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Playing in Multi-table Poker Tournaments

Multi-table poker tournaments refer to those tournaments where many players are playing in different tables at the same time. You will get assigned to sit at many tables and play with a lot of players before you can sit at the final table. Such type of tournament is fast gaining popularity because of the promise it holds of making more money for the player (as you go from table to table, you get more and more chips from other players – assuming of course that you're winning and advancing). One other reason for its popularity is the fact that the World Series of Poker – a much televised event – is a multi-table poker tournament.

Players vary and prizes depend on how many players are in or how much the house has promised – as in the case of guaranteed-type multi-table tournaments. It takes a lot of patience to be able to complete this game as it normally lasts 4 hours and could drag on and on when you reach the final table. Truly big tournaments can last for days.

Patience Is a Virtue

There are tips and tricks that you could try to learn before joining a multi-table tourney. Patience is the name of the game. Experts advise that waiting for others to drop out first is essential to reaching the final table. Not being aggressive early on in the game could give you a winning chance to take home the pot.

Once you've stacked up, you could play a little aggressively and throw in your chips when bets are called. This is a great way to earn more chips that will hold you up for the final table. At the final table, you'll want to be more observant of your opponents' moves, especially if you're not dealt a strong hand. Bluffing your way into the pot is one way, checking poker tells is another. Master these two and you've got yourself the pot money.

Know When to Be Aggressive or Passive

The thing to remember is to avoid being busted. Don't be afraid to be aggressive but don't be afraid to fold, too. If you bet too weakly, your opponents will surmise that you're not playing a strong hand and will pounce on you. Following this strategy will ensure that even if you don't bring home the pot, you'll at least have some left for your next tourney.

Also, before jumping in and playing multi-table poker, you might want to practice your moves first on single tables and get your feel for the game. Building up your strategy means practically mastering your opponent's moves. Poker, especially the Texas Hold'em variety, is not a game of chance although you would have more chance of winning if luck were on your side; it's more of a mind- and body-reading game, though.

Being dealt a good hand is just one factor that could help you win but how you play it could put the prize in the bag for you. However, the best poker play of all is when you're dealt a weak hand and you still end up as the winner. If you do this, you've really got poker down pat. What is it they say about playing your cards right? It's not the cards you're dealt that matters, it's how you play the game. Poker is an epitome of this age-old adage.