

## PS 99: Rapid Fire Live Q&A | Pennsylvania Slots in 2020

### Opening

Hello! Today's episode #99 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses a range of questions a slots enthusiast like yourself wants to know. Plus, in this episode I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of Pennsylvania.

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 whether using a player's club card matters to winning on slots in my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Oregon 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](https://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, July 11, 2020

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

Here's a partial transcript of that conversation.

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#### OPENING

Hello, slots enthusiasts! How are you? It's great to hang out with you again for another Professor Slots podcast episode and live stream.

Today we're going to be diving into your slots-related questions ... rapid fire!

That's coming up!

But first, if you're with us during the live stream, make sure to say hello to everyone in the live chat. Let us know where you are at or where you play slots. I'll check in with the live chat in a few moments. And, as always, be sure to ask your slots-related questions!

#### BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hi, my name is Jon Friedl. Welcome to Professor Slots, a channel that's all about mastering casino slots so you can win your way to success. If you've ever walked into a casino, looked around, and wondered what's going on with slots and more, I can help.

Thanks again for joining us today, whether you are listening on the podcast, watching this video later, or here with us on the live stream at Noon Eastern Time each Saturday. I'm glad you're all here!

Today is Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and this morning the American Gaming Association's live casino tracker shows 839 U.S. casinos have re-opened and 150 remain closed. That's right, another 12 casinos opened in the last week, we're up from almost 84% last Saturday to nearly 85% of U.S. casinos having re-opened. For updates, visit AGA's live casino tracker using this convenient link: [ProfessorSlots.com/tracker](https://ProfessorSlots.com/tracker).

Let's check in with the Live Chat to briefly say hello....

#### **how long should I spend at a slot machine?**

#### BODY

That was excellent!

My intent with these live streams is to answer your slots-related questions. Questions come to me from all over the place, like all the places where you might be hearing me speak now.

This week is my 33<sup>rd</sup> weekly live stream. Rather than pick a specific slots-related topic I've covered elsewhere and dive into questions or extra information about it here, today I'm offering a rapid-fire Q&A session. Ask your hard or easy questions and I'll quickly answer it then move on to the next question.

We'll see how this show format goes. I wonder if some of your questions will even have a brief answer! It should be interesting! Go ahead and ask your questions in the live chat, if you're here during the live stream, or send you question to [jon@professorslots.com](mailto:jon@professorslots.com) where Jon is spelled J-O-N.

Let's get into it!

Question #1: Our first question comes from Jan from Texas. In the live chat this morning, she asked, “When there are 1200 slot machines, how do you find the 2 or 3 paying slots in the casino?”

Hi, Jan! Great question! Yes, casinos have a lot of slot machines. Even if a casino has only a few hundred slot machines, that’s a lot of machines if you want to play each one. And that’s where people get stuck. The casino may have 1,200 slot machines, but they don’t have 1,200 slot machines you’d want to play based on your own preferences, whatever those preferences are. It’s like buying a car. Every car is potentially available to you as a purchase, likely new or used. That’s hundreds of options even before we get into color choices, leather seats or cloth, or other choices.

**What changes in Jackpots and payouts, if any, has anyone noticed as casinos reopen?**

All those 1,200 slot machines are not the same and this is where your preferences come in. That’s my answer to your question. I’ll say it again: Not all 1,200 slot machines are the same and your preferences matter when choosing which to play.

Do you understand how radical an answer this is? I don’t mean just you, Jan. I mean any of you listening or watching, now or later. Slot machines are no longer entirely random. They likely never were, not entirely, but I’ll leave slots history for another time.

Yes, there are usually up to three paying slot machines in a casino with 1,200 slot machines. There may be fewer. Not to confuse the issue, some casinos offer quick winning tastes when you first sit down at any slot machine which you can take advantage of by collecting it and moving on. But other than that common casino business practice, we’re looking at up to three winning slot machines in a casino.

**If you are winning soon after entering a casino, what do you recommend for your remaining time you want to stay there?**

Besides ignoring casinos offering tastes, let’s recognize what else we’re ignoring. We’re ignoring good record-keeping. Players clubs. Money management techniques. And more, all of which are other ways to win.

Okay, let’s JUST look at finding those winning slot machines and ignore everything else. What’s your bankroll? If you haven’t heard that word before, it’s the amount of money you’ve brought with you to the casino to bet. Whatever that amount is, from free slots play from the casino to a couple thousand dollars, divide it by 100. That’s your maximum bet. If your bankroll is \$50, then your maximum bet is 50-cents. That’s a 2-credit bet on a quarter machine, a 5-credit bet on a dime machine, or a 10-credit bet on a nickel machine. Or a 50-credit bet on a penny machine.

