

PS 110: Casino Safety Live | Washington Slots in 2020

Opening

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

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 can you guess who controls slot machine odds from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Virginia 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 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, September 26, 2020

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

OPENING

Hello, slots enthusiasts! How are you? My name is Jon Friedl. Welcome to Professor Slots, a channel that helps you master casino slots so you can win your way to success!

It's great to see you all here again for another Professor Slots podcast episode and live stream. If you're with us live, be sure to say hello and ask your slots-related questions! I'll get to those later in the show.

Today we're going to be diving into casino safety first, followed by the risks of playing online slots and more.

INTRODUCTION TO CASINO SAFETY

Ultimately, each of us is responsible for our own safety, wherever we may be. To me, this means I expect casinos to have operational security in place. And also, from my perspective as a slots enthusiast, that I know how casino safety functions. I decide if casino safety is sufficient and, if not, find another casino having satisfactory casino safety.

This article is my attempt to logically walk through general patron movements and their most common actions when visiting a casino. I'll also assess and discuss any potential points of vulnerability in casino safety. It is not intended to instill a sense of fear.

It is my hope that this article will assist players to develop situational awareness within the casino environment. Naturally, I'll be emphasizing gambling via slot machines whether they are inside or outside of high limit slot rooms.

Here are my casino safety topics discussed below:

- Slots players carry cash
- Casino security and the services they provide
- Crime impacts a casino's reputation
- Bringing a friend to watch your back

Are you ready, comfortable even, to request a pair of casino security guards escort you to their car? Are you ready to have a dozen strangers standing around them while winning one taxable jackpot after another?

All these topics and more need to be discussed so players are fully aware of their own safety. Personally, I enjoy my time at a casino better when I know and believe I am safe.

SLOTS PLAYERS CARRY CASH

Why develop this situational awareness for the casino environment? The answer is simple: Slots players carry cash. Unfortunately, even the possibility of carrying cash can be attractive to people having a criminal intent. Again, this is not intended to instill fear, but to point out a hard truth.

Gambling is a cash business. At some point when gambling via slot machines at a casino, players are carrying around some cash, i.e., their bankroll. With this cash in their pocket, they may have parked in a nearby parking structure, then used its elevator to reach the casino entrance.

Or, maybe they didn't arrive at the casino with cash but rather withdrew it within the casino from an ATM. However a player actually arrives at the casino floor with their bankroll, there was a time and distance across which they were carrying cash.

However, casinos work incredibly hard to provide as safe an environment as they possibly can everywhere a patron might enjoy gambling in their establishment. But, how?

Consider what happens when winning a taxable jackpot. Players can ask to receive a check or some combination of check and cash. In my experience, it just doesn't happen.

In all my time in casinos winning and seeing others win jackpots, only once have I seen anyone request a check instead of cash. And, that person was me. Even so, I did so only after winning a car. Even then, it was only for half of the \$40,000 cash prize.

Poker players have a good solution: Bring a bag for your personal items, including cash. Yes, it'll need to be examined by security upon entering the casino. And, yes, you'll have to keep an eye on it at all times. But, when everyone has one, it's inconspicuous.

CASINO SECURITY SERVICES

What casino safety services are in place, exactly? Where should a player park, say, in the parking structure or by using the valet service? Or, perhaps top-tier players should park in the priority parking spots often provided to them?

What about when leaving the casino? What if you've won a jackpot, but didn't happen to park via the valet service or in priority parking. How exactly do you get from the site of a jackpot to my car in the parking lot or structure?

How much cash is it going to take before a player starts to feel a little nervous? For me, all of my initial taxable jackpots made me a nervous, even when the largest was "only" \$5,000. But, I told myself it'd simply been a long time since I'd seen that much cash.

If you've decided to go home, and you're uncomfortable about how much cash you're carrying, press the service button for a slot attendant. Once they arrive, just tell them you need security to walk you to your car.

Let's say that you're relatively alone in an area of the casino floor. And, suddenly, you need help. In practice, players only have three real options: press the service button on the slot machine they're sitting at, get the heck out of the area, or yell.

