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Counting cards blackjack illegal

In Canada blackjack card counting is legal, but casinos can still stop you. Counting cards in blackjack has been the professional's key to success for decades. All over the world, expert card counters have taken casinos to the cleaners. Fifty grand here, a hundred grand there. Some pros claim to have escaped with millions, just by keeping a perfect count. It's an ominous profession, though. As much as we hear about the success of counting cards, the word around the water cooler more often turns to the legality, or scrupulous nature, of doing so. A lot of people seem to think that card counting is illegal—that it's considered cheating the casino. That's actually not the case, even here in Canada. Blackjack Card Counting and the Law The legislative issue of card counting first arose in major gambling hubs like Las Vegas and Atlantic City many years ago. Being a state regulated activity in the US, each state dealt with it in their own judicial way. In New Jersey, the courts decided that counting cards is not illegal. A casino has no right to impede a blackjack player for being more mentally adept than the average Joe. Even if detected by casino management, they have no right to discriminate against players for counting cards. However, the casinos are given the right to deter players from keeping a successful count. This is why Atlantic City casinos are notorious for maintaining an 8-deck shoe. The pit boss will also instruct dealers to place the cut card far higher than the usual 50% depth if a player is suspected of card counting. Over in Nevada, the blackjack card counting laws are a bit different. Again, it's perfectly legal to count cards, but if you're caught, you can be unceremoniously—and legally—booted from the casino. This is because of a legal statute that allows gambling establishments to operate similar to private clubs. Essentially, they can refuse service to anyone, for any reason. Counting Cards at Blackjack in Canada Like the US, gaming regulation is handled by each individual province, and they all agree that counting cards is not illegal. Players have every right to invoke "intelligent strategy", and utilize keen "powers of observation" to increase their odds. In Canada, you can even use team play to count cards, without legal recourse. However, provincial laws also side with the opinion of regulators in Nevada. While player rights are protected, casinos have the same power to permit or deny service to patrons. According to Canadian law, a 'private business operator' is always afforded the 'right to exclude others' at will. What it all boils down to is this. In Canada, blackjack card counting is legal. You can do it all you want, with no potential threat of legal recourse (so long as you're not breaking any other laws in the process). But if the casino suspects you're doing it—and you're doing a good enough job to make a profit—they have every right to stop you. The result could be 1) security asking you kindly to leave the blackjack table and enjoy any other games at the casino; 2) a quick boot out the door; 3) a permanent ban from the premises. Which punishment you get will depend greatly on the casino you're playing at, and just how much money you've rung from the casino while counting cards at blackjack. Royal Vegas is going crazy with their promos this month if you are a Canadian based player. They are a serious operator and accept a host of easy deposit options such as eCheck. Quick payouts, and highly recommended. If you are a fan of blackjack, you must have watched the 21 movie. By watching that movie, you will come across the need to implement the tricks you need in it as you play in real life. For example, you will start wondering whether it is possible for you to go ahead with card counting as shown in the movie. Keep on reading and we will share more details on this trick. Then you can figure out whether you can apply it as you play in real life or not. What exactly is card reading that you can see in the movie? Before we proceed, let's deep dive and figure out what exactly this card reading thing you see in the movie is. When you are playing blackjack, you will have to rely upon your mental capacity. This is where you will be noting down all the cards base don their high value and low value. At the time of analyzing the cards, you will be able to decide which cards will have the most probability of gaining advantage within the next hand. Some people say that card counting is illegal, but you can still try it. There are numerous comprehensive guides on card counting that you can read on the internet as well. You cannot call it as an illegal practice, even if it is frowned upon by many casinos out there. As you watch the movie 21, you will figure out that it is a perfect method to earn some extra cash. However, the reality of counting cards is never easy as you can see it on the big screen. You will have to face numerous challenges as you play it in real life. Hence, it is not something that you can surely try to win blackjack. Can you try card counting in real life? When you watch the movie 21, you will notice that counting is a simple thing to do. However, it is not so simple to do in real life. That's because you will need to have a really good