

# Gambling Lessons.co.za SA Online Casino's tricks



## An e-book By Chantelle Belasco

Disclaimer: This book and it's author don't make any commitment or guarantee that by following this advice you will win or be successful at online casinos, or even land-based casinos. This book is for informational purposes only.

© 2009 Chantelle Belasco

**Index**

<b><u>A. Introduction</u></b>	<b><u>pg 3</u></b>
<b><u>B. Getting started</u></b>	<b><u>pg 3</u></b>
<b><u>C. Downloading Software</u></b>	<b><u>pg 4</u></b>
<b><u>D. Your favourite Games</u></b>	<b><u>pg 4</u></b>
<b><u>1.Blackjack</u></b>	<b><u>pg 4</u></b>
1.2 Tactics	
1.3 A Strategy to remember	
<b><u>2.Craps</u></b>	<b><u>pg 7</u></b>
2.1 Basic Rules and understanding	
2.2 Betting and payoff	
2.3 Strategies to remember	
<b><u>3. Slots</u></b>	<b><u>pg 9</u></b>
3.1 Basic Rules and understanding	
3.2 Strategies to remember	
<b><u>4. Roulette</u></b>	<b><u>pg 10</u></b>
4.1 Basic Rules and understanding	
<b><u>E. African Palace vs. other SA Online Casinos</u></b>	<b><u>pg 11</u></b>
<b><u>F. Maximize your profits when playing is SA online casinos</u></b>	<b><u>pg 12</u></b>

## **A. Introduction:**

Our E-book is the ultimate tutorial for learning the ins and outs of SA online gaming. This quick and easy guide will help you perfect the art of winning in no time at all! We'll show you simple strategies that will help you gamble confidently with your Rands at online casinos. Online casinos are a great deal of fun and in order for you to continue to enjoy the facilities offered you need to remember to gamble responsibly.

Winners know when to stop! If ever you feel that you need further advice relating to responsible gambling please visit the South African Responsible Gambling Programme's website: [www.responsiblegambling.co.za](http://www.responsiblegambling.co.za). Their statistics do, however, show that only less than 1% of all gamblers might be compulsive gamblers- contrary to common beliefs.

True enjoyment at an online casino comes when you combine clever strategies with responsibility and are fortunate enough to experience a touch of luck! With animated 3-D graphics, a wide variety of games and even live online customer support, online gambling has fast become a very popular form of entertainment.

It's time for you to discover the world of gaming!

## **B. Getting started:**

When choosing a reputable online casino there are various factors that need to be taken into consideration. The following questions can be asked of them and very often answers to these very questions will be on their websites FAQ section. Take the time to find out:

- a. Are they easy to get in contact with?
- b. Will my information be safe with them?
- c. Are my transactions secure and above board?
- d. Do they encourage responsible gambling?
- e. Are there exciting promotions and bonuses on offer?

African Palace Casino is my personal choice because all of these questions are easily answered by their values and principles. Any fear I previously had about online gambling was allayed by their website and subsequently their professional service.

When deciding if a casino is reputable, you should look at the degree of support that is offered to the player. 24hr support is vital, in that online gaming can be enjoyed at any time of the day. As such one wouldn't want to be left stranded without contact simply because they have chosen to play late in the day. African Palace Casino support teams operate 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and are available by telephone, email or fax.

One also needs to be sure that all information provided to the casino will be safe and that transactions take place within a secure environment. One should be assured that any account information supplied during the account creation process is kept strictly confidential for the casino's use. Again African Palace is reliable, in my opinion, because they don't share this information with any third party company. Casino's that use encryption technologies and the latest Firewall technologies are both features that can put one's mind at ease.

## **C. Your favourite Games**

### **1.Blackjack**

#### **1.1 Basic Rules and understanding**

In Blackjack, the cards are valued in order to make up 21 or 'blackjack'. Numerical cards are valued at face value, i.e. 2 of hearts is valued at 2. Ace can either be to the value of 11 or 1 (you get to chose). While ten-count cards are: 10, Jack, Queen or King.

The game starts by the dealer giving you two cards to both of you and the house (himself). Basically, the idea is get the sum of the value of your cards as close to 21 as possible. If the first two cards dealt to you or the dealer are an Ace and a ten-count card (10, Jack, Queen or King), that is "blackjack", because the value of your cards adds to 21. If you have blackjack, you win automatically, unless the dealer also has blackjack, in which case it is a push (tie). You can keep asking the dealer for more cards until you are comfortable with the value or you are bust (out of the game). This is when your cards equal a value greater than 21. The dealer does much the same but he must stand (stop drawing cards) if he is on 17 or higher. The person with the card value closest to 21 wins. If the dealer wins you lose your bet. Normally you are paid 1:1 but Blackjack pays 3:2, meaning you win 3 Rand for every 2 you bet.

