Short answer: no—spades are not stronger than hearts in standard poker. In Texas Hold'em, suits do not break ties or make one card more valuable than another. The ace of spades and ace of hearts have the same rank. But suits still matter in another way: they help determine whether you can make a flush, how many flush draws are possible, and which cards your opponents may hold.

That distinction clears up a common beginner mix-up. **Poker suit ranking** is not a thing in standard Texas Hold'em: suits have no hierarchy. Yet ignoring suits altogether is a mistake, because they affect hand combinations and drawing possibilities. This guide covers the **poker rules suits equal** principle, hand rankings, useful odds, and how to use printable cheat sheets and charts.

Do Suits Matter in Poker?

In standard Texas Hold'em, suits are equal when comparing hands. Spades, hearts, diamonds, and clubs have no built-in order from strongest to weakest. If two players have hands with the same rank and the same relevant card values, the pot is split; a suit does not award the win to one player.

For example, if the board is 10♣ J♦ Q♠ K♥ A♣, every player can use the same ace-high straight from the board. If nobody can make a better hand using their hole cards, the players still in the hand split the pot. It does not matter whether someone holds the A♠ or A♥.

When suits do affect the hand

Suits matter when they help form a hand. Five cards of one suit make a flush, and suited hole cards can create more flush possibilities than offsuit cards. Suits also affect blockers: holding a card in a suit may reduce the number of flush combinations an opponent can have.

So the practical rule is simple: **suits do not rank hands, but they do help make hands.** Don't confuse having a flush draw with having a straight draw, either. A flush draw means you need a card of the same suit; a straight draw means you need a card that completes a sequence of ranks. They are different draws and have different odds.

Texas Hold'em Hand Rankings

Texas Hold'em uses the standard poker hand rankings. Each player makes the best five-card hand available from their two hole cards and the five community cards. You may use both hole cards, one, or neither. When two hands have the same category, compare the cards that make up the hand; suits do not settle the comparison.

Rank Hand Example 1 Royal flush A♣ K♣ Q♣ J♣ 10♣ 2 Straight flush 9♥ 8♥ 7♥ 6♥ 5♥ 3 Four of a kind Q♠ Q♥ Q♦ Q♣ 4♠ 4 Full house J♠ J♥ J♦ 6♣ 6♥ 5 Flush A♦ J♦ 8♦ 5♦ 2♦ 6 Straight 8♠ 7♥ 6♣ 5♦ 4♠ 7 Three of a kind 8♠ 8♥ 8♦ K♣ 3♥ 8 Two pair A♠ A♦ 5♣ 5♥ 9♠ 9 One pair K♠ K♦ J♥ 7♣ 2♠ 10 High card A♣ J♦ 8♥ 5♠ 3♣

The table is listed from strongest to weakest. A royal flush is the ace-high version of a straight flush. For a flush, compare the highest card first, then the next-highest if needed. For one pair, compare the pair, then the kickers—the other cards in the five-card hand. Suits never change that order.

Kickers matter; suits do not break the tie

Say you have A♣ Q♦ and your opponent has A♥ J♠. The board is A♠ 8♣ 6♦ 4♥ 2♠. Both players have a pair of aces, but your queen kicker beats the opponent's jack kicker. The ace suits do not matter; the kicker does.

By contrast, if the board itself is A♣ K♦ Q♥ J♠ 10♣, both players can play the same ace-high straight. If neither has a higher-ranking hand, the result is a split pot. Don't give the pot to a player just because their hole-card suit "looks higher."

Hand Odds and Probabilities

Odds depend on the format and the point in the hand. A five-card poker deal has different probabilities from a Texas Hold'em hand, where players can use up to seven available cards to make their best five-card hand. That's why an odds reference should say what it is counting.

This reminds me of something that happened wished they had known this beforehand.. For a traditional five-card hand, four of a kind odds: 0.0240% (1 in 4,164). You may also see this stated as about 1 in 4,165; that small difference comes from rounding. This is a five-card draw probability, not the chance of making quads by the river in Hold'em.

