

Blackjack Australia

SPECIAL REPORT NO. 4

Myths and Superstitions

Many blackjack players are a superstitious bunch who believe that various people, dealers and even tables can bring different levels of luck. Any serious card counter though will have a far greater belief in the laws of probability. However, this doesn't stop them from asking questions to do with the 'mysterious forces' that may be involved in blackjack.

One of the most common questions I get asked is whether poor players adversely affect other players at a blackjack table. In other words, does a player who is not playing basic strategy hinder other players by hitting or standing when they shouldn't, resulting in the dealer having a winning hand.

The answer is that poor players can both help and hinder other players at the table for individual hands. Over the long term, it balances out and has no effect on the fortunes of other players. In the minds of many players, it appears as though poor players hurt them more often than they help, but this is because a big loss caused by poor decision from someone is far more memorable than a big win caused by a poor decision.

This can be proven with statistics as well. I have run millions of hands of blackjack simulations with both good and poor players at the table, seated in various positions around the table. Over the long term, the win/loss statistics for other players at that table was exactly the same in each simulation.

As for 'lucky' tables, 'strong' dealers and other superstitions, all I can say is that they are just superstitions. Blackjack cards are drawn completely at random, and if you think otherwise, good luck to you!

Online Casinos

It is difficult to win money in the long term at online casinos. This is because you can't get an advantage from card counting, which means that you are always playing against a house edge. If you are still going to gamble online however, at least use a reputable, audited casino such as Sunset or Sands of the Carribean. You can also find links to these casinos on the Blackjack Australia website (www.blackjack.iinet.net.au).

Contact William Swaffer at webmaster@blackjack.iinet.net.au for more information.

No responsibility is taken as to the accuracy or completeness of this information, and the author will not be liable to the reader for any loss or damage arising as a result of the reader relying on this information.