

## PS 103: Progressive Slot Machines and More Live | South Dakota Slots in 2020

### Opening

Hello! Today's episode #103 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses progressive slot machines. Plus, in this episode I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of South Dakota.

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 gaming industry risk factors from two primary slot machine manufacturers and more from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed South Carolina 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 (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, August 8, 2020

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

#### 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 progressive slot machines!

That's coming up!

## 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!

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 little bit. And, as always, be sure to ask your slots-related questions!

If you're watching this video, make sure to subscribe to my YouTube channel so we can keep growing our community of slots enthusiasts!

## BODY

Today's topic is on progressive slot machines. I recently ran a poll on my social media sites and email list asking slots enthusiasts like you, "What kinds of slot machines do you play?"

I listed five possible choices including low-limit non-progressive, progressive, penny, high-limit, and Class II bingo-style. Participants could pick as many of these as they liked, so if you like penny progressives, then you could pick both penny and progressive.

Not everyone has access to tribal casinos, or tribal casinos with Class II bingo-style slot machines, so that choice came out at around 10%. More than a few slots enthusiasts wanted to know what I meant by Class II bingo-style machines?

Just to be clear, these are competitive-style electronic gaming machines available at many tribal casinos including those tribes that don't have a negotiated tribal-state gaming compact. Their gaming regulations are different because they come from a different source, I guess is the best way to put it, than Class III slot machines. I'd explain this further, but tomorrow I'm publishing a video on why classifications exist, where they come from, and what they mean. Again, that video is coming out tomorrow on YouTube. For you listening on the podcast, yes you, it's out already. Take a look later when you're not driving ... or exercising ... or whatever it is you're doing. Mowing the lawn, maybe? I can only imagine.

So, Class II bingo-style machines came out at 10%, which is higher than I was expecting. This is why I'm running polls every once in a while, to get you know you better. I'll mention now that my latest poll had a yes/no answer: "Do you keep gambling records?"

That poll came back “No” at just under 60%. Again, it’s good to know these things. We should do something sometime about slots enthusiasts just leaving money on the table like that. Anyway, back to the first poll on machine type, just over twice as many participants play high-limit slots as do those who play Class II machines. Did you notice that smooth segue from gambling records to high-limit slots?

But I skipped over low-limit non-progressive machines played by 14% of participants. But, as I mentioned last week, the top two types were penny and progressive slot machines. So, let’s talk about progressive slot machines.

On this most recent Thursday, I published a video explaining my winning slots strategy #2. Perhaps you’ve seen it? If not, I’ve put a link to it in the description of this video as well as in the podcast show notes.

This most recent video is my winning strategy for winning progressive jackpots. There’s one strategy that works although, guess what, it takes good gambling records to pull it off. How’s THAT for another smooth segue?

Again, as I’ve mentioned in past shows, I’m not holding these live streams to repeat or spoil what I’ve explained elsewhere. These live streams are about answering your slots questions but mostly to go over what wasn’t discussed in my videos. Like, this Winning Strategy #2 is about the basics of how a progressive slot machine is setup and how it operates followed by how to win and optimize winning progressive jackpots.

Looking back, I really should have made two videos, because of how long that video ended up being. Almost nine minutes! One video on progressive slot machines and another on how to win progressive jackpots would have been better, I realize now. Live and learn, as always.

Based on my poll with over 300 participants, 84 of those responding answered progressive slot machines and penny slot machines. With my winning strategy #2 how published for your enjoyment, I thought today would be a good time to talk about progressive slot machines. About what I didn’t discuss in my long video about winning their jackpots.

Yesterday I was walking through Miami Valley Gaming, a local pari-mutuel wagering racetrack with slot machines having some of the best return statistics in Ohio, and as I’m sure you are aware progressive slot machines do not have their own areas. Most casinos used to be set up with clearly defined areas having their own slot machine denominations. The quarter machines would be over in its own area, and dollar machines next to it, machines where you can make bets of \$5 would be in the high-limit room, you might even be able to find nickel and dime denomination slot machines in their own areas out on the casino floor.

Nowadays, it just doesn't seem to clearly designated areas as I seem to recall. That certainly fine, because change is the only constant, right? But progressive slot machines have never had their own area. A progressive slot machine can be of any denomination. And it was maybe, what, five or seven years ago that slot machines with Major and Minor jackpots came out? Those are all progressive-style slot machines too, you know. Progressives aren't just slot machines with an LED sign at the top of the machine with a large ever-changing jackpot.

My point is that, if you want to play a progressive slot machine, you can find them in all areas of a casino. And that presents a bit of a problem if you want to use my winning strategy 2 to win progressive jackpots. What machines are part of which progressive jackpot?