memory capacity to increase your chances of winning. On top of that, you need to have a good understanding about card counting as well. While the dealer is shuffling the cards, you will have an equal chance in getting low cards and high cards. However, this probability would change immediately after the opening round. That's where the dealer would give out cards to each and every player. The main job of the card counter would be to monitor whether more low and high cards are played. If the number of high cards played is a larger count, you should remember that the number of low cards in the remaining deck are high. While keeping this in mind, you can increase your chances of winning. One of the most common strategies in card counting would be to assign a value to a card. For example, you can assign a +1 value for the cards 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. On the other hand, you can assign 0 value for cards 7, 8, and 9. You can then assign a -1 value to the cards 10, J, Q, K, and A. This value will assist you to understand how to go ahead with card counting and remember everything so easily. Do online casinos allow card counting? We've checked with online gambling experts from Exycasinos on the issue. They say on one hand card counting is not considered illegal but on another, it is not recommended. Online casinos use techniques initiating a card shuffling after finishing every hand. That means counting cards is becoming useless. So the best way to play blackjack is to relax and simply enjoy the game. At one time, the general public widely believed that card counting was/is illegal. These thoughts came from watching movies where card counters wear goofy disguises, run from security, and get beat up in back rooms. By now, more people know that card counting isn't outlawed. This fact has spread across the internet and made the public much more aware than in years past. If you're like me, though, then you may wonder if counting cards is illegal anywhere. I'll discuss this matter by covering more on the stigma surrounding card counting and if any gambling jurisdictions actually outlaw it. What Created the Stigma That Card Counting Is Illegal? Several factors exist behind the perception that card counting is against the law: Casinos can ask counters to quit playing. Casinos can ban counters. The general public doesn't understand much about card counting. Movies reinforce the idea that it's illegal. Gambling establishments can and do exercise their right to stop people from counting cards. However, these powers don't come from an actual law against advantage play. In fact, advantage gamblers are free to beat casinos as long as they play within the parameters of real money blackjack. They're only breaking the law when they manipulate the course of the game through devices, marking cards, etc. The reason why casinos can ban advantage players is because they're private businesses. They can legally refuse service to anybody so long as they're not discriminating based on gender or race. Of course, the general public doesn't look this deeply into the matter. Some believe that casinos can boot card counters because this technique is illegal. Hollywood doesn't help matters either. They've create the idea that card counting is highly taboo without ever explaining the legal side of things. Do Any Gambling Destinations Outlaw Card Counting? Counting cards seems to be against the law, but it's definitely not. I can't find a single gambling jurisdiction that outlaws this advantage play method. I've looked at gaming laws in the US, UK, Australia, Canada, and various European countries. Each country/region allows advantage gambling under reasonable circumstances. They don't see skill-based play as being illegal in any capacity. If you're good enough to beat a casino game, then you're perfectly in the clear. Perhaps a tiny and remote gambling jurisdiction exists that bans card counting. If such a place does exist, though, then I can't locate it. Some Native American casinos have more freedom over how they deal with advantage players. But even in these cases, the reservations don't explicitly outlaw counting cards. The law only concerns cheating the casino. Players aren't allowed to legally uses devices, mark cards, collude with dealers, or use other unsavory methods to win. Card counting doesn't constitute cheating, because it does not require the introduction of devices or bending the rules. Instead, counters merely observe the game and use skill to win. Have Card Counters Ever Been Prosecuted? Card counting has never officially been illegal. But this fact hasn't stopped some jurisdictions from bringing bogus charges against advantage players. In a 1995 case entitled R v Zalis, Caesars Windsor tried suing the Tommy Hyland team. The team consisted of Christopher Zalis, Karen Conroy, and Barbara Dancey. Conroy and Dancey both counted cards and tracked aces through the shoe. They popped beads off bracelets to help them remember how many aces had been dealt. Assuming the shoe was hot, one or the other would signal Zalis to the table. He'd place big bets right away so that he merely looked like a high roller (i.e. big player strategy). After watching the team rack up over $100,000 in the matter of a few days, Caesars Windsor began investigating their play. They