

Chinese Poker

- **Rules specifying how the game is played:** Typically played as a four-person game, though it can also be played with two or three. Each player receives 13 cards from a standard 52 card deck. Each player then has to divide his/her cards into three poker hands (known as “setting”): two containing five cards each (known as “the middle” and “the back”), and one containing three cards (known as “the front”): the back must be the highest ranking hand, and the front must be the lowest ranking hand. Straights and flushes do not count in the three-card hand. After all players have set their hands, each player announces in turn (clockwise, beginning with the left of the dealer) whether or not he/she is playing his/her hand. All players then announce their royalties before revealing their hands. Royalties are extra units that may be awarded to players with particularly strong hands.
- **Procedures for wagering during the conduct of the game:** The stakes played for in Chinese Poker are known as “units”: an amount of money agreed on before the game starts. Basic scoring rules dictate that a player collects one unit from each opponent whose front, middle, or back hand is beaten by his own corresponding hand.