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How to Play PLO - A Beginner's Guide to Pot-Limit Omaha

February 11, 2024 Matthew Pitt Senior Editor

Omaha hold'em, often called simply Omaha, is an exciting poker game that is strikingly similar to Texas hold'em, although it does have a number of differences to set it apart.

Unlike Texas hold'em, a game in which the preferred betting structure is no-limit, the most popular betting structure of Omaha games is pot-limit.

Games of this type are referred to as pot-limit Omaha, abbreviated as PLO poker.

The first major difference you'll instantly be aware of when playing PLO poker instead of hold'em is that each player is dealt exactly four hole cards instead of two.

However, players don't use all four hole cards to make a hand because they can only use two of them.

In fact, players must use exactly two of their hole cards along with three of the community cards to make a five-card poker hand.

Let's see an example:

A player holds A ♠ K ♠ Q ♠ J ♠ a strong starting hand in pot-limit Omaha.

a strong starting hand in pot-limit Omaha. The five community cards read K ♠ 10 ♠ 6 ♠ 3 ♠ 2 ♠

In a pot limit Omaha game, the player does not hold a flush despite holding the A ♠ K ♠.

Neither does the player have a Broadway straight.

The player actually only has a pair of kings with an ace-kicker.

This may seem a little confusing when you first sit in a PLO game, but it quickly becomes second nature. You just need to play enough Omaha hands to get used to this and to learn how to read the board correctly.

SEE ALSO: Learn Omaha Poker at GGPoker with Daniel Negreanu