

# Join With Your Friends And Co-Workers To Start An Online Poker Club.

This is a free E-Book from [www.goldenruleofpoker.com](http://www.goldenruleofpoker.com), which tells you all that you need to know about joining with your friends or co-workers to start an online poker club. It will talk you through the advantages of such clubs, and give you all the information that you need to participate. Good luck at the tables!

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## 1. Why Play Poker?

Many of the world's most successful business managers have long recognised the value of the transferable skills that can be learnt at a poker table. When playing poker you need to be able to **make split-second decisions** based on your ability to "read" your opponents. To win you have to learn what makes your opponents tick, how they respond to different tactics, what decisions they make in the game and why. The key is to **understand** your opponent, and not to assume that s/he thinks the same way that you do. You need to know when to push home an advantage; when behaving confidently will bring results and when behaving passively will. You have to learn how to mask your weaknesses and play bad hands to maximum effect, and how not to lose profit by showing a strong hand too early. Sometimes you want your opponent to think they're winning when they're actually losing, and other times you want them to feel weak even though they are strong. You need to **manage your bankroll**, and choose **when to invest** your limited resources and **when to cut your losses**. Above all you need to learn to balance **risk versus reward**. Good players don't try and get lucky, they wait until the odds are in their favour and at that point they go for the jugular. Poker teaches you to be aggressive, not passive, but also to be highly selective rather than wild and unfocused. In all manner of business negotiations, investment analysis decisions, and sales environments, these are key skills in any business partner's armoury. In the words of Bobby Baldwin (CEO of Mirage Resorts) "**The only difference between a boardroom table and a poker table is the shape.**"

## 2. How Poker Skills Have Helped Others To Succeed.

Mary McDonnell, the president of **Geneva Trading** in Chicago, says the company wouldn't dream of employing someone who didn't show some poker prowess. "It is unlikely that we would hire someone who didn't show good proficiency at a GameBoy or online poker or similar video-type game where hand-to-eye coordination is important" she said. "It's the discipline of not getting too emotional about your transactions, and also the mathematical ability to keep track of numbers, as in card counting. **Online poker** practice helps traders to read the markets correctly. It helps to determine if people are bluffing, trying to make the market move one way or another" (BBC Online).

"Desperation at a **poker table** is just like desperation in a **business deal**... It's important to know how important the deal is to the other guy, and the more important it is to him and the more information you have, the better the deal you can cut for yourself." - Larry Flynt, millionaire publisher (New York Times).

"There are many things you can overcome in business by working hard. **Poker is the same thing**. It requires learning the odds and knowing the fundamentals. College business schools should teach poker in their classrooms." - Barry Shulman, Seattle condominium developer (American City Business Journals).

"The most **important** lesson I've learned from **poker** is when to walk away from a deal, even if it seems tempting.... You have to be willing to throw away the cards before you get hurt" - David Rabin, co-owner of Union Bar and Lotus, NY, and V-bar nightclub in Vegas (New York Times).

Wendee Eolis, chief executive of Eolis International Group, who have advised Gov. George E. Pataki of New York and Rudolph Giuliani amongst others, says she regularly applies **theories learnt at the poker table** to business and political strategy. She even conducts a seminar for her clients on how overrated bluffing is as a strategy in both business and poker. "There is an absolute parallel between the **poker room** and the **boardroom** for me as a woman. Often, all I have to do is exceed the expectations to make a home run", (New York Times).

Charles Addlington, Chief Executive of Phonenix Biotechnology, says his development of **poker skills** helped him forge the discipline to get to the top in business. As well as running a company in the forefront of cancer research, he is also one of the founders of the World Series of Poker (San Antonio Express).

Poker is now so widely played amongst MBA students that there is an annual **MBA Poker Championships**. Anderson School Of Management are current champions.

**Attorney** courses and **lawyer** courses often make reference to poker skills to help students learn how to cross-examine witnesses and present a compelling case summary.

"...One final note on **George W. Bush's** management style and his **Harvard Business School** background does not derive from the classroom, per se. One feature of life there is that a subculture of

poker players exists. **Poker** is a **natural fit** with the inclinations, talents, and skills of many future entrepreneurs. A close reading of the odds, combined with the ability to out-psych the opposition, leads to capital accumulation in **many fields**, aside from the poker table. By reputation, the **President was a very avid and skillful poker player** when he was an MBA student. One of the secrets of a successful poker player is to encourage your opponent to bet a lot of chips on a losing hand. This is a pattern of behavior one sees repeatedly in George W. Bush's political career. He is not one to loudly proclaim his strengths at the beginning of a campaign. Instead, he bides his time, does not respond forcefully, at least at first, to critiques from his enemies, no matter how loud and annoying they get. If anything, this apparent passivity only goads them into making their case more emphatically. " - Thomas Lifson (The American Thinker).

