CARIBBEAN STUD POKER

1. The Basic Game

The game is played on a table which looks like a Blackjack table, except that each spot has two boxes in front of it, marked *ante* and *bet*.

To play, place a chip at least equal to the minimum bet in the spot marked *ante*. Each player is dealt a 5-card poker hand, as is the dealer, except that one dealer card is turned up.

At this point, you can either *fold*, which means that you give up your original bet, and your cards, or you can *bet*. To *bet*, place twice the amount of the original bet in the box marked *bet*.

At this point, the dealer turns their hand over, and any payouts are made.

2. Payouts

The dealer *qualifies* with any hand AK-high or stronger, about 56.3% of the time.

If the dealer *does not* qualify, then any players still in the hand win even money for their *ante bet only*. If the dealer *does* qualify, and the player and dealer have *identical* hands in value (ignoring suits), then the hand is a push.

If the dealer qualifies, and the player hand beats the dealer hand, then the player wins even money on the *ante*, and payouts according to the following schedule on the *bet*. 
• Royal Flush : $100 for each $1.
• Straight Flush : $50 for each $1.
• Four of a Kind : $20 for each $1.
• Full House : $7 for each $1.
• Flush : $5 for each $1.
• Straight : $4 for each $1.
• Three of a Kind : $3 for each $1.
• Two Pair : $2 for each $1.
• AK-high or Pair : $1 for each $1.

These payouts are subject to a maximum table payout per hand.

3. Simple Strategy

Play on any hand AKQJx or stronger (including any pair or better).

4. Optimal Strategy

(a) Any hand AKQJx or stronger.
(b) AKQxy with dealer upcard A,K,Q,x or y.
(c) AKQxy with dealer upcard z, and x > y and y > z.
(d) AKQxy with 4 in the same suit as the dealer upcard z, and x or y = 8, 9, T or x > z or y > z.
(e) AKJxy with dealer upcard A,K,J,x or y.
(f) AKxyz with dealer upcard x, y, or z.

5. House Percentage

Optimal Strategy bets 52.0% of the time, losing 5.23% of the ante.
Any pair or better bets 49.9% of the time, losing 5.48% of the ante.

Any AK-high or better bets 56.3% of the time, losing 5.75% of the ante.

6. **Jackpot**

You have the additional choice of putting $1 into a *Jackpot* slot each hand. Whether or not the dealer qualifies, the jackpot will pay the following:

- Royal Flush : Jackpot amount.
- Straight Flush : 10% of the jackpot amount.
- Four of a Kind : $100.00.
- Full House : $75.00.
- Flush : $50.00.

The amounts may vary slightly from casino to casino.

The Jackpot bet has a positive expectation when the jackpot is at least $261,954 (which is *very* rare).