

## **TABLE GAMES INDUSTRY MEETING MINUTES**

### **May 13, 2015**

#### **1. Field trial games for May:**

Four field trials will begin in May. Two card Poker will field trial at Golden Gates and Wildwood, DJ Wild Stud Poker will field trial at the Isle, Blazing 7s Progressive poker will field trial at the Lodge and Bronco Billy's, and King's Bounty will field trial at the Brass Ass and Saratoga.

#### **2. Update on field trial process:**

Sean is releasing games for field trial four times per year: February, May, August, and November. He mentioned that there is a need for more casinos willing to host field trials. He stated that he is currently limiting the number of games released for field trial each quarter to four, and asked casinos to let him know about any game they are really interested in so he can prioritize a queue. Field trials run for 180 days but the casino is not required to keep the game on floor for the whole period. They can remove the game at any time, but please let Sean know if a game is removed. The Division prefers to get 60 days of play data prior to taking new rules to a stakeholder rulemaking workshop. Casinos are responsible for training their staff prior to field trial games going live. Please inform Sean if the opening date is approaching and no information has been received from the game owner. Sean asked that casinos hosting field trials inform him about their planned training dates. This will allow him to arrange training for Division investigators, and will give those investigators the opportunity to take a look at surveillance, felts, etc. The inspections of field trial games are to be done only by investigator on the Table Games Committee. Casinos in Cripple Creek can contact Brad Nelson or Anthony Webb.

#### **3. Cards being stored in locked shufflers at the table on closed games:**

The Division will allow this if the casino has written procedures, as part of their pit supervision plan, specifying that they will reopen the game as planned, or take the cards out of the shuffler and store them properly. The shuffler does need to be turned off. The pit supervisors need to be clear on whether the table is going to open again or not. Cards cannot be left in the shuffler for more than one day.

#### **4. Extraneous items in pits for current promotions:**

The Division is relaxing the way we view extraneous items. Please submit promotion rules to Sean; he will forward them to Cripple Creek for their information. When submitting promotion rules, please describe how assets will be protected. Anything that goes into the pit for the promotion needs to stay in the pit for the duration. The promotion needs to have an end date and the items need to be removed at that time.

#### **5. House rules and posting requirements:**

All four major table games rules have specific regulations stating that house rules must be posted in a conspicuous place, approved by the Division, and provided to patrons upon request. If casinos have rules in their craps pit, requiring that a player has to be wagering prior to receiving a throw, it needs to be posted. Think about things you enforce and put them in your rules. If the casino has a policy regarding changes in table minimums, that policy needs to spell out whether or not the casino will grandfather in previous players. If an issue is situational and not common please contact Sean and he will help to determine if a particular enforcement policy needs to be posted.

#### **6. Pit supervision change in ICMP Section 2 and 3:**

The Division recently removed the restriction that stated pit supervisors could only cover for dealers for 10 minutes, for emergency purposes. If any casino has changed procedures as a result, please submit a new supervising plan to Sean. Please note that during times when supervisors are covering breaks there needs to be another supervisor in the pit. Any supervisor that is now dealing is now just a dealer and cannot make any decisions. Theoretically any licensed employee can fill in as a supervisor, regardless of actual job title, however, the person acting as a supervisor has to be able to answer any and all questions about the games. A supervisor can go back and forth between dealing and supervising as long as they don't accept tips while dealing. A dealer can become a supervisor but then cannot go back to dealing.

**7. Buffalo Blackjack Bonus - 21 Magic wager:**

The 21 Magic wager wins when the player has a 21 and beats the dealer. If the player is dealt a blackjack it will always beat the dealer unless the dealer has a natural 21. Sean asked the casinos to let Galaxy Gaming know if they are interested in Buffalo Blackjack without the 21 Magic wager.

**8. Streak wagers:**

Please note that the Streak wager is contractual wager. If a player wants to leave in the middle of the game they forfeit the wagers.

**9. Bad beat jackpots:**

Bad beat jackpots have become a big issue. It is a very competitive market. The Division supports whatever creative ideas casinos come up with for working with their jackpots. Please send jackpot rules to Sean any time there are changes. The top tier jackpot has to hit before any changes can go into effect, so get new rules approved ahead of time. This will allow the changes to go into effect immediately after the jackpot hits. Also, be sure that poker managers are staying familiar with Rule 10.

**10. Drop requirements:**

Due to recent changes to Rules 47.1-901 and 47.1-1101, casinos no longer have to drop every table, if those tables have a consistent period of closure. Please notify the Division by e-mailing Sean Ballain; include a pit description defining which pit will not be dropped and what days the pit is open and closed. Once Sean approves the plan, please send a drop and count form to the audit staff with the same information. If the pit is usually closed and you decide you want to open a table, you will have to send the Division an e-mail stating that you did an emergency drop & count on the tables you don't normally drop on that day. Send this notification within 24 hours. The Division will monitor the frequency of these emergency openings. If emergency openings become frequent you will lose the option to not drop every day. Casinos are still required to do openers and closers on these tables every day. Please send the Division an initial plan describing how you will handle things in the event that you decide to open a table that is not normally open that day. **Please note that the rule change for Rule 9 and Rule 11 only affects the drop of the tables. The counting of the trays on these tables will still need to be done by two licensed individuals at the beginning and end of each shift as is currently required in the ICMPs, Section 2, Tables Games, G. Table Opening and Closing Procedures.**