that is open for gaming, the cards shall be removed from the dealing shoe and the discard rack, and spread out on the table for inspection, 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 cards shall be turned face downward on the table.

1. If there is no automated shuffling device in use, the cards shall be mixed thoroughly by a washing or chemmy shuffle of the cards, stacked, then shuffled and cut in accordance with this section.

2. If an automated shuffling device is in use, the cards shall be stacked and placed into the automated shuffling device to be shuffled. The batch of cards already in the shuffler shall then be removed. Unless a player so requests, the batch of cards removed from the shuffler need not be spread for inspection and reshuffled prior to being dealt, if:

- i. The automated card shuffling device stores a single batch of shuffled cards inside the shuffler in a secure manner approved by the Division;
and
- ii. The shuffled cards have been secured, released and prepared for play in accordance with procedures approved by the Division.

(j) A casino licensee may submit to the Division for approval the proposed shuffle, cut card placement, number of cut cards (to include shuffle techniques without the use of any cut cards), location of where the shuffle takes place, who is responsible for shuffling, shuffling equipment (dealing shoes or other dealing devices) and burn card procedures.

13:69F-2B.5 Wagers; payout odds

(a) Prior to the first card being dealt, each player at the game of Switch Hands shall make a blackjack wager which shall equal or exceed the posted minimum wager for the table and shall be in increments of \$5.00 and a Switch Hands ante fee which shall total \$1 for each \$5 or any portion thereof bet. Each wager of a player shall be determined individually, and shall win if:

1. The point count of the player is 21 or less and the point count of the dealer exceeds 21;
2. The point count of the player exceeds that of the dealer without either exceeding 21; or
3. At the casino's option, the player has a blackjack pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2A.7, and the dealer has a blackjack in which case the player shall be paid at odds of 1 to 2 instead of it being a push.

(b) Except as provided in (a)3 above, if the point count of the player is the same as the dealer, a wager made in accordance with this section shall be a push, unless the player has a point count of 21 in more than two cards and the dealer has a blackjack, in which case the wager shall lose.

(c) All wagers at Switch Hands, including the Switch Hands ante, 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 may be accepted, provided it is confirmed by the dealer and casino supervisor, and that such cash is expeditiously converted into gaming chips or plaques.

(d) Once the first card of any round of play has been removed from the shoe by the dealer, no player shall make, alter, remove, or otherwise handle any wager that has been made until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager, except as permitted in this subchapter.

(e) Once an insurance wager or a wager to double down has been made by a player and confirmed by the dealer, no player shall alter, remove or otherwise handle the wager until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager.

(f) After each round of play is complete, the dealer shall collect all losing wagers, return any pushes, and pay off all winning wagers. Winning insurance wagers shall be paid at odds of 2 to 1; all winning blackjacks of players shall be paid at odds of 3 to 2, excepting (i) those Switch Hands ante players with suited or colored blackjack shall be paid at odds of 2 to 1; (ii) at the casino's option, those with a blackjack pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2A.7 and the dealer has a blackjack, a blackjack shall be paid at the odds of 1 to 2 at the casino's option instead of being a push; and (iii) all other winning hands shall be paid at odds of 1 to 1.

(g) After the cards have been shuffled, a casino licensee may, in its discretion, prohibit any person, whether seated at the gaming table or not, who does not make a wager on a given round of play from placing a wager on the next round of play and any subsequent round of play at that gaming table unless the casino licensee chooses to permit the player to begin wagering or until a reshuffle of the cards has occurred.

(h) The following wagers shall not be offered in the game of Switch Hands Blackjack: any optional wagers pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2.17; multiple action blackjack wagers pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2.18; a progressive blackjack wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2.19; a blackjack bonus wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2.20; a streak wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2.22; a match the dealer wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2.23; a blackjack switch wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2A.1; an optional bonus wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2.25, and in between wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2.26.

13:69F-2B.7 Procedure for dealing the cards

(a) All cards used in Switch Hands shall be dealt from a dealing shoe specifically designed for such purpose and located on the table to the left of the dealer.

(b) The dealer shall remove cards from the shoe with his or her left hand, turn them face upwards, excepting the “Switch Hands” cards which shall remain face-down, and then place them on the appropriate area of the layout with his or her right hand, except that the dealer has the option to deal hit cards to the first two betting spots with his or her left hand.

(c) After each full set of cards is placed in the shoe, the dealer shall remove the first card from the shoe face downwards and place it in the discard rack, which shall be located on the table immediately to the right of the dealer. Each new dealer who comes to the table shall also burn one card as described herein before the new dealer deals any cards to the players. The burn card shall be disclosed if requested by a player. This procedure shall not be applicable to the “Bart Carter Shuffle.”

(d) At the commencement of each round of play, the dealer shall, starting on his or her left and continuing around the table, deal the cards in the following order:

1. One card face down to each player;
2. A second card face down to each player;
3. One card face upwards to each designated area on the layout in which a wager is contained;
4. One card face upwards to the dealer;
5. A second card face upwards to each designated area in which a wager is contained, which card shall be dealt so as to overlap the lower left-hand corner of the first card, as seen from the dealer’s point of view;
6. One face-down card to the dealer;

(e) Immediately after cards are dealt in accordance with (d) above, to each player, and before any card reader device is utilized and any additional cards are dealt to any player or the dealer, the dealer shall collect all Switch Hands antes.

(f) Beginning with the farthest eligible player to the dealer's left and continuing in a clockwise direction, the dealer shall ask each player whether the player wants to discard his/her two face-up cards and play the two face-down cards, which shall be indicated by the appropriate hand signal, and if the player chooses to discard the two face-up cards and play the two face-down cards, the dealer shall remove the two face-up cards and place them in the discard rack and turn over the two face-down cards. If the player chooses to play the face-up cards, the dealer shall remove the face-down cards to the discard rack without turning them over. Each player shall make his/her choice before any other cards are dealt and before the dealer asks for insurance bets or checks the dealer's down card with the card-reader device.

(g) After each player has declared his/her intention to either switch hands or play his/her two face-up cards, each player may make an insurance bet pursuant to Division rules.

(h) After all insurance bets have been made, the dealer shall, beginning from his left announce the point total of the hand of each player. Insurance bets are determined only after all players have chosen to either play their two face-up cards or switch hands.

(i) Insurance bets shall then be determined, after which play shall resume in the normal manner with players either standing, hitting, splitting, doubling down, or surrendering.

(j) After the decisions of each player have been implemented and all additional player cards have been dealt, the dealer shall play out his hand in the normal manner. Any additional cards authorized to be dealt to the hand of the dealer shall be dealt face upwards at this time, after which the dealer shall announce the total point count for the hand of the dealer.

(k) Beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's right and continuing in a counter-clockwise direction, the dealer shall collect all losing bets, pay all winning bets, and "push" or return all tying bets, excepting when the dealer and player both have blackjacks, in which case the player is paid at odds of 1 to 2.

(1) At the conclusion of a round of play, all cards still remaining on the layout shall be picked up by the dealer in order and in such a way that they can be readily arranged to indicate each hand of each player in case of a question or dispute. The dealer shall pick up the cards beginning with those of the player farthest to the dealer's right and moving counter-clockwise around the table. After all the cards of the players have been collected, the dealer shall pick up his or her cards and place them on the top of the players' cards and place all of them in the discard rack.

13:69F-2B [8]9. Additional applicable rules

The rules set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2A.10 - N.J.A.C. 13:69F-2A.15 shall be incorporated herein by reference, except that only one player may wager on any one spot of the Switch Hands layout.