

Poker Tip #9

Feb. 03, 2013

Subject: Playing A J Pre-Flop

Situation: You are in Middle Position and decide to limp-in (call Big Blind) with AJ.

A player acting after you makes a standard raise of 3 times the Big Blind (BB).

Suggestion: When the betting comes back around to you, folding your AJ is generally considered the right thing to do.

Why?: There are number of reasons.

1. In most cases your AJ will be a weaker hand than the raiser's hand. Following are 15 hands that are stronger than AJ, when heads-up.

AK, AQ, AA, KK, QQ, JJ, 1010, 99, 88, 77, 66, 55, 44, 33, 22

Note: When head's-up, any pair (even 22) has at least a 6% advantage over AJ.

2. On the flop, you will hit one-of-your-two-hole-cards only 27% of the time.
Or, 1-of-4 times.
The other 3-of-4 times, the flop will miss your AJ completely.
3. Also, if there is an 'A' on the flop and your opponent has an AK or AQ, you will be tempted to stay in the hand with your AJ....which will become very costly when you call his raises.

Remember, many raises take place with Pairs and AK and AQ.

Conclusion: AJ is not strong enough to play when there is a raise.

Note: AQ falls into the same category.
It is generally best to fold AQ when there is a raise.

Additional Hands:

So, if AJ is not strong enough to call a raise (after limping), then what about the hands below.....which you may also have limped with.

The answer is....they also are not strong enough to call a raise.

	KQ			
	KJ	QJ		JJ
AT*	KT	QT	JT	JT
A9	K9	Q9		99
A8	K8	Q8		88
A7	K7			77
A6				66
A5				55
A4				44
A3				33
A2				22

* T = 10