If you have a hand where if you are to draw a single 10 card and you'll go bust, this is considered a hard total. Whereas a soft hand means you can draw another card without going bust. E.g. if you have an ACE and 6 card, you would have a soft 17, as even if you drew a 10 you wouldn't go bust (remember that an ACE can be equal to 1).

With Online gambling the potential advantage of counting cards has been removed, because they shuffle the cards after each round. The reason I enjoy Blackjack is because the odds are the least against a player, if you know how to play it correctly.

#### **1.2 Tactics**

##### **Doubling down**

Doubling Down allows you as a player to increase your odds of winning. After you receive your first two cards, you have the option to double your original bet. If you double down, the dealer will give you only one more card before he then draw the cards needed to complete his own hand.

##### **Splitting pairs**

This can also give you an added advantage. When your first two cards have the same value (eg: 2x 3's), you have the option to "split". The two cards are split and you play them as separate hands. You then place another bet equal to your original bet. Please note that special blackjack rules apply when you choose to split Aces. When you split Aces, you only receive one more card on each hand and if you get 21, it is not considered blackjack.

##### **Insurance**

When the dealer's face-up card is an Ace, most casinos will ask if you want "insurance". Basically this insures your bet in the event that the house gets 'blackjack'. This means placing a bet equal to half of your original bet. If the dealer does land up with 'blackjack' you'll get paid R2 for every R1 insurance bet you placed. Your insurance bet pays 2 to 1 if the dealer gets blackjack, which will equal the amount you lose on the original bet. Mathematicians have shown that if you take

out insurance it provides the house with an advantage of 2.5%. It's therefore advisable to opt out from insurance, as it provides the house with the advantage.

### 1.3 A Strategy to remember

#### Basic blackjack strategy

This basic blackjack strategy helps you make decisions about when to hit and when to stand. This strategy evens the playing field between you and the casino. By playing this basic blackjack strategy, the player can play on nearly even terms with the house.

Below is the basic blackjack strategy for the typical rules found at online casinos. It's advisable to have a good look through this table.

#### Straight hand

Your Hand	Dealer's Up Card									
	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	A
5, 6, 7, 8	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H	H
9	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
10	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H
11	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H
12	H	H	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
13, 14	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
15, 16	S	S	S	S	S	H	H	H	H	H
17, 18, 19, 20	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

#### Soft Hand

Soft 13, 14	H	H	H	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
Soft 15, 16	H	H	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
Soft 17	H	D	D	D	D	H	H	H	H	H
Soft 18	S	D	D	D	D	S	S	H	H	H
Soft 19, 20	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

#### Split Hand

A-A	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
2-2, 3-3	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H
4-4	H	H	H	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	H
5-5	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	H	H	H
6-6	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	H
7-7	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	H	H	H	H	H
8-8	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP
9-9	SP	SP	SP	SP	SP	S	SP	SP	S	S
10-10	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S

#### Key:

H=Hit

S=Stand

D=Double down

SP=Split

Gaming at African Palace Casino offers the following Blackjack games:

- Blackjack Single-hand
- Blackjack Multi-hand
- Blackjack Multiplayer

- Blackjack Private Group
- Blackjack Switch
- Blackjack Surrender

## **2. Craps**

### **2.1 Basic Rules and understanding**

Craps can be fairly intimidating for the newcomer. There is such a large number of betting options, special rules and exceptions that it's easy to feel as if you'll never get a handle on it. But the smarter you play the easier it is. When you are rolling the dice you are called the "shooter". Your first toss in a round of Craps is called the Come Out roll. If you roll a 7 or 11, you win and the round is over before it started. If you roll a 2, 3, or 12 that's a Craps and you lose, it's also over before it started. Any other number rolled becomes the Point. The purpose behind the Come Out roll is to set the Point, which can basically be 4, 5, 6, 8, 9 or 10. The Dealer then places a puck marked "On" above the Point number on the table.

The aim in Craps is for the shooter to win by tossing the Point again before he tosses a 7. (An Out 7). If the toss is neither the Point nor Out 7, the round continues and the dice keep rolling. If the Point is tossed, the shooter and his fellow bettors win and the round is over. If the shooter tosses Out 7, they lose and the round is over.

### **2.2 Betting and payoff**

#### **Pass bets**

The simplest bet is called a Pass bet. It is placed on the Pass Line before the Come Out roll. If round goes past the Come Out roll, you're betting on the chance that you'll roll the Point again before you roll an Out 7 (object of the game). Pass bets win at even odds, 1:1. Since any Pass bets are betting with the shooter, Pass bettors are said to be betting "right", i.e. supporting the shooter.

