

PS 98: Using a Player's Card Live | Oregon Slots in 2020

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #98 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses using a player's card. Plus, in this episode I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of Oregon.

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 how a neighboring state's gaming regulations may be a whole lot better than your home state's regs from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Oklahoma 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, July 4, 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 player's club cards. Are they worth using? What do you get from them? And what might you be losing?

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!

First off, I have a quick announcement. Happy 4th of July! Whoo-hoo! Personally, I'm staying home lately. I can, so I do. That's why. Ohio casinos even opened last week, and I haven't gone. And I'm sure you know tough that's been, not going. But I just can't see how going would help you and other members of my audience. Sure, how does an Ohio casino crawl out of a pandemic would make for a fine article, but when will we need that again? When's the next pandemic, in a hundred years like the last one? I certainly hope so!

Anyway, here I am live streaming on the Fourth of July. Any other year, and I probably wouldn't because there's no way I'd want to take you way from all you might have going on today. But maybe that's not the case this year. Maybe you're enjoying your time at home and not going out. So, I say, if you're here on the live stream, that's great. If you've got holiday activities planned, please go do that! I might go out myself if I didn't have next door neighbors shooting off huge firework displays... starting last night and, if they do what they've always done, again tonight and tomorrow night as well. Three nights in a row well into the night! Lovely! But my poor cats.... Okay, enough with announcements. Back to the show!

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, 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 4th, 2020 and this morning the American Gaming Association's live casino tracker shows 827 U.S. casinos have re-opened and 162 remain closed. That's right, another 48 casinos opened in the last week, we're up from 79% last Saturday to nearly 84% of U.S. casinos having re-opened. For updates, visit AGA's live casino tracker using this convenient link: ProfessorSlots.com/tracker.

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

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. If you're listening on the podcast, call 702-90-SLOTS and leave a voicemail.

If you're on the live chat, put it in the live chat. If it's a long question, and this goes to you if you're watching the video recording later, just type it in as a comment below.

Today's topic is player's club cards. In my private Facebook group for Oklahoma slots enthusiasts, Amber asked this question: "To use or not to use, that is the question!!! Does anyone think they win less when they use their players card in the machine?" I think the only other post that ever got more comments was Mary asking "how much do you usual take to the casino?"

Some say that they've tried it both ways, using a card and not using a card, and they haven't noticed a difference. Others said they don't use a card and feel like they win more without it. That's basically the two ends of the spectrum in responses. The in-between comments are interesting – lots of good discussion going on!

I'll mention now that if you haven't joined one or more of my private Facebook groups for slots enthusiasts in your state, then you're missing out. For example, I got a question this morning about current restrictions in one state's casinos, and responses are coming in about the casino's response plan on their website and ... how well that's going, if at all, from slots enthusiasts who were there last night. Or right now. Otherwise, if you want to know if there's a long line to get in, ask. People in line are checking in on Facebook and will let you know! To find the link to your state's local slots enthusiast group on Facebook, use this convenient link I've created: [ProfessorSlots.com/FB](https://www.facebook.com/ProfessorSlots.com/FB). Join us!

Some comments match my own experiences, which is that casino employees have told me that using a card or not using a card doesn't matter. Other members confirm that they've always used their card even when they've gotten larger jackpots, including \$5k and \$10k jackpots in one night with the card in.

As I said, it's a lively and fascinating discussion. That's why I'm talking about player's cards today! As it happens, players cards are an important topic for slots enthusiasts, so I have written an article and recorded a podcast about it, but have not yet made a YouTube video for it. The article is 7 Advantages of Players Clubs for Playing Slots and the podcast was episode #16. Episode #72 also meanders around the topic of players clubs a bit from my last live stream of 2019. Neither of those past episodes dealt with this particular question, however.

How do YOU feel about players club cards? Yea or nay? Comment below on YouTube if you're watching this video later. Or call 702-90-slots and leave a message! And those of you in the live chat know what to do. I'd like to hear what you think!

Some people can be very convinced that using a loyalty club card matters. When playing slots at a casino myself, how many times have I heard someone tell me that I'd win more if only I'd stop using my card? Lots of times! It's ironic though, that the only reason these people were talking to me was because I was waiting for the slot attendant to show up with my hand pay.

Near the beginning of one long session where I was playing the same slot machine while occasionally winning hand pays while cycling my bankroll endlessly which, by the way, is my favorite type of winning slot machine, a nice couple talked with me early on while I was waiting for a slot attendant, and they shared sage advice about making sure I took my players card out a lot. To do that often! I thanked them and went back to what I was doing. I know this isn't quite the same as not using a players card, but it's worth mentioning this approach when we're already talking about cards. Anyway, a couple of hours later they can back and saw me waiting again for my latest hand pay at that same slot machine. They said, "See! It works! You took your card out a lot, right?" And I had to tell them that I hadn't.

I didn't tell them they were wrong, or anything like that. That would have been rude of mean, since they looked crushed enough by my not following their suggestion from hours before, but it's also possible that we were both right.