In Texas Hold'em, if you see all seven cards—your two hole cards and five community cards—the chance of ending with four of a kind is about 0.168%, or roughly 1 in 595. These figures are not contradictory; they describe different numbers of cards and different situations. A printable cheat sheet should label its game format so you don't apply the wrong odds at the table.

Draw Odds by Flop, Turn, and River

Draw odds answer a practical question: if you have a drawing hand, how often will a helpful card arrive? The numbers below assume you know your two hole cards and the three-card flop, and that you will see the turn and river. They are approximate, because your opponent's cards are unknown and some "outs" may not actually win the pot.. (my cat just knocked over my water)

Draw on the flop Outs Chance to hit on turn Chance to hit by river Flush draw 9 About 19.1% About 35.0% Open-ended straight draw 8 About 17.0% About 31.5% Gutshot straight draw 4 About 8.5% About 16.5%

A player holding four cards to a flush after the flop usually has nine outs: 13 cards of that suit exist, and four are visible between the player's hand and the flop. The chance to complete the flush on the turn is 9 out of 47 unseen cards, about 19.1%. If the turn misses, 9 of 46 unseen cards complete it on the river. Across both cards, the chance is about 35.0%.

An open-ended straight draw has eight cards that can complete the straight, while a gutshot has four. For example, with 8♠ 7♠ on a 6♦ 5♣ K♥ flop, a 4 or 9 completes a straight: eight outs in total. With 8♠ 7♠ on a 6♦ 4♣ K♥ flop, a 5 is the inside card you need: four outs. These are straight draws, not flush draws, even if some cards happen to share a suit.

These percentages assume all listed outs are clean. If a card completes your draw but also https://pokerhānds.com/ gives an opponent a full house or a higher flush, it may not be a true out. For example, if you hold a low flush draw and the board pairs, completing your flush may still leave you behind a full house. Consider the board and your opponent's possible hands, not just the raw out count.

Using Printable Cheat Sheets and Equity Charts

Printable cheat sheets are useful for keeping hand rankings, common draw odds, and basic poker rules suits equal in one place. They can be especially helpful in home games, where players may not have a dealer explaining every

tie, or when learning to calculate outs. Choose a chart that clearly distinguishes five-card odds from Texas Hold'em odds and shows whether its draw percentages are for the next card or for both cards to come.



Equity charts answer a different question: how often a hand is expected to win or tie against another hand or range, given the cards known so far. For example, a chart might compare two suited hole cards against a pair before the flop. Equity includes the chance of improving, but it is not a guarantee that you'll win the pot. Results change with the opponent's actual cards, the board, and whether more betting happens.

Use charts as a learning aid, not a substitute for reading the hand. Suited cards can have more flush potential than offsuit cards, but that does not make them automatically strong. A♠ 4♠ and A♥ 4♦ have the same ranks; the first hand has a suited-flush possibility, while the second does not. Neither hand has a suit advantage because spades outrank hearts.

Common Suit Myths to Avoid

- **"Spades beat hearts."** Not in standard Texas Hold'em. Suits are equal when deciding who wins.
- **"A suited hand is a made flush."** No. Two suited hole cards are only a starting possibility; you need five cards of that suit to make a flush.
- **"A flush draw is a straight draw."** They are different. A flush needs matching suits; a straight needs consecutive ranks.
- **"The board has a flush, so my suited ace wins."** Not necessarily. Players use the best five-card hand, and the board may play for everyone. Compare the actual five-card hands.
- **"A suit breaks a tie."** No. Compare hand rank and relevant card values, including kickers. If the hands are still identical, split the pot.

The Bottom Line

So, **do suits matter in poker**? They matter for making flushes, counting draws, and evaluating blockers—but not for ranking cards or breaking ties. In Texas Hold'em, spades and hearts have the same value. Learn the hand rankings, pay attention to kickers, and calculate draw odds based on the cards you can actually see.



A good printable cheat sheet or equity chart can speed up that learning, as long as it labels the format and the situation it covers. When a hand comes down to a comparison, check the five-card hand first, then the kicker if needed. Never award the pot based on suit.. Pretty simple.