

TABLE GAMES INDUSTRY MEETING MINUTES November 6th and 8th, 2012

1. Sean gave an update on rule changes that were presented at the October Commission Meeting. The language in Rule 47.1-325 (6) that stated games had to be removed from play at the end of field trial was removed. Field trials are now 180 days but the Division is trying to get the games ready for commission approval after 60 days so they can be fully approved within that 180 days. Language was added to the Shuffle Master games Let it Ride, Let it Ride Bonus, Crazy 4 Poker, Mississippi Stud, and Ultimate Texas Hold'em Bonus to clarify what the double asterisks in the pay table mean: "Envy and seed amount adjust up and down accordingly with changes made to the wager amount". Changes were made to 47.1-1017.46 – Mississippi Stud. Paragraph 6 about how the dealer pays, was deleted, paragraphs 7-14 and 6-13 were renumbered, and language was added to former paragraph 10, now paragraph 9, that allows a licensee the ability to pay all wagers in one stack if they choose. Two new craps variation games, Craps with Fire Bet and Craps with Sharpshooter, were added to Rule 23. Each of these changes is effective December 1, 2012 although our web site says the "tentative effective date is November 30, 2012".
2. I-table Roulette Finished its field trial this past month. It was on a 90-day field trial and was automatically approved at the end of those 90 days and is available for anyone that wants it. Shuffle Master also has other games that can be played on the I-Table including Standard blackjack, 3-card poker, and Let it ride. Those games would have to go through the 90-day field trial like roulette did. Contact Shuffle Master if you are interested in the I-table with any of those games.
3. There are seven games currently undergoing Field Trial at 5 casinos in Black Hawk/Central City and at 3 casinos in Cripple Creek. The field trials are going well.
4. Since Amendment 50 passed the table games committee is getting a great deal more submissions for new game approvals. The Division would like to see more field trials taking place in both cities, but at the least, wants to see games field trialed in more than one casino.
5. An issue recently came out of a case being handled in Cripple Creek with the ICMP, Section 14: Dealer Tips, General Requirements. This section states that dealers may receive a tip or gratuity in the form of currency as long as the currency was not used in a wager. When a dealer receives a tip or gratuity in the form of currency the dealer must notify the pit supervisor and then immediately place it in the locked token box. Several Casinos have been exchanging the bill for a chip and then dropping the chip. Please make sure to address this issue with your pits and ensure compliance. The Division will look at changing this requirement to meet the industry standard but until then casinos must follow the ICMP.
6. Changes to Match Play Coupons were approved by the Gaming Commission at the July meeting, and went into effect September 14th. The old wording stated: Match play coupons are allowed, but once used may not be retained for subsequent play by the gaming patron. Match play coupons do not apply to slot machines. When match play coupons are used at a table game, the value of the coupon must be reflected at its face value in the total drop amount for that table for that shift. The combination of the match play coupons and the required wager of the patron cannot exceed the value of \$100. The patron must match the dollar value of the match play coupon. A match play coupon must have printed on it the name of the issuing establishment, the city in which the establishment is located, its value, and an explanation of its use. No coupon may be issued which authorizes payments greater than two-for-one to gaming patrons. All coupons must have an expiration date printed on them. (47.1-1615 amended perm. 10/30/99). In the new wording the above underlined sentence has been changed to read: **Match play coupons are a wager, and shall be paid the specified odds payout for the wager being made.** Before this change was made match play coupons could only be used on black jack games. They can now be accepted on roulette and craps tables. Right now they are still prohibited for use on poker tables but the Division is open to considering a rule change to allow them on proprietary games. Please remember to include evidence of industry support from both cities on any rule change forms that are submitted. Finally, per Rule 16, Accounting Regulations, 47.1-1615 Match Play Coupons, instead of allowing match play coupons only on payments of 2 for 1 they can now be allowed on greater odd bets. The way the rule is currently written, players must match the coupon and the bet. The Division will consider a rule change so players could use a \$5 match play coupon with a \$15 bet, for example. There have been some discrepancies on how match plays coupons are being handled. Once the coupon goes down, and the player matches it, the dealer should look at it as one unified wager and pay at the same odds. If a player uses a \$10 match play coupon and bets \$10, the dealer should take the coupon and not the chips. Sean asked attendees to write match play coupon procedures into their house rules and to send him copies to add to their house rule files.

7. As a result of input from the Industry, the Division will be changing their requirements for the Table Games Performance Reviews and Variance Investigations. These ICMP drafts should be ready for Industry review by the end of November.

The requirements for daily reviews have not changed substantially; reviews are still subject to a review of unusual fluctuations, including a review of the hold percentage, by table by shift, by day. The parameters for the review must be documented in the Written Accounting Plan (WAP); however, if the review is subject to a Win/Loss parameter, it is necessary to ensure a loss is investigated even if it does not fall within the established parameters. For example, if the

WAP indicates a loss will not be reviewed unless it exceeds a 50% deviation from the "normal" hold AND the loss parameter is \$3000, the Division will require a review if, for example, the drop for the game is \$2500, the loss is \$2900 for a negative hold of 116% even though the loss does not exceed \$3000.

Because a substantial amount of review and investigation is required on a daily basis, the monthly statistical reports will be subject to review and investigation by Table TYPE. Variances of +/- 5% points compared to historical hold or an industry standard (for games new to the floor) must be reviewed and the results of the investigation documented. The WAP must include documentation of how the historical hold was determined (for what time frame for instance) and how the industry standard hold must be determined (what jurisdiction and what game was used, that the distributors' expected hold was used, or some other methodology). We have eliminated the rolling 3 month and rolling 12 month reports and review.

The Industry was asked at what time would they escalate a review if a hold by table type was unusual for a few consecutive months; most responded that as early as the second consecutive month or possibly the third consecutive month would result in an escalation of their review. The Division is considering requiring some type of escalated review.

8. The Division recently made changes to the rules regarding player controlled tip wagers. At a recent Commission Meeting a person from the public approached the Commission as a player and stated that allowing each house to have different rules regarding player controlled tip wagers makes it hard for players to know how it works from house to house. Chris Moore asked the industry if we should continue to allow this or require them to come up with a standard way these wagers are handled? Sean Ballain will send out information to the industry regarding the differences on current house rules. Would the industry like the Division to consider adding player controlled tip wagers to black jack as well?
9. Inv. Neely charged a dealer with cheating because the dealer was clocking the wheel and a player was making wagers in a specific quadrant and winning quite often. Most dealers are trained not to look at the wheel. Sean asked if the industry considers it cheating when dealers clock the wheel and do they feel the dealer is intentionally trying to influence the action of the game? The Division Chief of Investigations has asked the table games committee to do some investigation into the legality of wheel clocking with other jurisdictions.
10. Sean reminded attendees that the Division doesn't have the authority to make changes to proprietary games. If they are interested in changes they need to contact the owners and start a rule change request.
11. Updates to the ICMP will be out for industry review by the end of November, and will be effective as of December 30th.
12. A surveillance operator noticed that the 3 Card Poker table layout states that a player "must" play all the bets in order to play the progressive. The game rules state that they "may" play certain bets to play the progressive. This is a proprietary game and casinos will need to discuss this with the owner in order to adjust the rules.
13. Chris Moore stated that the Division would consider allowing tip tubes for all games, but it would require a rule change, and the casinos need to initiate that.
14. Someone asked whether or not the Division would allow a hidden reserve for table game progressives like the ones currently used in slot machine progressives. This would allow them to move the reserve up when the progressive hits, rather than starting over at the base amount. The table games committee will have to research this with our systems group, and game proprietors would have to write this option into their rules.