

PS 96: More on Keeping Gambling Records Live | Ohio Slots in 2020

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #96 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses More on Keeping Good Gambling Records. Plus, in this episode I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of Ohio.

Thank you for joining me for the Professor Slots podcast show. I'm Jon Friedl and this is the podcast about slot machine casino gambling. It is where I provide knowledge, insights, and tools for helping you improve your slot machine gambling performance.

On Last Week's Episode...

In case you missed it, on my last episode I went over More on Identifying Gambling Goals from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Northern Mariana Islands slot machine casino gambling in 2020.

I hope you enjoyed listening to my last episode as much as I enjoyed making it for you.

Call to Action #1 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit professorslots.com/subscribe to get my Free Report Revealing ... The top 7 online resources for improving your gambling performance, including the one I've used as a top-tier slot machine casino gambler.

YouTube Q&A Session from Saturday, June 20, 2020

Here's the audio recording of my latest live stream Q&A session.

Call to Action #2 (add sound effect afterward)

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Introduction

This is the second segment of the show on slot machine casino gambling. Here, I provide a brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district emphasizing, by far, anything of interest to slot machine casino gamblers.

Up next is Ohio slot machine casino gambling in 2020. Here goes!

Ohio slot machine casino gambling consists of eleven casinos. Four are stand-alone casinos with table games while seven casinos are pari-mutuel racinos with horse tracks and simulcast betting.

Ohio casinos have a minimum theoretical payout limit. Return statistics are publicly available.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Ohio

The minimum legal gambling age in Ohio depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

In 1933, an approved constitutional amendment legalized pari-mutual wagering at racetracks. The 1970s saw the arrival of the lottery and charity bingo. Social poker games have always existed, but the house must not profit from the game.

The original operators of Ohio's four stand-alone casinos backed a proposed constitutional amendment. In November 2009, 52% of voters approved the constitutional amendment allowing one casino in the cities of:

- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Toledo

In addition to the usual fees and taxes imposed on Ohio businesses, the constitutional amendment required or specified:

- A 33% tax on gross casino revenue
- Distribution of the proceeds of the tax
- A license fee of \$50 million per casino dedicated to workforce development
- An initial capital investment of \$250 million for the development of each casino facility

- The existence of the Ohio Casino Control Commission
- The Ohio General Assembly would pass other laws to facilitate the operation of the casino gaming amendment
 - A maximum of 5,000 slot machines at each casino facility
 - There is no limit on the number of table games allowed

Subsequent changes in state lottery legislation allowed pari-mutuel racetracks to begin offer video lottery terminal (VLT) style slot machines in 2012. These were the first racinos in Ohio.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Ohio

Next up is a usually short statement about slot machine private ownership, which I have included in case you live in this U.S. state and are considering owning a slot machine. Here it is:

In Ohio, it is legal to own a slot machine privately without restriction as to its date of manufacture.

Gaming Control Board in Ohio

In 2009, a constitutional amendment created the Ohio Casino Control Commission. Its website is comprehensive but only applies to slot machine casino gambling at Ohio's four stand-alone casinos.

In 1973, a constitutional amendment established the Ohio Lottery Commission. The Ohio Lottery eventually became responsible for and controls video slot machines found at Ohio's seven racinos. These pari-mutuel racetracks began adding VLT-style slot machines starting in 2012.

The state gaming commission offers significant resources for slots enthusiasts besides return statistics. For instance, enforcement provides quarterly and fiscal year gaming crimes and statistics including offenses by statute.

Casinos in Ohio

In this section, I'll discuss Ohio gambling establishments.

There are four commercial casino resorts and seven commercial pari-mutuel racetracks with simulcast betting as well as slot machines in Ohio. The largest casino in Ohio is Eldorado Gaming Scioto Downs with 2,386 gaming machines in February 2020. The second-largest casino is MGM Northfield Park with 2,183 gaming machines in February 2020.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Ohio

The four casino resorts and seven pari-mutual racetracks with VLT-style slot machines in Ohio are, as usual, too many casinos to mention here. A complete list and state map with all casinos marked is on my webpage for this state at professorslots.com/OH.