With your choice of a \$50 bankroll, you’ve just eliminated most of the slot machines in a casino. If your bankroll was ten times that, say \$500, then your maximum bet is \$5. That

still eliminates a lot of those 1,200 slot machines. For instance, you could make 1-credit bets on a \$5 denomination slot machine in the high-limit area of the casino. But you couldn't make a 600-credit bet on a penny machine.

So, depending on your bankroll, plenty of those 1,200 slot machines are ruled out. What's next? Let's rule out more slot machines to find the winning ones. How do we do that? Let's avoid the losing slot machines. More specifically, let's avoid slot machines where, even if you won, the wins would be too small to really matter. Where you can't win for losing, as the saying goes.

How do you find these slot machines so you can avoid them? Use my slot machine Goodness Ratio for this. I've explained this before, so here's the link to its explanation in another YouTube video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ag4NwvaNoio&feature=youtu.be&t=470>) called Choosing Candidate Slot Machines. I'll put this link for you in the description and podcast show notes. Or, just this convenient shortcut I've made to its explanation in that YouTube video: [ProfessorSlots.com/Goodness](https://www.professorslots.com/Goodness).

Okay, so one of my fears has been realized – short answers are hard. But I've shown how 1,200 slot machines isn't really that many. It's like managing any big engineering project, if that helps. Engineers and engineering managers call it eating an elephant. How do you eat an elephant? One piece at a time.

Without too much work, 1,200 slot machines become maybe 600 slot machines because of your chosen bankroll size, then maybe half that to avoid progressive slot machines (which have their own approach), then my Goodness Ratio rules out a bunch of others until we're down to about a 100 or so slot machines, which is manageable. From there, there are more steps to get that 100 down to a handful of slot machines. That's what my winning slots strategies are for.

This may seem like a lot of work but, frankly, it isn't. Half the work is done before you even arrive at the casino. And the rest is only done once, perhaps once per year or if something changes like the casino gets new owners.

But the reason I spent so much time on this question is to point out what many long-term slots players hate me for. Slot machines aren't entirely random anymore. They aren't fair, you could say. Now, with the central servers just about every casino has, picking and choosing which slot machine to play matters. If you want to win.

Whew! But, it was a good question. Ultimately, that may have been the BIG question. In one form or another, I've gotten that question from far more than just Jan. It can be as simple as, "Which slot machine should I play?" So, now you know the basic approach to finding winning slot machines ... without taking the 6-week online course I'm working on.

Question #2: I got our second question yesterday on my Texas Slots Enthusiasts private Facebook Group. Cindie asked, “Is volatility of a slot machine set by manufacturers or by the casino? Does anyone know?”

Volatility is the word used to describe how much something changes, high or low. For instance, in finance it’s used to describe how much a stock’s trading price changes over time. Lots of ups and downs, but there’s this other thing called an average which is in-between.

For slot machines, volatility is most often associated with video poker. That’s where it gets a lot of use. Some games of poker have rules where people win or lose quickly. Like Texas Hold ‘Em. All in, anybody? And other games of poker have some bets and pots, so that the game lasts hours before there’s a winner.

Volatility is basically a statistic term. For slot machines, it’s about how often you win and lose AND how big is your win when you do win. For example, since casinos have re-opened we’ve seen some Oklahoma casinos offer their slots players lots of wins on their slot machines – but few of those wins are anything like large. Yet slots enthusiasts are happy because they are winning jackpots. And the casinos are happy because they need to make money, perhaps more than usual. Yet, it’s a win-win scenario for both.

The answer to this question is this: Slots manufacturers offer a bunch of settings for casinos to choose from. And that’s exactly what the casinos do, based on their business needs as well as the gaming regulations.

In fact, you can set the slot machine to win almost every time you press the button. Or, frankly, about as often as you might potentially be struck by a bolt of lightning. Both these settings are quite possibly illegal in your state, if your state regulations or tribal-state gaming compact have a theoretical payout limit.

That means casinos often can’t use every possible setting that the slot machine manufacturer provides. It might be illegal, as I said, or it might be a terrible business decision.