first tried claiming that the players were using illegal cheating devices (i.e. pop-off beaded necklaces). However, their legal team noted that Windsor, Ontario didn't have any laws against using devices at the time (this quickly changed). The casino changed its strategy to suggest that the team cheated by using hand signals. However, the jury ultimately determined that hand signals are part of fair and legitimate advantage gambling. In the end, Caesars Windsor didn't technically prosecute the Tommy Hyland team just for counting cards. But they did come up with inventive ways to go after the team. What Can Casinos Legally Do to Counters? Gambling establishments can't prosecute people for counting cards alone. They can, however, use a variety of methods to throw suspected counters off or even remove them from the property. Bring the Heat The pit boss monitors table games to ensure that gamblers behave, dealers perform adequately, and no advantage gamblers are present. The last duty is key to this discussion. Of course, card counters don't have a blinking cursor pointing towards them. Therefore, the pit boss must make a judgement call before going after them. If they suspect card counting, they may walk up to a table and casually observe the action. This action may be all that's needed to back off a card counter. If they notice large bet spreads (i.e. going from the table minimum to 15x or higher), they may begin chatting with the player in question. The talk may be friendly in nature, but it's designed to scare the gambler off what they're doing. Limit Bets A pit boss doesn't have to immediately escort a player off the property. They can use other measures to effectively neutralize the gambler instead. Limiting bets is one way to ensure that a card counter can't profit. For example, the pit boss may not allow a certain player to wager over $25. Assuming the table minimum is $10, the counter can only increase their bet 2.5x. The latter isn't enough to capitalize on favorable counts. Additionally, the pit boss may ask the dealer to place the cut card sooner in the shoe. When the dealer shuffles earlier, this action prevents counters from getting deeper into the shoe where they can be more confident in their count. Ask for an ID The pit boss or security may ask for a player's identification. They likely want to run the gambler's information and find out if they're an advantage player. When the casino finds out that somebody is an advantage gambler, they'll escort them out of the casino. However, the casino can't force anybody to produce an ID without law enforcement present. Take Players to the Back Room Security may ask a gambler to go to a back room. They use this measure to keep the player on-property while running their details and/or waiting on police. The latter is only necessary when somebody is suspected of cheating or committing another criminal offense. Of course, card counting doesn't qualify under this category. Ban a Player for Life The final action against an advantage player involves issuing a lifetime ban. Such a move indicates that the casino definitely doesn't want the gambler's action any longer. Of course, the gaming establishment can more easily pull off this feat when they have the player's identification. The casino will read the customer the trespassing act upon banning them. They'll arrest said gambler if they attempt to return to any of the company's properties. Tips to Avoid Being Caught When Counting Cards Card counting may not be illegal, but it sure feels so when considering all of the options that casinos have at their disposal. The best thing you can do is take steps to avoid giving away your skills. Here are tips for camouflaging your counting abilities: Use a team – "Spotters" can identify a hot shoe and signal the big player. This practice eliminates the need to spread bets, which is the biggest tipoff to pit bosses. Hit and run – You don't want to stay in the same casino all night. The pit boss will become suspicious if you keep winning. Don't "wong in" – Most casinos have rules against mid-shoe entry (a.k.a. wonging in). Even if they don't, though, you'll give yourself away by counting off to the side and wonging in. Look normal – Unlike what movies suggest, card counters don't wear disguises and goofy getups. Look for lenient casinos – Certain casinos are less concerned with card counting than others. You can find these venues with some research. You'll likely get caught a few times even if you're excellent at camouflaging. When this happens, don't show your ID under any circumstances. Casinos can enter you into a database that flags you as a known advantage player. Conclusion Card counting has never been and will never be against the law. You can freely count cards as long as gambling establishments don't catch you. Assuming the latter happens, though, then casinos have a legitimate right to boot and ban you. They draw this right from being a private business. Luckily, you can take several steps to camouflage your play and lower the chances of being made. I heavily suggest researching camouflaging techniques and refusing to show identification if you are caught. Remember: casinos aren't law enforcement officers. They aren't legally entitled to your ID—only the police are.

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