

Option To Deal Double Down Card In Blackjack Face Up Or Face Down
Rules of the Games

Proposed Amendment: N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.10

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

Calendar Reference: See Summary below for explanation of exception to calendar requirement.

Submit written comments by January 1, 2010 to:

Lon E. Mamolen, Senior Counsel
Casino Control Commission
Arcade Building
Tennessee Avenue and the Boardwalk
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

The agency proposal follows:

Summary

Generally, in the authorized table game of blackjack, each player card is dealt face upwards to the appropriate area of the layout at the player's betting position. See N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.6(b) and (g). However, N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.10(c) permits a casino licensee, at its discretion, to deal face down the additional card dealt to a player who elects to double down. This option is believed to add an additional element of suspense to the game. Each casino licensee is required to identify in its gaming submission how the additional double down card will be dealt (face up or face down). See N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.10(c).

The current rule contemplates that a casino licensee will choose one double down dealing procedure for use at all blackjack tables in its establishment. As a result, a casino licensee cannot offer one or more blackjack tables with a face down dealing procedure while simultaneously offering other blackjack tables using a face up dealing procedure.

The proposed amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.10(c) would authorize a casino licensee to offer the face down dealing procedure at one or more designated tables or at the request of an individual player. If the face down

procedure is implemented at a particular table upon the request of a player, the procedure would, commencing with the next round of play, have to be offered to all players at that table. The casino licensee would be required to post notice of the optional procedure at each affected blackjack table. In addition, a casino licensee would be required to elect one of the alternative procedures in its gaming submission.

This notice of proposal is not required to be referenced in a rulemaking calendar since a public comment period of 60 days is being provided. See N.J.A.C. 1:30-3.3(a)5.

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

19:47-2.10 Doubling down

(a) – (b) (No change.)

(c) Upon a player's election to double down as authorized by this section, the dealer shall deal the one additional card face upwards[, or at the discretion of a casino licensee face down notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, and placed sideways on the layout]. **Notwithstanding the foregoing or any other provision of this subchapter, a casino licensee may, at its discretion, require the dealer at one or more blackjack tables to deal the one additional card face down or, alternatively, permit a player to request that his or her one additional card be dealt face down. If the face down dealing procedure is implemented at a particular table upon the request of a player, the procedure shall, commencing with the next round of play, be offered to all players at that table. Regardless of the dealing procedure in effect, the one additional card shall be placed sideways on the layout.** The casino licensee shall **post a notice of any optional dealing procedure in effect at a particular table and** identify its choice of dealing procedure under this subsection in its approved gaming submission **as either:**

face up at all tables, face down at designated table(s) or face down at the request of a player. If the one additional card is dealt face down, such card shall be turned face upward after the dealer has drawn additional cards to his or her hand in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.12(b) and at such time as the player's wagers are to be settled in rotation at the conclusion of the round of play.

(d) (No change.)