To Win: win on the Come Out roll if the dice show 7 or 11. Win on any subsequent roll if you roll the Point.

To Lose: lose on the Come Out roll if the dice are Craps (2, 3, or 12). Lose on any subsequent roll if it's an Out 7.

#### **Don't Pass bets**

A bet placed on the Don't Pass line is basically the opposite of a Pass bet. You're betting that the shooter will roll Out 7 before making the Point. In other words, you're betting against the shooter, which is why it's called a "wrong" bet. There is, however, nothing wrong with the odds on a don't pass bet.

To Win: win on the Come Out roll if the dice show Craps (2, 3 or 12). Win on any subsequent roll if it's an Out 7.

To Lose: lose on the Come Out roll of 7 or 11. Lose on any subsequent roll if it's the Point.

#### **Come/Don't Come bets**

Even though this sounds confusing, Come and Don't Come bets are basically the same as Pass and Don't Pass except they are placed while a round is in progress. The same rules apply.

#### **Odds bets**

An Odds bet is a backup bet on any of the bet's mentioned above that are already on the table. They're usually limited to two or three times (2x or 3x) the original bet and

pay off at true odds: the payoff truly reflects the probability of the dice's roll and there's no additional house edge involved.

This is where it gets a bit more tricky: Pass Odds and Come Odds pay 2:1 on a roll of 4 or 10, 3:2 on 5's and 9's, and 6:5 on 6's and 8's. Don't Pass Odds and Don't Come Odds pay 1:2 on a roll of 4 or 10, 2:3 on 5's and 9's, 5:6 on 6's and 8's.

### **Other bets**

As for the rest of the table, the Place Number bets and Proposition bets, odds with these aren't great. The odds are against you here and savvy players ignore almost all of them.

A Place Number bet is where you are betting that a particular number will roll before a 7 does, or vice versa. These include the Place, Buy, Lay and Lose bets, the Big 6 and Big 8, and finally the Hard 4, Hard 6, Hard 8 and Hard 10.

The Proposition bets are where you bet that the next roll will be a specific number. These include the 2, 3, 7, 11, and 12 bets, the Any Craps bet, the Field, Hop and Horn bets.

### **2.3 Strategies to remember**

It's tricky to give a brief strategy guide to Craps, but I'll attempt it. In my opinion, take the best odds you can get, use them in your favour as much as you possibly can and play smart. The best odds on the table are to bet on Pass, Don't Pass, Come, and Don't Come these give the house the smallest edge.

### **The Best Bets**

Craps is about dice and dice are about percentages. So the numbers that a Pass bet gives the house a 1.41% edge. And a Don't Pass is slightly less than 1.40% to the house. These are the Line Bets and again they are key to the winner's strategy. Others give away too much. For example:

- The Field gives away 5.6%.
- Big 6/Big 8 gives 9.1%.
- Horn: 12.5%.
- Craps 2/Craps 12: 13.9%
- Any 7: 16.7%.

While we're at it, it's worth bearing in mind that Come/Don't Come bets follow the same odds and in turn logic. The only thing about them the timing- knowing when to place them.

### **Improving Your Bets**

We've established that the smart bets are Pass/Don't Pass (and Come/Don't Come). **The Odds** can improve the best bets either by Buying Odds when you play Pass or Laying Odds when you play Don't Pass. These are placed in addition to your original bet after the Come Out roll and they improve your initial bet because the house takes no edge on Odds. You're just betting against the straight dice. Very often though the Odds position is unmarked, but you should remember that it's an easy bet to make and it'll improve your original Line bet by almost halving the house edge or better.

An Odds bet is made by supplementing your original Pass/Don't Pass bet by an additional amount after you've made it beyond the Come Out roll. The bets are placed right beside your initial bet on the Pass/Don't Pass line. Many online casinos

I've visited let you bet double your initial Line bet. This is called Double Odds and it cuts their edge even further, to a little more than 40% of their initial edge.

### Buying Odds

When you play Buy Odds, you're supplementing a Pass bet; if you win you'll get your winnings based on the Point.

Buying Double Odds (R10)		
Point	Payout	Pays (Win)
4 or 10	2-1	R30 (R20)
5 or 9	3-2	R25 (R15)
6 or 8	6-5	R22 (R12)

The above table just shows your Odds win, not the total. In other words, on a right bet of R 5, where the Come Out roll sets a Point of 10, your **total** take on the win will be R40: your original R5 betback plus a winning on that of R5, plus your Odds bet back (R10) and the winnings from that (R20).