On the subject of Harvard business school - Microsoft billionaire **Bill Gates** claims he spent more time **playing poker at Harvard** than he did attending classes!

**Professor Mark Griffiths** is an expert in gambling at Nottingham Trent University. According to Professor Griffiths "Poker-playing managers will be used to asking, 'did I play that right?', and equally are likely to be more objective in reviewing the decisions they make. They may be more pragmatic than others, as playing with the cards you have is a winning strategy in poker. And top poker players are insatiable in their desire to win. Being this focused is an **important leadership skill** in the workplace. Then there's the art of deception, not normally seen as a desirable skill, but in **poker** it's all part of the game. After all, in many **workplace situations** the ability to get away with white lies, to save face or be diplomatic, or to smooth over or disguise mistakes and errors, is a big advantage."

Of course, in addition to helping you by learning important transferable skills, poker is also tremendous fun! There are hundreds of thousands of players from all different parts of the world playing online at all times of the day and night. You might even find yourself playing against your favorite celebrity or pro-poker player. Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Mimi Rogers, Carrie Fisher and David Schwimmer are just a few of the celebs who love to play a hand!

If you'd like to know more about the kind of transferable skills you can learn at a poker table, visit [www.goldenruleofpoker.com](http://www.goldenruleofpoker.com) for further details.

### 3. Why Start An Online Poker Club?

Because [PokerRoom](#) can be accessed from anywhere in the country (or indeed anywhere in the world), workers from different locations or branches can all meet in a way they **simply couldn't otherwise**. Employees who would like to meet up outside of work but who can't because of **child-care** or other commitments can also finally join the fun and bond with their co-workers. [PokerRoom](#) allows users to chat in real time, a little like "instant messaging", and allow users to add their co-workers and friends to a "buddy list" which automatically tells them which table a colleague is playing at. So it is **easy** for everyone to meet up and have a virtual chat, no matter what their physical location or personal circumstances. The software is completely free, works on all computers (Mac and Linux as well as Windows) and players can play for "play money" rather than real money so nobody need feel excluded because they don't want to risk their hard earned wages. No matter what jurisdiction you are in, there are no legal issues associated with playing poker for play money.

By creating a club online rather than at someone's home or at a local casino, people are not committed to spending each and every (say) Wednesday night playing poker - they can drop in and play for an hour, or however long they wish. They can drop in on a game after the kids have gone to bed, for example, or after their favourite TV program has finished! Nobody has to give up their home for the night, and you don't need to purchase chips, cards, or any other poker paraphenalia. You get provided with your own dealer and the cards are expertly shuffled for you. Best of all, you get reminded when it is your turn to act and what your options are, so it is a great way to learn the game if you've never played before.

Experience has shown that online poker leagues are **far easier** to get off the ground than live poker clubs - and they become more and more popular as word spreads. Games are particularly popular if a figure of authority agrees to play, as everyone loves a chance to beat up their boss at a poker table! Once your online poker league is up and running, you can introduce weekly or monthly competitions, and award trophies to the winners. With **very little effort** you can create an informal network of employees all regularly interacting with each other, and this is sure to give any workplace a real buzz, and a real boost to morale.

[PokerRoom](#) is a particularly good choice for an online club because it is such a well known brand name and because it has an excellent "buddy list" and search function. It also allows the creation of **private tables**, which means you can play just with the people you choose to play with.

Once everybody knows the names of their fellow players, all you need to do is to settle upon a day and a time to play. You can sit down at **any empty table** and as other players log on they can use the search function to find which table you are at (see below for a step by step guide on how to do this), or you can create a private table and it will show up in the [PokerRoom](#) lobby. Before you know it you will have a table full of friends and co-workers - in which case you can start a second table, a third table and so on.

[PokerRoom](#) allows you to flick between tables at the click of a mouse, so you can always see what's happening at the other tables, and even chat with the players at those other tables. It's a **simple process**, it's free, and it can transform your workplace.