Question #3: What is bankroll cycling? It was surprising to me that newcomers to slots, and some of those who have never played slots, think that slots machines are set so that players never win. That the player win% is zero. Maybe they meant bankroll cycling, a term I used on the last live stream which I got questions about afterward. The question was, what did I mean by bankroll cycling?

Well, let’s say you’re playing a slot machine with a player win % of 90%. Its volatility is extremely low, which isn’t how statistics works in the real world, but let’s say that you have exactly 90% of your bankroll remaining once you’ve spent the initial bankroll.

Right? Say your initial bankroll is \$100. You pick a slot machine which has a 90% return. You bet the entire initial \$100 bankroll and have 90% left over, \$90 of that \$100, where

this \$90 are the winnings you got when spending the initial \$100. That is one cycle of the bankroll. Let's say you continue and spent that entire \$90 at a player win% of 90% and therefore end up with \$81. That's the second cycle of the bankroll. Note that the amount of the bankroll has decreased. But you're still cycling that smaller bankroll. And, after two cycles, you've spent \$100 in the first cycle and \$90 in the second cycle so, in total, you've spent \$190.

Let's say you continue cycling with your \$81 bankroll. How many cycles would it take for your bankroll to drop below \$20? And how much would you have spent, total? I've done the math, and it'd take 17 cycles to drop below \$20. And you would have spent over \$800.

For an initial bankroll of \$500, it would have taken 32 cycles to drop below \$20 and you would have spent nearly \$5k. For an initial bankroll of \$1,000, it would have been 39 cycles and nearly \$10k spent.

Question #4: How often do I go to the casino?

When I was learning my methods, before I'd even started my book or even considered starting my Professor Slots business, I was going for about 3 times a week playing high-limit slot machines. My bankroll was around \$2,000. Once I won the car and decided to write the book as well as start the business, I've switched over from personal slots play to going to casinos to help you.

These days, my initial bankroll is between \$200 and \$500 when it's not a nearby casino, which usually means I've never been to that casino before and hadn't been a member of its loyalty program. If I go to a nearby casino in Ohio, I am a member and it's usually to spend free slots play and learn for you if anything new has come out recently.

Either way, I've done one or the other of these trips about once per month. Although, I have entirely skipped the pandemic. That wasn't entirely by my choice, as I was dealing with some busyness with my day job which got in the way of going to casinos. That shouldn't be a problem in the future. And, I'd like to get my casino trips up to twice a month, maybe one local to check for anything new and interesting and the second a trip to a new casino somewhere. And I'll write up these trips as casino reviews as well as talk about them here, if briefly. I'm looking forward to them! The question is, of course, when? At this point, that's all about dealing with the pandemic.

Question #5: When will my online course be available? Well, I've just gotten started on it! That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that it will take months before I can launch it. This amount of time is pretty typical for an online course. Here's what else I'm fairly certain about it...

Let's switch over to the Live Chat again and see what questions they might have...

CLOSING

Join your local slots community on Facebook to get the latest on casino re-opening in your area. Share your casino trip reports and see what your local slots enthusiasts are sharing. Every state has a private Facebook Group slots community. Find yours at [ProfessorSlots.com/FB](https://www.professorslots.com/FB).

Watch more of my videos to improve your slots gambling performance.

Have fun, be safe, and make good choices! Bye!

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## Call to Action #2 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](https://www.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.

## 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 Pennsylvania slot machine casino gambling in 2020. Here goes!

Pennsylvania slot machine casino gambling consists of twelve casinos of which six are pari-mutuel racetracks with slot machines, four are standalone casinos, and two are casino resorts.

Pennsylvania has both minimum and maximum theoretical payout limits. Return statistics are publicly available online.

## Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Pennsylvania

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

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

In 2004, the Pennsylvania Race Horse Development and Gaming Act passed. This Act legalized slot machines at fourteen locations. Of these locations, gaming licenses have yet to be issued for a standalone casino and a pari-mutuel racetrack with slot machines.

Since July 2010, table games are in Pennsylvania casinos.

In October 2017, the state legislature legalized casino gambling at truck stops, airports, and online. This bill also authorized ten new satellite casinos with location restrictions.

- Satellite casinos of existing casino operators must be within 25 miles of their existing Pennsylvania casino. Further, local municipalities may prohibit such a casino. These satellite casino licenses allow up to 750 slot machines and 50 table games.
- Racetracks and standalone casinos can have up to 5,000 slot machines and 250 table games, while casino resorts can have up to 600 slot machines and 50 table games. Truck stops approved by their county may have up to 5 slot machines.

