



INFO

ABOUT

YOUR

CHANCES

BETTING ON CASINO

TABLE GAMES?

CASINO GAMES OF CHANCE OR SKILL CAN BE ENTERTAINING FOR PEOPLE WHO ENJOY PLACING THEIR BETS ON WHEELS SPUN, CARDS DEALT AND DICE ROLLED.

BUT THE CASINO IS ALSO THERE TO MAKE A PROFIT. THE STAR IS THE ONLY LEGAL CASINO IN NSW. EACH GAME HAS A HOUSE MARGIN. THIS IS THE OVERALL PERCENTAGE OF MONEY WAGERED THAT IS RETAINED BY THE CASINO, ALSO KNOWN AS THE HOUSE.

Skilled players may be able to reduce the house margin playing games of skill; the house margin cannot be changed on games of chance, no matter the betting strategy.

In the long run, most players are unlikely to come out ahead. Each game must be conducted in accordance with rules approved by the Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority.

HOW OFTEN WILL YOUR NUMBER COME UP?

■ BLACKJACK

Blackjack is a card game of chance and skill in which players may improve their chance of winning by using a better strategy. After receiving two cards from the dealer, the player can choose to be dealt more cards so as to have a total score closer to 21 than the dealer's total – without going over 21. Face (picture) cards count as 10, aces count as 1 or 11 and the cards 1 to 10 count as their face value. The house margin for Blackjack is generally less than **1%** for skilled players.

■ CARIBBEAN STUD POKER

This card game is a game of chance and skill, and is based on five-card stud poker. For an initial 'stake' or 'ante', players receive five cards face down while the dealer receives four cards face down and one card face up. If a player thinks they cannot beat the dealer's hand, they can forfeit their stake. To play on, the player's next bet must be twice the original stake. The best poker hand between each player and the dealer wins. There are also jackpot bets available. The house margin for Caribbean Stud Poker is about **5.5%**, which includes an allowance for the jackpot.

■ BACCARAT

Baccarat is a game of chance where numbered cards less than 10 count as their face value; aces are worth 1; and 10s and face (picture) cards are worth 0. Two cards are dealt to both the player's hand and the banker's hand, then depending on the totals of those first two cards, a third card may be dealt. These totals are read as if the first digit does not exist – so a hand totalling 15 becomes 5. The winner of the game has the total card value closest to 9. Players can bet on the player's hand or the banker's hand, or bet that the hands will tie. The house margin for Baccarat is around **1.2%**.

■ SIC BO

In Sic Bo three dice are rolled and players try to predict various combinations, totals and outcomes. House margins for each type of bet vary from **2.8%** (big, small or combinations of two dice) to **16.2%** for a specific triple. Sic Bo is a game of chance, so there are no betting strategies to reduce these margins.

■ ROULETTE/DOUBLE ZERO ROULETTE

A game of chance, the Australian roulette wheel has 37 numbers on it: 18 red, 18 black and one zero, or in the case of Double Zero roulette 38 numbers. The wheel is spun in one direction and a small non-metallic ball in the other. Players can bet Straight Up (betting the ball lands on a specific number), or bet on combinations of numbers, red or black, odd or even and low or high (whether the number is between 1 and 18 or 19 and 36 inclusive). The house margin is **2.7%** for roulette and **5.26%** for Double Zero roulette.

■ PAI GOW

Another game of chance, Pai Gow translates as make nine. Pai Gow is played with 32 tiles. 22 of these tiles form 11 Identical Pairs and the remaining 10 tiles form 5 Mixed Pairs. After the game has been dealt, each player and the Bank (or house) needs to construct two separate hands with their four tiles called a Low Hand and a High Hand. The player's hands and the Bank's hands are then compared to determine who wins. The house margin for Pai Gow is **1.5%**.

■ BIG WHEEL

Another game of chance, Big Wheel is divided into 52 compartments, each showing one of seven different symbols. Players bet on a symbol and win if the wheel stops on that symbol. The house margin is **7.7%** for all symbols and cannot be reduced.

CAN YOU IMPROVE YOUR ODDS?

No – not in games of chance – because dice and spinning wheels have no memory. In games of chance the house margin is determined by the rules.

If you want to talk to someone who can help with information, counselling and referral, call

GAMBLING HELP

1800 858 858

Gambling Help counsellors are available at any time, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

You don't have to give your name and interpreter services are available.

Or visit the website at
www.gamblinghelp.nsw.gov.au

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