It was that many live streams ago that we talked about this. At casinos with central servers controlling the odds of winning on slot machines, which is most casinos these days, letting the machine set idle for a few minutes without a player's card or bankroll in it is when casinos can change the odds on the machine. For me, in the story I just told you about, I liked the odds of winning I was getting from that machine. There was no way I was going to risk the casino changing its odds of winning from where they'd set it that morning when I arrived. Sure, I could have removed my card, but if my bankroll happened to be at zero at the same time, then I was risking all my profit from the rest of that session – hours of play and a number of hand pays. So, for me, no! But for them? Well, for them, maybe that's what they needed. Let's say you're walking around the casino playing the occasional slot machine. Why wouldn't you take your players club card out a lot? Maybe giving the casino the opportunity of resetting its odds would approve your gambling performance. Right? Maybe that would turn that slot machine into a winning machine! My concern though is that they'd risk losing those better odds if they kept pulling out the card. Still, it's not a bad approach. It's certainly better than sitting at a slot machine with your card firmly placed in the player's club interface while you sit there and continue to lose money.... Hmmm. This sounds like a winning slots tip. It's kind of a ... "what to do if you're not winning so try this" sort of tip.

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

Okay, that was great!

Now, let's talk about the technical goodies that go into players reward cards. How you feel about your players club card is tremendously important. I want and encourage to listen to your gut when playing slots. Whether we consciously recognize it or not, we observe what's going on subconsciously far more thoroughly than most people realize. So, please, take your feelings seriously.

But we also have science and technology. If it is happening, that using a player's card means you're winning less, is it technically possible? If so, how exactly? And what do the gaming regulations have to say about this? Is it legal?

There're three answers to this question, each based on a different set of gaming regulations. That's why there are three answers – because there are three sets of rules.

- First, there's Class III games-of-chance gaming machines
- Second, there's Class II games-of-skill gaming machines
- And third, there's HHR gaming machines based on pari-mutuel wagering regulations at horse and dog racing tracks.

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!

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 Oregon slot machine casino gambling in 2020. Here goes!

Oregon slot machine casino gambling consists of nine tribal casinos and many bars, taverns and pari-mutuel wagering sites with video lottery terminal (VLT) style slot machines.

There is a theoretical payout limit for non-tribal VLTs but none for video slot machines at the tribal casinos. No return statistics are publicly available.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Oregon

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

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

Oregon state law says bars and taverns can have up to six VLT-style slot machines, along with a restriction on how close together these businesses may be relative to one another.

Pari-mutuel wagering sites may have up to ten VLT-style slot machines.

At non-tribal locations, the maximum bet is \$2.50 while the maximum jackpot is \$600.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Oregon

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

Gaming Control Board in Oregon

The Oregon Lottery regulates VLT-style gaming machines at non-tribal retailers. The Lottery's 1992 video poker lottery terminal network was the first centrally controlled gaming system in the U.S. In 2005, the VLT network added Class III Vegas-style line games for slots.

Eight out of Oregon's nine federally-recognized American Indian tribes have negotiated tribal-state gaming compacts. Regulation of tribal gaming in Oregon is by the Oregon State Police and the Tribal Gaming Commissions of each individual tribe.

The Oregon Tribal Gaming Alliance (OTGA) is a coalition of these tribes which own and operate casinos in Oregon. In 2015, tribal gaming accounted for less than 32% of all gaming conducted in Oregon. Nearly two-thirds of gaming takes place at 2,550 commercial sites.

Casinos in Oregon

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

There are nine American Indian tribal casinos in Oregon. The largest casino in Oregon is Spirit Mountain Casino with 2,000 gaming machines. The second-largest casino is Wildhorse Resort & Casino with 1,200 gaming machines.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Oregon

Statewide, Oregon has 2,550 retailers operated by the Oregon Lottery.

American Indian Casinos in Oregon

There are nine tribal casinos in Oregon. As usual when there are too many casinos to mention here, a complete list and map is on my webpage for this state at professorslots.com/OR.

Other Gambling Establishments

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

- North: Washington
- East: Idaho
- South: California and Nevada
- West: The Pacific Ocean

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 Washington slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/WA.

Our Oregon Slots Community Facebook Group

Are you interested in sharing and learning with other slots enthusiasts in Oregon? If so, join our Oregon slots community on Facebook at professorslots.com/FBOR. 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 Oregon. Again, use this convenient link I've created to go directly to our Group on Facebook: professorslots.com/FBOR. Join us!

Payout Returns in Oregon

For Oregon's tribal casinos, no payout limits have been set nor are actual return statistics publicly available.

For non-tribal sites controlled by the Oregon Lottery, theoretical payout limits are available within the game's menu for each individual VLT-style gaming machine.

A payout range is due to potential bonus rounds or other game features. The maximum theoretical payout is 96%. Extended play games may exceed this maximum. These payout percentages by game theme are also online at the Oregon Lottery. For example:

- Five Times Pay Line Game has a payout percentage of 91.99%
- Dragon Fire Keno has a payout percentage range of 91.84% to 92.42%

Summary of Oregon Slots in 2020

In summary, Oregon slot machine casino gambling consists of nine tribal casinos and 2,550 commercial sites including pari-mutuel wagering facilities. Retailers can have six gaming machines while racetrack betting sites can have ten machines.

There is no theoretical payout limit for video slot machines at Oregon's tribal casinos, nor are return statistics publicly available. However, non-tribal VLTs each show their theoretical payout limit within the game theme menu as well as online at the Oregon Lottery. The maximum theoretical limit for these non-tribal VLTs is 96%.

Annual Progress in Oregon Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, there has been little to no change in the Oregon slots gaming industry

Call to Action #3 (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.

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. 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. state of Pennsylvania.

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/episode98.

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:

Would you win more if you didn't use your player's club card? Casinos give away free stuff with their clubs: free slots play, shorter lines, comps, travel, hosts, & events. The higher the tier level & the greater your recent play, the better the free stuff. But is it truly anything you want? Plus, Oregon slots in 2020.

156-character description:

Would you win more if you didn't use your player's club card? Casinos give away free stuff. But is it truly anything you want? Plus, Oregon slots in 2020.