

July 30, 1993

It has come to the attention of the Division of Gaming that there are questions concerning the legality of blackjack players taking "even money" in lieu of actually placing an insurance wager.

The Division has determined that, by offering patrons the opportunity to take "even money," no provisions of the rules and regulations governing blackjack are violated. Hence, the practice is acceptable to the Division.

For example, all players at a blackjack game are dealt their first two cards, and the dealer has an "Ace" showing. At this time, the dealer would inquire if anyone would like to make an insurance wager, in effect betting that the dealer does have a blackjack. In the event one or more player(s) have blackjack, they **may** elect to take "even money," which is, in effect, the same as placing an insurance bet, without going through the mechanics. If the player verbally indicates that he/she is taking "even money," the dealer pays the player's wager at 2 to 1 and removes the cards from the table, before looking at the hole card.

If the player with the blackjack declines the opportunity for "even money," the hand is played out according to the rules of the game.

#### **MULTIPLE ACTION BLACKJACK**

The "even money" option may not be utilized in Multiple Action Blackjack. Because players have the option of insuring a blackjack on any or all hands, it is necessary for the player to place insurance wagers on the table for the desired hand(s) only during the first hand of play.