### Laying Odds

Conversely, when you Lay Odds you're supplementing a Don't Pass Bet and win as follows (e.g. an initial R5 Don't Pass bet):

Laying Double Odds (R10)		
Point	Payout	Pays (Win)
4 or 10	2-1	R15 (R5)
5 or 9	3-2	R16 (R6)
6 or 8	6-5	R18 (R8)

So to follow the Buy example above, an initial wrong bet of R5 on a Come Out roll of 10 will yield a **total** win of R 25: your initial R5 back plus its win of R5, your R10 Odds bet back plus its win of R5.

#### Remember:

Play Pass/Don't Pass (or Come/Don't Come) only, and playing the highest Odds you can get will help you shave the house edge down. Shooters up!

## 3. Slots

### 3.1 Basic Rules and understanding

Slots is the easiest casino game to both learn and play. In my opinion it's such fun and that's why it's so popular. You begin by placing your bet. You can normally bet one, two or three coins. At many online casinos you can chose your value of the coins that you play with. Remember that if you bet with 3 coins its 3x the amount of the value of the coins.

You then click a button to start the wheels spinning; this replaces the pulling of the arm on a real slot machine. Now sit back and wait to see if you win! It's that simple! Where the wheels stop determines both if and how much you win. The goal is to get the symbols (pictures, numbers etc) to line up on the payline in any of the winning combinations listed on the pay table. Every game will have its own pay table. For example, three bars in a row may pay 20 to 1. Three diamonds in a row may pay 3 to 1. Click on the payable button to get this information.

Online casinos like African Palace offer "progressive jackpots". This means that a jackpot builds as more and more players play the casino's progressive machines, e.g. The Magic Slots at African Palace. The first person to hit the winning combination wins the total jackpot. In order to win the jackpot you normally have to play the maximum number of coins.

### **3.2 Strategies to remember**

#### **The odds**

Random results of each spin of the wheels are determined by a computer program. This is the case with both online slots games and slot machines found in land casinos. The machines can easily be set by the casino to generate whatever payout they choose. For example, they may set it to 95%. That means for every R100 bet, the machine will, on average, pay out R95. The other R5 goes to the casino for them to make their profit. This is just an example. If good fortune is on your side you can make hundreds or thousands of Rands.

It's myth that slot machines are the worst gamble in a casino. Honestly, making bad/impatient bets at craps table or blackjack table can give you far worse odds than any slot machine. Another myth is that a slot machine that just gave a big payout won't pay out again for a while. Statistically, the odds are the same for every spin and every spin is completely random.

#### **Winning strategies**

Slot machines reward you for playing the maximum number of coins. For example the jackpot may pay 1000 coins with 2 coins played, but 3000 coins when 3 coins are played. If you don't feel comfortable playing the maximum coins you should rather consider moving down to a machine that accepts lower-value coins in order to place the max bet on these machines. At African Palace Casino I have played slots with R0.05, e.g. The Golden Tour. Please also remember that if you're playing a progressive machine, you'll probably have to bet the maximum number of coins to be eligible to win the big jackpot.

## **4. Roulette**

### **4.1 Basic Rules and understanding**

Roulette has always had a sense of glamour to it, in my opinion. The typical "American" roulette wheel is divided into 38 slots which are numbered 1 to 36 plus 0 and 00. Even numbers are red and odd numbers black. 0 and 00 are green. African Palace Casino also offers the "European Wheel". This wheel has only 37 slots. There is no 00.

Once your bets have been placed, the dealer spins a small white ball in the opposite direction of the turning wheel. When the ball stops in one of the slots, the dealer calls out the winning number and settles all bets.

## **Betting**

These are the bets you can place and their corresponding payouts:

### **Straight bet**

A bet on a single number pays 35:1

### **Split bet**

A bet on 2 adjacent numbers pays 17:1

### **Street bet**

A bet on 3 numbers on a horizontal line pays 11:1

### **Corner bet**

A bet on a block of 4 numbers pays 8:1

### **Line bet**

A bet on 6 numbers in 2 adjacent rows pays 5:1

### **Column bet**

A bet on 1 of 3 vertical columns pays 2:1

### **Dozen bet**

A bet on 12 numbers, low (1-12), middle (13-24) or high (25-36) pays 2:1

### **Even bet**

A bet on even or odd, red or black, low (1-18) or high (19-36) pays 1:1

You can place as many bets as you like on a single spin of the wheel up to the table maximum.

## **Odds**

With the 38-number American wheel, the house has a big 5.26 percent edge. (Whenever 0 or 00 are hit, all bets lose.)

With the 37-number European wheel, the house advantage is 2.7 percent. In other words, on every R100 bet the house makes R2.70. With the *en prison* rule, this edge drops to just 1.35 percent. Obviously you should look for casinos like African Palace that offers the European, single-zero wheel.