## 4.How Do I Play Poker?

If you've never played before, or you need to refresh your memory of how to play poker, here's a quick crash course in how to play the most popular form of poker, Texas Hold Em. There are many different forms of poker, but in almost all of them the object is to build the best possible five card hand. Hands are ranked according to whether cards match one another (pair each other) or whether they correspond to one another in terms of suit or value (i.e. whether they are all diamonds, or whether they constitute a "run" or "straight" such as 4,5,6,7,8).

Hand Rankings - what beats what, from best hand to worst hand:

**Royal Flush:** T, J, Q, K, A all of the same suit.



**Straight Flush:** Five cards in a row all of the same suit, but not Ace high.



**Four of a kind:** Four cards of the same rank e.g. 9999.



**Full House:** Three cards of the same rank plus a pair e.g. 44477.



**Flush:** Five cards of the same suit, but not in a row.



**Straight:** Five cards in a row e.g. 5,6,7,8,9 – but not of the same suit.



**Three of a kind:** Three cards of the same rank e.g. 666



**Two pair:** Two pairs e.g. 4499.



**One pair:** Any two cards of the same rank e.g. 99.



**High card:** If no-one has anything, the highest card wins – aces count high.



**The Rules Of The Game :Texas Hold Em.**

Hold'em (also known as Texas Hold'em) is the most popular poker game in the world. There are three slightly different types of Hold'em :

**Limit Hold Em** on each round of betting you must bet a certain predetermined amount.

**Pot Limit Hold Em** On each round of betting each player can bet no more than the amount that is in the "pot" (i.e. the total amount that has already been bet).

**No Limit Hold Em** Any player can bet all of their chips at any time.

You can decide which version will be the most fun – all are available on [PokerRoom.com](http://PokerRoom.com).

One of the great advantages of playing online is that you don't need to provide chips or a poker table, and nobody has to deal! To take account of this, in Hold'em a "dealer button" indicates the notional dealer of each hand. After each hand is completed, the dealer button is moved clockwise to the next player. This player will be considered "the dealer" for that hand. In this way each player gets to be the first to act (and the last to act) an equal number of times, so that no one player has the advantage of acting last on every hand that is played.

The two players immediately to the left of the dealer button place "forced" or "**blind bets**" to start the pot - these are a type of ante and when it is your turn to pay you must do so no matter what your cards. The player to the left of the dealer button posts the "**small blind**" (usually an amount that is half of the "big blind"). The player to the left of the small blind posts the "**big blind,**" (usually twice the small blind, so if the small blind is \$1 then the big blind will be \$2).

Once the blinds have been posted, two cards are dealt face down to each player (these are called "hole cards"), and the first betting round starts. The player to the left of the player who placed the big blind starts the betting for this round. You don't have to worry about not knowing when it is your turn to act – the software will automatically tell you that it is your turn, and will also tell you what your various options are.

When it is their turn, each player may **Fold, Check, Bet, Call** or **Raise**, depending on the action taken by the previous player. Any player always has the option to **fold** – this means to muck your hand and take no further part in the hand. If you are the first person to act, and nobody has bet anything before you, you can "check". This means you don't want to bet but you reserve the right to call somebody else's bet later on in the hand. Note that if you are the first to act after the small and big blinds you cannot check, as the small and big blinds are considered to have already made a bet (albeit a forced bet). Once another player has bet, you must either fold your hand or match their bet ("call"), or increase the bet ("raise"). So, to **call** is to bet the same amount as the previous player has bet. **Toraise** is to match the amount the previous player bet and then increase the bet to a new, and higher level. If you choose to raise, then the other players must now call that new, higher bet (or raise it again to an even higher level). Betting continues until all players have placed equal amounts in the pot or have folded their hands. In Limit Hold Em there is a limit on the amount and the number of bets a player can place during a betting round of four bets.

When the first round of betting is complete, three "community" cards are dealt. All the players still participating can use these three cards to try and help to improve their hand. These three cards are called

"The Flop".

After the Flop (and in all future betting rounds), the first player still in the hand and to the left of the dealer is first to act. Betting again continues until all the players have bet the same amount of chips. After this a fourth community card is dealt; this is called the Turn, and there is another round of betting. Crucially, if you are playing Limit Hold Em then the minimum amount that you must bet to stay in is doubled at this point. So in a game of \$1 / \$2 Limit Hold Em, you must bet at least \$1 in the first two rounds of betting, and at least \$2 in the other rounds of betting. When all bets are again equal, the fifth and final community card is dealt; this is known as the River.

