

# THE AMATEUR'S MIND

## New Poker Rules

BY MICHAEL ROME & THE 'HUDG'

**O**ne of my favorite heretical thinkers is Bill Maher. (*Politically Incorrect* and, presently, *Real Time*) At the end of each show, he announces "New Rules." Here is my poker homage to Bill:

### NEW POKER RULES

- Don't get angry at me for being lucky unless you are just as upset at yourself when you suck out on somebody else.
- Just because there is a female player at the table, you don't have to make a joke about "holding a big pair."
- Don't tell me it was a "good laydown" unless you show your cards.
- After taking a beat online, you cannot write nasty notes that misspell idiot ("*idit*") or stupid ("*stooped*").
- Slow-rolling is fine in the hay, but not on the poker table.
- Players who blame the dealer for their cards will be required to take an introductory course in statistics and probability.
- Bad beat stories are only allowed if there was at least \$500 in the pot. No whining allowed about free tavern tournaments, \$25 home tournaments, or online play-money games.
- Someone cannot be called "a good ambassador for the game" if he didn't tip the dealers... especially if he promised to "take care" of them.
- Don't get excited about winning a pot from me just because I am a poker author. A sports-writer is not necessarily a great athlete.

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