A worst-case scenario, the absolute last thing to do, is to get into a physical altercation. Yelling for help is all that is needed in a casino environment, as it both acts as a deterrent to the attacker while simultaneously bringing assistance.

Finally, remember that security cameras have multiple views of every area of the casino. While it may take a moment for security to get to you, it's all recorded.

CASINO SAFETY IS LINKED TO CASINO REPUTATION

There is no question that individual and family safety is important to you. It's also important to casinos, as an incident wherein a crime is perpetrated upon a casino patron has equally serious consequences for the casino.

Possible damage to a casino business includes a loss of reputation and income. This can occur both with the patron or patrons involved in an incident. Damage can also occur with patrons as a whole, if or when the incident becomes public knowledge.

Incidents become public knowledge in several ways, including news reporting, word of mouth, and possibly even through gaming regulatory requirements.

Ohio's Casino Control Commission (<http://casinocontrol.ohio.gov/>) is the legal authority that regulates gaming in the great state of Ohio. Every state's gaming commission is different. And, Ohio reports on any crimes committed at casinos within that state.

Ohio's Gaming Crimes & Statistics are updated quarterly under their Enforcement tab on their website. If your state provides similar crime statistics, wouldn't this information impact which casinos you like?

To help slots enthusiasts in all U.S. States, U.S. Territories, and Federal Districts, I've already begun a year-long blog series entitled "Gambling Questions Answered: State-By-State".

Each week, I post a researched article on the next state. I've working through them alphabetically. Last week on Tuesday, I finished my third time through all 56 of them when I reviewed and update Wyoming's article.

BRINGING A FRIEND FOR CASINO SAFETY

At slots, players focus on a row of machines while having limited peripheral vision. They can see directly forward, where their attention is fully focused. It is quite possible to be completely unaware even if someone sits down within a couple of chairs on either side.

The best practice on being safe at a casino is simply to take someone along who can stay alert and watchful of the surroundings for a player while they face the slot machine and bet. Plus, if the player's friends want to play, the first player can watch their back in return.

Bringing a companion mitigates many potential safety concerns found within the casino environment. And, quite possibly, it may make the whole experience more pleasurable.

A companion can act as a guard whose mere presence prevents the attempt of criminal activity. Playing slot machines isn't like table games, where a casino employee is facing the player and the player is likely a part of a group of gamblers.

If you are alone in a casino, then you'll need to trust and listen to your instincts. They are far more honed than most people understand. Our ancestors have left us with a legacy of amazing survival instincts whether we are consciously aware of them or not.

So, when relatively alone and someone walks up behind, take a careful look at them. How do they make you feel? What does your gut say? Whatever the feeling, trust it.

SUMMARY OF CASINO SAFETY

Casinos are very safe places. Players probably don't need to worry about their safety at most of them. However, like your honor, it's intrinsically more important to you than anyone else.

The best practice on being safe at a casino is simply to take someone along who can stay alert and watchful of the surroundings for a player while they face the slot machine and bet. Plus, if the player's friends want to play, the first player can watch their back in return.

Be careful about being extravagant at a casino. Casinos reserve the right to kick out anyone. It isn't necessary, or sometimes even possible, to keep an extraordinarily low profile when amazing events occur.

But, \$100 tips to the beverage servers on a whim is easily observable by others. Not to mention, overreacting after winning jackpots with exuberant screams heard throughout the casino is less than discreet.

Casino safety is your responsibility. Be aware that

1. Bags can be an inconspicuous and safe way to carry cash and personal items.
2. Casino security is available to walk you to your car upon request.
3. Camera surveillance is always on (outside of restrooms). Everywhere. From multiple angles.

4. Casino's fight crime like their reputation depends on it. Because it does.
5. If at all possible, bring a friend. If alone, trust your instincts.

INTERLUDE

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

That was excellent!

Visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](https://professorslots.com/) 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.

BODY

Next up this hour is more on casino safety. Let's start with the risks involved with online slots and, if we have time, some of the unregulated gaming machine options found in a few states.

