

TABLE GAMES INDUSTRY MEETING MINUTES
January 12, 2011

1. Recently the Division became aware that various houses were chopping the blinds in poker games. Based on rule 47.1-1034 Award of Pot, any money being wagered is part of the pot and as a result it is not currently legal to chop the blinds. The DOG is willing to allow the chopping of blinds if there is no action and the players agree, but it will require a change to the language in rule 1034. The rule change will allow casinos to decide if they want to allow chopping in their house rules. The Division will move forward with the proposed rule change and hopes to have it posted by February 15, 2011, to be presented at the March commission meeting. Until the rule is changed the chopping of blinds cannot be allowed.
2. Deb Gorham has created a new pit supervision plan approval form that will be made available on the Division of Gaming website. This form is similar to the variance request form. Submitted plans will go to Hank Hasler, who will sign them electronically and send them back to the casino. The casino will then keep a copy on file showing that the Division has approved it if asked by an investigator. We can email the form to people until it gets posted on the website.
3. Pai Gow poker and five new Shuffle Master games will be presented at the January 20, 2011, commission meeting. The Division is anticipating approval of all the games presented and it is possible they will be available for play by the end of February. Ante Up 21, Buffalo Black Jack, and 3 Card Split will go to the March 2011 commission meeting.
4. There was a question about the possibility of changing Rule to allow games under field trial to stay on the floor when the field trial is over. Hank Hasler explained that the Administrative Procedures Act may make impossible for us to change the procedure required for approving games. Jimmy Wattles pointed out that most problems with new games are identified within the first 60 days of a field trial and that it might be possible to change our approval process, allowing it to move forward more quickly, rather than waiting for end of the field trial. Hank suggested that members of the industry discuss a proposed rule change and submit it to the Division. Research into the law behind the current requirements will be necessary before a change can be implemented.
5. Rule 47.1-1039 currently states that casino house rules have to be presented to the Division for approval by the director. Sean Ballain and Jimmy Wattles will be taking a look at everyone's house rules to make sure there aren't any current conflicts with rule 10. As soon as possible, rule 1039 will be changed to state that house rules are required and cannot violate state rules, but we will not be approving them. Investigators performing compliance inspections will then ensure that house rules don't violate rule 10. The Division asks that any changes to house rules be sent to us to keep us informed. The Division reminded everyone to ensure that the posted house rules match the printed copies handed out to patrons.
6. Hank Hasler reminded everyone that the Table Games Committee is now accepting applications for new games under the new submission requirements.