Once all the bets have been made, players show their cards and the highest hand wins. Note that if all other players have folded then the last player remaining wins the hand without having to show their cards. This is a key factor in poker – because it means that you can win the hand just by making everyone else fold. If everybody folds you win no matter how poor your hand!

By far the easiest way to learn how to play poker is to sit down and play a few practice hands. What sounds complicated when written down becomes absolutely obvious once you actually play. And don't worry, you won't be playing for real money – so it doesn't matter if you make a few mistakes at first!

More detailed rules on the game of Texas Hold Em, and the rules of all the other common poker variations are available at [www.goldenruleofpoker.com](http://www.goldenruleofpoker.com)

### **Which starting hands to play at Texas Hold Em:**

Once you know the rules and what beats what, you need to know how to go about winning at poker. To do this, you need to know when you have got a strong hand (although, of course, you can always bluff!) The best starting hands in Hold Em are these :

Pairs : AA, KK, QQ, JJ, TT, 99, 88  
smaller pairs (77 – 22) can be played if the bet isn't too high

High value suited cards:  
("suited" means two cards of the same suit e.g. if you hold an Ace of Hearts and a King of Hearts this is called "Ace King Suited").

AK suited, AQ suited, AJ suited, AT suited, KQ suited, KJ suited, KT suited, QJ suited, QT suited, JT suited.

High value unsuited cards\*: AK, AQ, AJ, AT, KQ

\* AK plays well in all hold em games, the rest play much better at Limit Hold Em than No Limit / Pot Limit.

# 5. How Do I Join An Online Poker Room?

It's easy! Click [this link to take you to www.pokerroom.com](http://www.pokerroom.com). Then you just need to register a nickname with [PokerRoom](http://PokerRoom.com) and then you're ready to play for play money. You don't have to pay anything, and you don't even need to download any software. All you need is a valid email address, and an internet browser with "Java" capability (most modern browsers have the capacity to play Java games, but if your browser is old or non-standard you may have to install the latest Java plug-in – again, this is completely free). Here's a step by step guide to signing up:

## GETTING STARTED

This how you get started at [PokerRoom.com](http://PokerRoom.com). First, you need to set up a player account through the three easy steps below.

### 1. Fill in the Sign Up form

Select a nickname and a password, and please note that the password for security reasons must be at least eight characters long and contain **both** numbers and letters. The e-mail address you enter must be valid, otherwise we cannot send you your activation code. Click on the "Sign Up" button to submit the form.

### 2. Activation code

You will now see a form asking you for your activation code. That activation code has been sent out to the e-mail address you provided. Please check your mailbox.

### 3. Activate your account

Enter the activation code in the form and click the "Activate Account" button.

## **You are now ready to start playing!**

In the future you can simply log in with your nickname and password when you want to play, you won't have to activate your account again.