First, I don't cover online slots. Back during the spring and summer when all casinos shut down due to the pandemic, several slots enthusiasts asked my opinion about switching to playing online slots. I didn't recommend it, not at all. But I never really talked about why not.

First, it's entirely luck-based gambling. The companies that own these computer games have no reason to act like physical casinos. Physical casinos need you to visit them. To get transportation, move around the casino, sit down, use the restroom as needed, maybe find yourself a drink or otherwise ask for one, talk to other people, maybe get some food and, with all that, spend money playing slot machines.

Online slots companies only need you to spend money. All the rest of the physical casino experience just isn't there. That physical casino experience matters to casinos. How long you stay and how much you spend on food, drinks, and slots matters to their financial performance. So, physical casinos have standard business practices to get you to stay. And that's where I come in with my winning slots strategies that take advantage of whichever standard business practices a casino chooses to use.

None of this exists for online slots. There's no food, drinks, crowds, or anything else other than your computer screen. Therefore, there is no need for these online slots companies to develop standard business practices to take advantage of.

I'll come back to what all this means for you in a moment, but beforehand I need to explain that there are two kinds of online slots. Two very different kinds of online slots.

Let's start with the safe kind where you absolutely win nothing. These are "fun" online games where anything won can only be used to play the game more. Nothing you win can be withdrawn and deposited into your bank account.

These are the types of games you can find on, say, Facebook. It's also the type of games BC Slots will play with you when he's not at a physical casino meeting fans and videotaping his playing a slot machine at a casino. Have you seen those videos where he encourages you to sign up and join the online slots company sponsoring his show, where he gets a small commission for every person who signs up with that company? "Play with me!", he says.

This type of online slots isn't gambling. You're paying a company to play a game where nothing can be won except entertainment. Can you win? Sure, but only virtual money which has no monetary value and exists only in the game. Caesars Entertainment used to have an online slots program like this on Facebook. I remember winning my first \$1 billion jackpot. Of course, it wasn't in U.S. dollars. It was in Caesars Entertainment virtual dollars. I think their using the word "dollars" was a little shifty of them, instead of using the word "coin", because of the confusion it might cause. But who am I to say?

These companies make their money through in-game advertisements and the occasional in-game purchase. For instance, they usually give you free coins each day to play ... but if you use them up and want to continue to play, then you'll need to purchase more. And these are very convenient once you attach your checking account to the game. More coins then become only a click away. And, again, it's only every withdrawals from your bank account and never, ever a deposit.

Then there is another type of online slots with far greater risk to you. Please be very careful to understand which is which. The second type of online slots is for real-money gambling. As we speak, almost all states block access to these sites unless online slots are legal in that state. For instance, New Jersey is one of the few states which has legalized online casinos including online slots. However, you must be physically located within the state. Also, they only recommend playing at online sites they have verified, such as the online offering of casinos located in Atlantic City.

Most other online casinos for real-money gambling are illegal and for good reason. They're unregulated. You might say, so what? So, let me use other words instead of "unregulated." How about, you have no legal protections? With no legal protections, you really, really don't want to give your bank account information, much less your social security number, to these companies located in some international country which can easily disappear into the internet. Need I say more?

Since this is an international show, lots of online slots companies for real-money gambling is readily available in many countries outside of the U.S. If you're located in the UK, for instance, you have lots of choices for online slots. And, because they've been

around a while there, you also have these fantastic companies who have made it their business to rate, review, and verify the many, many online casinos available. It's a whole industry including gaming regulations from the relevant gaming jurisdictions.

The U.S. has nothing like this except in small pockets like New Jersey and possibly Nevada. Maybe. In the future, but not soon, the U.S. may have everything that's needed to keep online slots players safe. Right now, it doesn't. Not at all.

CLOSING

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

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 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 Washington slot machine casino gambling in 2020. Here goes!

Washington slot machine casino gambling consists of 31 tribal casinos with a unique type of electronic player terminal based on scratch tickets controlled by a state-wide Tribal Lottery System (TLS).