American Indian Casinos in Ohio

Ohio has no tribal casinos as no federally-recognized American Indian tribes exist in this state.

Other Gambling Establishments

As an alternative to enjoying Ohio slot machine casino gambling, consider exploring casino options in a nearby state. Bordering Ohio is:

- North: Michigan and Lake Erie
- East: Pennsylvania
- Southeast: West Virginia
- South: Kentucky
- West: Indiana

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, simply visit ProfessorSlots.com followed by its two-letter postal designation. For example, my Michigan slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/MI.

Our Ohio Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in Ohio? If so, join our Ohio slots community on Facebook at professorslots.com/FBOH. All you'll need is a Facebook profile to join this private Facebook Group freely.

There, you'll be able to privately share your slots experiences as well as chat with players about slots gambling in or near Ohio. Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: professorslots.com/FBOH. Join us!

Payout Returns in Ohio

Ohio's Gaming Control Act section 3772.20 states that the minimum theoretical payout is 85% for slot machines at Ohio's casino resorts. This same payout limit applies to slot machines at Ohio's racetracks with slot machines thanks to the Ohio Lottery's Video Lottery Game Rules.

Ohio's five stand-alone casino resorts have return statistics publicly available from the Ohio Gaming Commission. However, Ohio's seven racetracks with slot machines have their return statistics available from the Ohio Lottery. Both sources offer return statistics by:

- Month
- Casino
- State-wide

In February 2020, Monthly Casino Revenue Reports from the Ohio Gaming Commission shows return statistics for the four casino resorts were:

The highest return for casino resorts went to JACK Cleveland at 92.3% while the lowest went to Hollywood Toledo at 91.0%. The state-wide average is 91.8%.

In February 2020, VLT Fiscal Revenue Reports from the Ohio Lottery shows return statistics for the seven racinos were:

The highest return for racinos went to Miami Valley Gaming at 91.3% while the lowest went to Hollywood Mahoning Valley at 90.2%. Overall, JACK Cleveland had the best return of any casino or racino in Ohio while Hollywood Mahoning Valley had the lowest. The state-wide average is 90.8%, a full percentage point less than the state-wide average for the four casino resorts.

Summary of Ohio Slots in 2020

In summary, Ohio slot machine casino gambling consists of eleven casinos operating under two gaming commissions. These casinos include four stand-alone casino resorts regulated by the Ohio Gaming Commission and seven racinos with pari-mutuel wagering and video-lottery-terminal (VLT) style slot machines regulated and controlled by the Ohio Lottery.

The minimum theoretical payout limit at all Ohio casinos is 85%. Each gaming control board offers monthly return statistics which are publicly available.

Annual Progress in Ohio Slot Machine Casino Gambling

In the last year, JACK Cincinnati has officially switched ownership to Hard Rock Cincinnati. Further, in Cincinnati over the last year, Boyd Gaming operates Belterra Park after this racino's purchase in late 2018.

Call to Action #3 (add sound effect afterward)

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On the Next Episode of Professor Slots

Part I of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is a live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Remember, my weekly Q&A session on YouTube is on Saturdays from Noon until 1 p.m. ET. Bring whatever slots questions you have, and I'll do my best to answer them. An easy-to-remember link to my YouTube channel is ProfessorSlots.com/Live. Feel free to stop by anytime during my hour-long Q&A.

To suggest a topic or ask a question which might end up as a blog article or on a podcast episode, email it to jon@professorslots.com where Jon is spelled J-O-N.

Part II of the next episode of the Professor Slots podcast is another brief overview of the current state of gambling in a U.S. state, territory, or the federal district. Next time, I'll be talking to you about the great U.S. state of Oklahoma.

Closing (closing music)

That's the end of another great episode of the Professor Slots podcast. Thanks so much for listening!

Show notes for this episode are on my website at professorslots.com/episode96.

I plan to have the next episode come out very soon for you, where I'll have more amazing content for the show.

Until the next episode: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye.

320-character description:

Keeping good gambling records helps with more than income tax preparation. Knowing what you've won and lost at slots is an advantage play. I review minimum gambling records for slots enthusiasts, then press forward with more to help you win again and not just with a bigger income tax refund. Plus, Ohio slots in 2020.

156-character description:

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