I asked this question of a floor manager at Miami Valley. How big are progressive slot machine networks? How many slot machines are in a network? Again, this isn't something I discussed in my already too-long video on progressive jackpots.

At a high level, it's the same network if the progressive jackpot is the same amount on all of them. At least, within a few pennies as keeping all those progressive jackpot signs perfectly synced can be technically challenging. And, those with the same rolling progressive jackpot always have the same game theme and slot machine denomination. Don't reverse this. First, they have the same jackpot or very close to it. Then, they have the same game. Because the same game could be on multiple networks with big differences in progressive jackpots. Makes sense? Good.

## INTERLUDE

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

That was excellent!

## BODY

The floor manager at Miami Valley also mentioned a couple of other things. First, I asked how to figure out which slots machines went with which networks. I asked this because I wondered if I had to search the whole casino for progressive slot machines with the same progressive jackpot. Could there be one over in one corner of the casino with its networked colleague over in the far other corner? He said no.

Besides having the same progressive jackpot amount, he said, slot machines on in-casino networks are close together, either in the same row or circular carousel. Apparently, this feature is part of setting up a network of progressive slot machines. Either it's just easier to do this way or maybe less expensive for a couple of reasons. Labor costs, cost of cabling, possibility of errors, whatever.

This nearness is worth mentioning because it helps us. If we want to win progressive jackpots, this feature is convenient. He also mentioned a trend, by the way. In-casino progressive slot machine networks are on the rise. He didn't mention standalone progressives are too, but I assume so given his reason. He said the wide-area progressive networks with life-changing jackpots are going away. Why? Too much legal liability for casinos. Why? Too many co-owners of these systems including every casino with one on the same network as well as the slot machine manufacturer.

If one owner has a legal objection, nobody gets paid (including the jackpot winner) until that legal dispute is resolved. And if it's not resolved in less than an hour, which is impossible, then it's bad press for the casino where the win occurred. Really bad press. Since it's hardly bad press at all for any of the co-owners, and someone winning the jackpot means they have to pay their share, then why wouldn't they object legally?

I don't mean to be cynical. I'm not, not really. And this doesn't happen with every big progressive jackpot. But it happens enough, given how expensive lawyers can be. Having multi-million-dollar progressive jackpots has become ... not worth it.

That's why Megabucks was removed from all Las Vegas casinos in the last year. And that's why in-casino progressive networks are on the rise at your local casino. Fewer co-owners is better for the casino.

One thing I skipped over is progressive jackpots on machines which are not, technically, slot machines. These electronic gaming machines are, for instance, Class II bingo-style gaming machines. Those can have progressive jackpots, too, right? Also, and these are currently far less common, pari-mutuel wagering electronic gaming machines found in Kentucky, so called Historic Horse Racing (HHR) machines. In mid-February this year, I was at Red Mile and Derby City checking them out and saw more than a few had progressive jackpots.

But I also have an email from Paul which I'd like to share with you about video poker machines with progressive jackpots. Here it is:

"I was able to find a few moments to run through your article - thanks for answering my question so completely! I did want to point out that progressive VP machines do exist, usually as "local" jackpots on a bank of machines that may include between 6-12 machines. Usually the jackpot is set to be won by the player that gets the highest hand (Royal flush) first, and the pay table for other hands is lowered to fund the jackpot. A common winning strategy for VP is to only play a progressive when it rises to a certain level, at which point theoretical return is greater than 100% (if, of course, you are the first to get the Royal Flush). I've been to a casino in NJ where local players filled an entire bank of machines AND waited to take turns when a VP jackpot had risen to a high level, and then they all disappeared as soon as it was won. Since the level of these local VP

jackpots isn't advertised anywhere, it requires a lot of scouting and luck to find such an opportunity.”

Paul and I had this exchange of emails back in early December of 2018.

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

CLOSING

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

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

## Call to Action (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.

## Introduction

This is the next 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 South Dakota slot machine casino gambling in 2020. Here goes!

South Dakota slot machine casino gambling consists of the frontier town of Deadwood's twenty-two commercial casinos as well as nine tribal casinos. Further, there are over 9,000 video lottery terminal (VLT) style gaming machines at retailers and pari-mutuel sites spread throughout the state.

A minimum theoretical payout limit has been set for slot machines at casinos within Deadwood. Further, monthly return statistics are available for Deadwood's casinos. Neither are available for tribal casinos in South Dakota.

## Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in South Dakota

The minimum legal gambling age in South Dakota depends upon the gambling activity:

- Land-Based Casinos & VLTs: 21
- Poker Rooms: 21
- Bingo: 18

- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

In 1989, South Dakota was the first state to offer video lottery terminals (VLTs). Regulation of VLTs at bars and taverns is the responsibility of the South Dakota Lottery. Each retailer can have up to 30 machines per gambling license with a limit of 3 permits per operator. There are currently 1,325 such operators.

In the frontier town of Deadwood, children may accompany their parents in most casinos until 8 p.m. South Dakota is the only U.S. gaming jurisdiction which allows minors to be present while their parents gamble.

South Dakota's American Indian tribes have negotiated and approved tribal-state compacts. These gaming compacts include a sliding scale for how many slot machines each tribal casino may have, specifically:

- 500 gaming machines at the effective date of the compact
- 600 gaming machines after two years
- 750 gaming machines after four years

South Dakota also has two pari-mutuel facilities with horseracing during the spring season, but do not offer slot machines at them. An additional racetrack facility offers dog racing and simulcast betting.

## Slot Machine Private Ownership in South Dakota

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 South Dakota, it is legal to own a slot machine privately if manufactured before 1941.

## Gaming Control Board in South Dakota

The South Dakota Commission on Gaming regulates casino gambling at casinos located within the city of Deadwood.

South Dakota's nine federally-recognized tribes have successfully negotiated tribal-state gaming compacts. There are nine tribal commissions, established upon approval of each tribe's gaming compact. Further, the South Dakota Department of Tribal Relations provides oversight of the tribal casinos.

South Dakota's final gaming control board is the South Dakota Lottery Commission.

## Casinos in South Dakota

In this section, I'll discuss South Dakota gambling establishments.

There are twenty-two commercial casinos in Deadwood, nine American Indian tribal casinos, two pari-mutuel racetracks without slot machines, and 1,325 retail locations with 9,060 video lottery terminal gaming machines in South Dakota.

The largest casino in South Dakota is Royal River Casino Hotel in Flandreau with 386 gaming machines. The second-largest casino is Silverado-Franklin Historic Hotel & Gaming Complex in Deadwood with 361 gaming machines.

## Non-Tribal Casinos in South Dakota

The twenty-two commercial casinos in the city of Deadwood are too many to mention here, but a complete list is on my webpage for this state at [professorslots.com/SD](http://professorslots.com/SD).

## American Indian Casinos in South Dakota

The nine tribal casinos in South Dakota are also too many casinos to mention here, but a complete list and map is on my webpage for this state at [professorslots.com/SD](http://professorslots.com/SD).

## Other Gambling Establishments

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

- North: North Dakota
- East: Iowa and Minnesota
- South: Nebraska
- West: Montana and Wyoming

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 North Dakota slots article is available at [ProfessorSlots.com/ND](http://ProfessorSlots.com/ND).

## Our South Dakota Slots Community Facebook Group

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

## Payout Returns in South Dakota

A minimum theoretical payout limit of 80% over the expected lifetime of a machine has been set for slot machines at casinos in the tourist town of Deadwood.

The tribal casinos do not have a theoretical payout limit. Furthermore, the South Dakota Lottery provides the odds of winning for VLT electronic gaming machines limited to poker, keno, blackjack, and bingo.

Return statistics are available annually for Deadwood's casinos from the Gaming Division of the South Dakota Department of Revenue. Release of these annual reports are eleven months after the fiscal year ending in June has passed.

Therefore, the most recent annual report is from June 2019. Included within this report are month-by-month return statistics by slot machine denomination from mid-2018 thru mid-2019.

The annual player win percent (100% minus casino hold percent) at all Deadwood casinos by slot machine denomination are on my webpage for South Dakota at [professorslots.com/SD](https://www.professorslots.com/SD).

The highest annual player win% went to dime denomination slot machines followed closely by \$5 machines. The lowest return went to penny slots.

## Summary of South Dakota Slots in 2020

In summary, South Dakota slot machine casino gambling consists of twenty-two casinos in Deadwood, nine tribal casinos, and VLT-style non-slots gaming machines spread throughout the state.

Deadwood casinos have a minimum theoretical payout limit of 80% and annual return statistics available. VLT gaming machines have their odds of winning online. Tribal casinos do not have a payout limit nor return statistics.

## Annual Progress in South Dakota Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, the Deadwood Gulch Saloon permanently closed.

## Call to Action (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 will include 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 [YouTube.com/ProfessorSlots](https://YouTube.com/ProfessorSlots). Feel free to stop by anytime during my hour-long live Q&A session.

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 Tennessee.

## 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/episode103](https://professorslots.com/episode103).

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.