All state-tribal compacts set a minimum theoretical payout limit. However, no return statistics are publicly available.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Washington

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

- Land-Based Casinos: 21/18 depending upon the casino
- Poker Rooms: 18

- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

Washington's player terminals at tribal casinos are based on the lottery's scratch ticket games in electronic form. This unique form of slot machines makes Washington slot machines unique in the U.S. All other U.S.-based lottery terminals are based on draw lotteries, not from lotteries other game: scratch tickets.

Twenty-nine tribes originally negotiated tribal-state compacts to offer gambling at tribal casinos. However, the state and these tribes could not agree whether Vegas-style slot machines should be legal in Washington.

Scratch-based gaming machines resulted from early negotiations of these gaming compacts. This impasse resolution led to creating a secondary lottery system for player terminals at tribal casinos. The state lottery was a model for the TLS.

Draw-based terminals create tickets at the time of the bet using random number generators (RNGs). However, scratch-based terminals know in advance the result of each wager. Put another way, the outcome of each bet is pre-determined and do not require an RNG.

Another technical difference between lottery draw tickets and scratch tickets is how many of them can exist. For example, there are as many draw tickets as players are willing to buy. However, lotteries create only a limited number of scratch tickets but, hopefully, enough for a busy night at a Washington tribal casino.

All negotiated tribal-state compacts also have other legal restrictions for their scratch-based terminal-style slot machines. These limits have been expanding over time as part of this state's dynamic gaming industry. The requirements are:

- Allows replaying of credits won
- No handles
- No mechanical spinning wheels
- A minimum payout return (see below)
- \$5 maximum wager on 85% on VLTs
- \$20 maximum wager on 15% of VLTs
- Cap of 2,500 VLT machines per tribe

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Washington

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

Gaming Control Board in Washington

The gaming control board is the Washington State Gambling Commission offering licensing, regulation, and enforcement of certain aspects of the gaming industry in Washington. Their regulatory responsibilities primarily include testing and approving new electronic gaming machines.

Further, each tribe with a casino in Washington has a tribal gaming agency (TGA). Agents of a TGA are the primary regulators at tribal casinos. At all times, at least one TGA agent must be on duty at a tribal casino.

Casinos in Washington

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

There are 31 American Indian tribal casinos and multiple cruise ships based in the state of Washington. The largest casino in Washington is Muckleshoot Casino with 3,125 electronic gaming terminals. The second-largest casino is Ilani Casino Resort with 2,500 electronic gaming terminals.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Washington

The state of Washington has no commercial casinos with slot machines.

American Indian Casinos in Washington

The state of Washington has 31 tribal casinos. 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/WA.

Other Gambling Establishments

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

- North: The Canadian Province of British Columbia

- East: Idaho
- South: Oregon
- 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 Idaho slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/ID.

Our Washington Slots Community Facebook Group

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

Payout Returns in Washington

The TLS directly controls the results of Washington's unique terminal-style slot machines. TLS' central computer system provides the outcome of each bet made on each terminal at the time of the wager. This off-site control extends to any bonus rounds.

All tribal-state compacts in Washington established a minimum theoretical payout of 75% for slot machines. Further, no return statistics for slots are available to the public.

Summary of Washington Slots in 2020

In summary, Washington slot machine casino gambling consists of 31 tribal casinos with electronic scratch ticket video player terminal slot machines. The state-run Tribal Lottery System (TLS) controls the results of all bets offsite from the tribal casinos.

Tribal-state compacts have set a minimum theoretical payout of 75% for their unique terminal-style electronic slot machines. No return statistics are available to the public.

Annual Progress in Washington Slot Machine Casino Gambling

Over the last year, Tulalip Resort Casino with its 2,400 gaming machines has dropped from second largest casino to third largest, replaced by Ilani Casino Resort with its 2,500 gaming machines.

Further, two tribal casinos have opened within the last year, including Kalispel Casino in Cusick located 53 miles north of Spokane and Spokane Tribe Casino in Airway Heights a few miles west of Spokane.

Call to Action (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 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. 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 West Virginia.

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/episode110.

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!