Casino operators may operate a gambling parlor at any of Pennsylvania's international and regional airports, assuming successful agreements with the airport authority. None have yet opened, but expected in 2020.

To gamble within a casino resort, players must be a guest there. Put another way, the gaming floors within the casino resorts are not open to the public.

## Slot Machine Private Ownership in Pennsylvania

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 Pennsylvania, it is legal to own a slot machine privately if it is 25 years old or older.

## Gaming Control Board in Pennsylvania

The state gaming commission is the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB). The PGCB is responsible for overseeing slot machines and casino gambling in the state.

Two different state gaming commissions are each responsible for the state lottery and charitable gaming.

## Casinos in Pennsylvania

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

There are two casino resorts, four standalone casinos, and six racetracks with slot machines in Pennsylvania. The largest casino in Pennsylvania is Parx Casino with 3,238 gaming machines during the last week of January 2020. The second-largest casino is Wind Creek Bethlehem with 3,046 gaming machines during the last week of January 2020.

## Non-Tribal Casinos in Pennsylvania

The two casino resorts, four standalone casinos, and six pari-mutuel racetracks with slot machines in Pennsylvania too many casinos to mention here. A complete list and map is on my webpage for this state at [professorslots.com/PA](http://professorslots.com/PA).

## American Indian Casinos in Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania has no federally-recognized American Indian tribes. Therefore, Pennsylvania has no tribal casinos as allowed by the federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1989.

However, Pennsylvania is one of the few U.S. states with commercial casinos owned and operated by an American Indian tribe:

1. Mohegan Sun Pocono is owned and operated by the Mohegan Indian Tribe of Connecticut through their Mohegan Gaming and Entertainment corporation.
2. Wind Creek Bethlehem is owned and operated by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians through their Wind Creek Hospitality corporation.

## Other Gambling Establishments

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

- North: New York and Lake Erie
- East: New Jersey
- South: Delaware, Maryland, and West Virginia
- West: Ohio

To visit any of my articles on these U.S. states, simply visit [ProfessorSlots.com](http://ProfessorSlots.com) followed by its two-letter postal designation. For example, my New York slots article is available at [ProfessorSlots.com/NY](http://ProfessorSlots.com/NY).

## Our Pennsylvania Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in Pennsylvania? If so, join our Pennsylvania slots community on Facebook at [professorslots.com/FBPA](https://www.facebook.com/professorslots.com/FBPA). 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 Pennsylvania. Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: [professorslots.com/FBPA](https://www.facebook.com/professorslots.com/FBPA). Join us!

## Payout Returns in Pennsylvania

The theoretical payout minimum for slot machines in Pennsylvania is 85%. Further, the maximum theoretical payout limit may not equal or exceed 100%. Both limits apply to each single play.

The PGCB makes monthly return statistics publicly available for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 for each gaming facility. To calculate player win%, divide payouts by wagers provided in each report.

For February 2020, the player win% at slots for each casino and statewide are in my website article for this state in the Payout Return section at [ProfessorSlots.com/PA](https://www.ProfessorSlots.com/PA).

However, the highest return went to Rivers Philadelphia at 90.5%, the lowest went to Nemaquin at 89.2% followed closely by Hollywood Pen National at 89.4%, while the statewide average was 90%.

## Summary of Pennsylvania Slots in 2020

In summary, Pennsylvania slot machine casino gambling consists of two casino resorts, four standalone casinos, and six racetracks with slot machines. Other locations should still open in 2020.

The theoretical payout limits are a minimum of 85% and a maximum of up to 100%. Monthly return statistics by casino are available online from the state gaming control board.

## Annual Progress in Pennsylvania Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, the Sands Casino Resort Bethlehem became Wind Creek Bethlehem, acquired by the Poarch Band of Creek Indians through their Wind Creek Hospitality corporation for \$1.3 billion.

Otherwise, there have been numerous casino name changes including:

- Lady Luck Nemaocolin became Nemaocolin Woodlands Resort.
- Valley Forge Convention Center Casino became Valley Forge Casino Resort.
- Mount Airy Resort & Casino became Mount Airy Casino Resort Spa.
- Sugar House Casino became Rivers Casino Philadelphia.

## Call to Action #3 (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](https://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.

## 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. Eastern Time. 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](https://ProfessorSlots.com/Live). Feel free to stop by anytime during my hour-long Q&A.

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. territory of Puerto Rico.

## 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/episode99](https://professorslots.com/episode99).

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.