



Surfbreak Poker

A High-Paced Poker Variant Field Trial Proposal

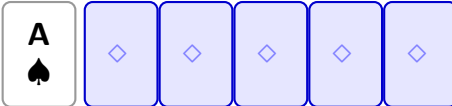
Try it out at poker.surfbreakgames.com

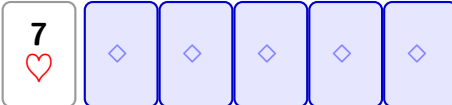
Executive Summary: Filling the Blackjack Void

Recent regulatory shifts threaten the long-term viability of card rooms in California, especially with prohibitions against blackjack-style games. **Surfbreak Poker** is designed to directly fill this gap. This game provides quick and mathematical casino-style action that would appeal to blackjack players and simple betting options like Baccarat.

The Game

Surfbreak Poker uses a pooled betting system with winners sharing the common pot. Two poker hands are available for wager, either **Player** or **Banker**. The **Banker** and **Player** hands have six cards, one face-up and five face down. Bets are made on either **Banker** or **Player**, and an additional round of raises can occur. The hands are then revealed and winnings distributed.

Banker Hand: 

Player Hand: 

Revenue per Table

Revenue is generated via a fixed collection window. Structuring these collections can assure sufficient revenue per table per hour, for example:

Seat Fee / 15-Min	Hourly Cost / Player	Table Rev. / Hour	Shift Rev. (8 Hours)
\$5.00	\$20.00	\$120.00	\$960.00
\$10.00	\$40.00	\$240.00	\$1,920.00
\$15.00	\$60.00	\$360.00	\$2,880.00

Unique Aspects of the game

- The quick action Blackjack players enjoy
- Strategy requires a balance of *statistics* and *relative share of the pot*

Comparison of Blackjack and Surfbreak Poker

Both Blackjack and Surfbreak Poker occur in rapid rounds with

Bankruptcy Rates and Player Survival

Across all time horizons, blackjack exhibits higher early-stage bankruptcy rates than Surfbreak Poker. By 100 rounds, 30.53% of blackjack player-paths reached bankruptcy compared to 9.82% in Surfbreak Poker. This difference persists at 200 rounds (47.58% vs. 28.77%), indicating that blackjack produces more rapid early depletion when wager size is large relative to bankroll.

However, by 500 rounds the gap narrows substantially, with 65.07% of blackjack players bankrupt compared to 62.17% in Surfbreak Poker. This convergence suggests that while blackjack is initially more punishing under high bet sizing, Surfbreak Poker produces comparable long-run attrition.

Time to Bankruptcy

The median rounds to bankruptcy further illustrate these dynamics. Blackjack players reached bankruptcy at a median of 110 rounds, whereas Surfbreak Poker players reached bankruptcy at 213 rounds. Similarly, mean rounds to bankruptcy were 149.20 for blackjack and 224.82 for Surfbreak Poker.

Table 1: Comparison of Surfbreak Poker vs Blackjack (6 Players)

Metric	Surfbreak Poker	Blackjack
Players Simulated	6,000	6,000
Starting Bankroll	20 Units	20 Units
Base Bet	1 Unit (+ Raise Option)	2 Units
Max Rounds	500	500
Bankrupt \leq 100 Rounds	589 (9.82%)	1,832 (30.53%)
Bankrupt \leq 200 Rounds	1,726 (28.77%)	2,855 (47.58%)
Bankrupt \leq 500 Rounds	3,730 (62.17%)	3,904 (65.07%)
Mean Rounds Played	327.08	258.99
Median Rounds Played	329	207
Mean Rounds to Bankruptcy	224.82	149.20
Median Rounds to Bankruptcy	213	110
Percent Reaching Bankruptcy	62.17%	65.07%

Implications for Player Experience

From a player experience perspective:

- Blackjack provides a smoother but steadily declining experience, with outcomes driven by the house edge.
- Surfbreak Poker offers more volatile and interactive play, with the possibility of sustained survival or gains depending on relative performance.

- The raise mechanic in Surfbreak Poker increases engagement and potential for winnings, but has slower attrition of bankroll than Blackjack.

Overall, Surfbreak Poker can be understood as a redistribution-driven system that emphasizes competition among players, whereas blackjack functions as a continuous extraction model with predictable long-term losses.

Please reach out if you would like to discuss bringing this game to your facility:

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