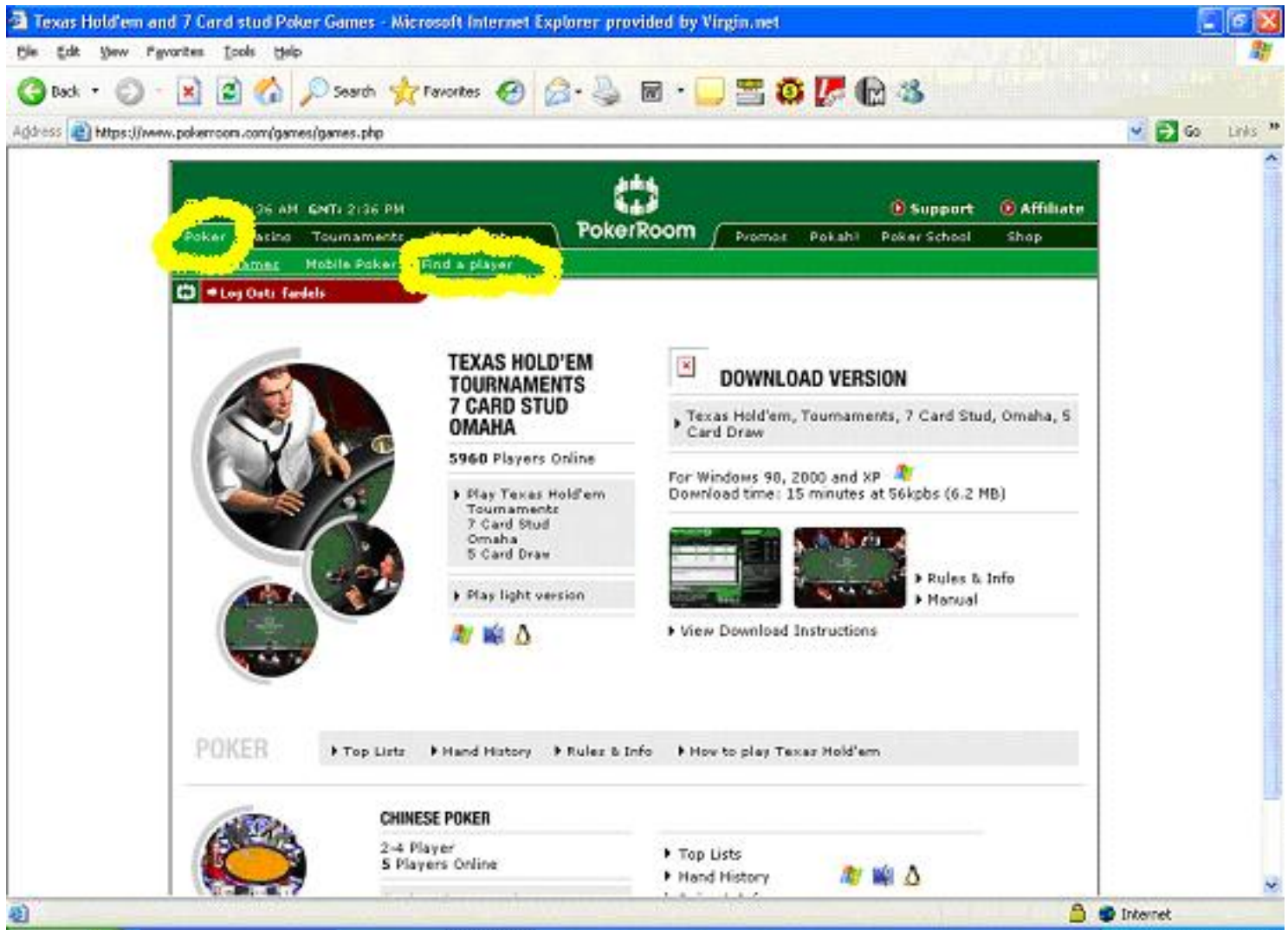
When your account is activated, you are also given the option to enable your money for real money. If you would like to do so, you can simply fill in your personal information, like name and address etc, in the form. Then click on the button marked "REAL MONEY ENABLE MY ACCOUNT" to submit the information.

When your account is enabled for real money, you can deposit money into your account through a number of different deposit options. Just go to the Cashier page whenever you'd like to deposit money into your account.

Please contact [support@pokerroom.com](mailto:support@pokerroom.com) if you have any questions or experience any problems.

# **6. How Do I Find My Friends & Colleagues At PokerRoom?**

Once you've signed up, you need to be able to find your friends amongst all the different tables at [PokerRoom](#). Fortunately, this is really easy. First make sure you let your friends and colleagues know your nickname at [PokerRoom](#). The easiest way to do this is to email your nickname to the person who is co-ordinating the poker club. Once they have a complete list of the nicknames of everyone in the club, they can send this list to each and every member of the club. You then need to log on to [PokerRoom](#) by double-clicking on the PokerRoom icon on your desktop, and entering your nickname and password. Then add all of the nicknames on the poker club list to your "Buddy List" at [PokerRoom](#). To find a particular player or players, click on "Poker" at the top left of the screen, then "Find a Player" (the third link underneath "Poker"):



You'll then be asked to enter the nickname of the player you wish to find. Enter one or more of the nicknames in your "Buddy List" and click FIND and the program will automatically tell you if they are online and where they are playing. You can then choose either to join the table your friend is playing at, or create a private table for all of you to play at, depending on how many friends and colleagues are currently playing. It's easy, it's fun, and it's free – give it a go! To sign up at [PokerRoom](http://PokerRoom) just go to the [web site](#) and follow the simple instructions.

## 7. Poker League Print Out Sheet:

League Position:	Name:	Nickname:	\$ Won This Week:	\$ Won In Total:

