

PS 126: Beginner Slots Players Primer Live | Idaho Slots in 2021

Opening

Hello! Today's episode #126 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses a primer for beginning slots players. Plus, in this episode, I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of Idaho.

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 return-to-player statistics for Florida's commercial casinos from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Hawaii slot machine casino gambling in 2021.

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 January 30, 2021

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 devoted to mastering casino slots so you can win your way to success!

Today we're going to be diving into a trip down memory lane. Do you remember your first trip to a casino to play slot machines?

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, ask your slots-related questions, and

sharing your own first trip to a casino. How long ago was it? Last week or 15 years ago? I'll get to those a little later in the show.

Thanks to all the early arrivals, those that showed up before the start of the show, and the friendly discussion we had in chat. Also, thanks to the many new slots enthusiasts that are continuing to show up at my weekly live stream. You are very welcome to be here!

BODY

INTRODUCTION

Do you remember the first time you entered a casino as a beginner slots player? I know I do. What I remember most is being extremely confused. It was so dark, yet with so many lights. And the smoke everywhere! Perhaps you remember something similar?

My intent is to be genuinely helpful to slots players. While I think I still have a long way yet to go before I've shared everything that's needed, I also believe I have been somewhat of service so far.

But perhaps you are only just beginning your slots journey. What have I done for you to ease your way into becoming a healthy, happy slots enthusiast? So, this article is for you, the beginner slots player, to, well, help.

ENTERING A CASINO FOR THE FIRST TIME

My first experience at slot machine gambling was in 2003 at a small tribal casino (Kewadin Casino in Manistique, Michigan) in the upper peninsula. I was taking a long drive back to graduate school in Iowa after visiting family in the lower peninsula and had found a hotel at which to spend the night.

A casino was located just down the highway from that hotel. I wasn't aware of the casino being there until the hotel provided \$20 worth of tokens to play at it.

I remember feeling a little nervous about entering a casino for the first time in my life. I mean, what would my family of non-gamblers think? But I gathered up my courage and went on in.

I found it to be a highly distracting place: loud, lots of flashing lights, and smoke. This was a time when smoking was more fashionable than it is today, so there was a great deal of cigarette and cigar smoke in the air. This is still true today in some states, such as Nevada, although ventilation has gotten a whole lot better.

I distinctly remember rapidly spending the \$20 worth of tokens on slots. Plus, another \$50 besides which I could ill afford to lose. At the time I was a poor graduate student on

a research stipend working a side job as a temporary instructor of college physics. I'd just spent my food money for the trip home.

Did I win anything that first time at a casino? No, I don't think so. Why don't I know if I had won or not? Frankly, how would I have known if I had? If I did, it wasn't enough to grab my attention.

Maybe a few numbers changed on the player's console, and the slot machine made an unusual sound. So? What of it? From my perspective, it was doing that every time I made a bet anyway.

I left the casino after having spent \$50 I could barely afford to lose. As I continued home on that long road trip, I started thinking about gambling with slot machines. Since then, I've more-or-less never really stopped doing so.

After a few months of dwelling on that first experience, I happened to be visiting the Omaha Zoo just over the western border of Iowa in Nebraska. There, I saw a casino (Lakeside Casino in Osceola, Iowa) on the river. Hint: it was a riverboat casino.

With those months of thinking figuratively behind me, I'd concluded from my first visit that I needed a rule for how much I should allow myself to spend whenever, or if ever, I entered another casino.

The careful rule I came up with was this: "Take a fixed amount into the casino, say \$25, and spend only that plus whatever you make from it."

With this simple rule and \$25 in hand, I entered this second casino at about 2 o'clock in the afternoon on a Saturday ... and left almost 12 hours later at 1 a.m. Yes, that's right, 12 hours. Why? Because I'd carefully followed my rule.

My error was that I hadn't been prepared for success. This has continued to plague me, by the way. The error which my simple rule didn't account for was this: Almost immediately after entering this second casino, I won \$500 on a 25-cent slot machine.

Doing so left me feeling quite emotional, which inclined me to try to stick firmly to the rule – which I proceeded to do. As the afternoon and evening passed into the early morning, I continued to win additional small, nontaxable jackpots.

Eventually, I spent my \$25 along with what I'd won with it. And so, this was my second experience at a casino. I'd gone from slots gambling for 10 minutes to a marathon 12-hour session.

I did try to find a hotel that morning, instead of driving home at such a late hour (and coming as close as I've ever gotten to hitting a deer on the highway), but the nearby hotel wouldn't accept a credit card – only cash.

The hotel staff insinuated that people would provide a credit card to the hotel upon arrival, but afterward max out their credit limit at the casino. At check-out, they wouldn't be able to pay their hotel bill the following morning. That shocked me.

My point here isn't about my not being able to get a hotel room, but that this was my first real clue that gambling was ... complicated. It consisted of more than just the act of making a bet by pushing a button.

It exists in a unique environment where loud sounds, flashing lights, second-hand smoke, and even gambling abuses can occur. How fascinating!

MY INITIAL GAMBLING RULES

After these first two casino gambling experiences, I spent more and more time thinking about them without much progress in learning how to win. I wasn't yet thinking about how to win, however. Rather, I was mostly thinking about the potential dangers of what I was getting myself into.

Eventually, I made a decision to keep trying to figure out this whole slots gambling thing. I wasn't expecting to win any significant amount of money, not ever. But I was hoping not to lose a significant amount of money.

At the time, for me, my primary motivation was wanting to develop better control over my emotions while gambling at a casino. When there, I was feeling overwhelmed by my strong emotions. I didn't like feeling ruled, at times almost controlled, by my emotions.

If my reaction to these strong emotions was a personal weakness, I knew I wouldn't just find myself exposing this behavior at a casino. I could potentially be surprised by it at any other time. For example, while living my life or when working professionally. I felt I needed to understand and, if I could, address it.

So, with this reasoning in mind for proceeding with gaining additional slot machine gambling experiences, I took a long look around where I lived for any nearby casinos within driving distance. As it happened, there was a nice casino relatively nearby.

This local casino (Prairie Meadows in Altoona, Iowa) had table games, floors of slot machines, a high limit slot room, and horse racing. And, oh, the splendor of the buffet!

To all my senses, it was simply delightful. So, with that limited assessment of a gambling establishment, about every month or more I'd take about \$25 from my monthly stipend to go there with the full expectation of gambling it all away on slot machines.

But would I...? But that's just my story. Instead, let's talk about your story.

INTERLUDE

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

That was excellent!

If I've already helped you make money at slots, give me a tip using the dollar-sign icon at the bottom of the live chat window.

Here's how that works. Simply click on the dollar sign icon and select the Super Chat option. The Super Sticker option also works, but it's not as easy. Under the Super Chat option, you'll see a sliding scale to choose an amount. Or just type in the exact amount of your support. Directly under that amount is where you type a message everyone can see. Finally, click the Buy and Send button where you'll be taken to enter your card info. Thank you so much for your support!

Now let's get back to

BODY

THE CHANGING STATE OF GAMBLING, IN BRIEF

Legal large-scale gambling in the U.S. started in Nevada in 1931. There was Las Vegas, of course, but also Reno, Lake Tahoe, and others. It basically stayed there until legalized in Atlantic City, New Jersey in 1978.

Legalized gambling in Atlantic City provided casinos convenient to gamblers on the east coast. And this balance of gambling between Nevada and Atlantic City continued until around the end of the 1980s. At that point, everything started changing more and more rapidly.

Basically, in 1988 tribal casinos became permitted by federal law. Although, tribes did need to negotiate state-tribal compacts with the state their reservations were located within. These negotiations typically took years.

Another substantial change happened in the early 1990s when riverboat casinos became legal in several midwestern states. Originally, state law required these casinos to travel on water, or at least unmoor from a dock, before any gambling could occur.

In the mid-90s, online gambling started up outside of the U.S. This got out of control fast, until various legal restrictions began protecting players. For a while, this protection was to block online gambling in the continental U.S.

By doing so, the U.S. Senate was not just protecting players, but also land-based casinos hurt by online gambling from outside the U.S. Not long after, Canada did much the same.

Besides tribal gaming, this was the limit of federal laws restricting gambling in the U.S. until the banning and recent un-banning of sports betting at the federal level.

What all this means is simple. Gambling has become prevalent in the U.S., especially the most popular type of gambling there is: slot machine casino gambling.

There is another side of the coin, as it were, to all this growth and expansion of gambling. All through these changes to the gaming industry in the U.S. and abroad, the technology of gambling was also growing and expanding.

For example, as you might imagine, the impact of microchips and the internet was profound to slots. For a succinct article capturing these near-constant technological developments of slots machines, see [The Ultimate Guide to Slot Machine History](#).

My point of view is that slot machine casino gambling has changed a lot in the last few decades. Further, I believe that these changes will keep on happening. Knowing what has happened in the past will help us understand the future.

Some of the biggest changes occurring right now are related to slot machines no longer being fully random. Frankly, there are degrees of randomness. In the past, most casinos controlled the odds of winning on a slot machine by having slots mechanics physically adjust the odds on a regular schedule perhaps 2 weeks long.

Nowadays, at casinos built or heavily renovated since 2012, this is automated. Doing so both reduced the casino labor force and provided a near real-time understanding of the performance of the casino for its operator.

And therein lies the secret to winning at slot machine casino gambling. But all that is a bit much for the beginner slots player. What you need to know is, the randomness of slot machines isn't always fully random. There are patterns to this randomness and, if you know to look for them, you can find them.

BEGINNING YOUR SLOTS JOURNEY

Maybe you've yet to visit a casino. Maybe you have visited a casino and wondered what the heck just happened. You might even have gone many times but want to restart your slots journey for one of several reasons.

If you're just started on your slots journey, you may not know how much playing slots has changed so much in the last few years. That's fine, as more than a few regular slots players haven't kept up with all the changes of late. Or, rather, what the changes mean.

So, let us begin your journey together. Your first step? Well, it's probably not visiting a casino. Your first step is to search for info online. Maybe that's how you found me!

Most people have several casinos near them. In Iowa, for instance, every resident has at least one casino within an hour drive.

What about you? How many casinos are near you? Well, I shouldn't explain how to use Google, but here's a hint: Type "casinos near me" in Google. Doing so will show a map with all the casinos in your area. Cool, huh?

Or use my Online Resource for U.S. Casino Slots Enthusiasts with links to my state-by-state slots review articles including lists of state's casinos as well as their websites ... and a map!

What you want to do is visit the websites of casinos near you. See what they have to offer that you might like. Don't focused entirely on gambling. For instance, you'll probably want a nice meal occasionally, right? So look at what nearby casinos have to offer which might interest you.

That's about all the preparation you'll need to start, other than The Golden Rule of Slots.

INTERLUDE

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

BODY

THE GOLDEN RULE

There is a danger to gambling for the first time. I'm not a medical professional, so I cannot explain this danger as well as I would like. But this is the danger: You don't know how you will involuntarily react to gambling until you do it the first time.

It's kind of like that first alcoholic drink. With it, some people immediately realize they are an alcoholic. It can ruin lives and doing something about it successfully will be a life-long endeavor.

I don't mean to scare you. Not at all. Many people find recreational gambling to be quite entertaining. But others find out they are compulsive gamblers. This can be hard on everyone. So, I have a few things to share about it.

First, please understand that casino's reprimand employees, or fire them, if they tell a patron they are spending too much money and should go home. That's just the sad truth. On the other hand, advertisements all over casinos explain how to get help.

Second, I don't encourage non-gamblers to gamble. I assume anyone who finds me is deliberately looking for information on slots gambling. But, if you decide you want to gamble, then I take it as my responsibility to explain how to do it.

Third, there truly is a Golden Rule. Here it is: Don't spend any money at a casino which you cannot afford to comfortably lose. That means you're spending disposable income, which is money left over after paying all your bills along with an additional amount put into your savings account of choice.

JOURNEY INTO THE UNKNOWN ... TOGETHER

I suppose we should also discuss how a slot machine operates. Most newcomers sit down at a slot machine, put some money in, and start pushing some buttons. But what do the buttons do?

There are several physical components to slot machines, including various interfaces with the player. I've already written an article about the common elements of a slot machine called [How Do Slot Machines Work from the Player's Perspective?](#)

That article, or at least the schematic of a slot machine found in it, should go a long way toward taking the mystery out of how all the buttons, panels, and interfaces work on a slot machine.

Another thing you'll want to do is get a player's club card from the casino. At its simplest, this is like your grocery card. In exchange for your contact information, you can earn points by spending money on gambling. They'll also make some interesting offers.

You'll get free stuff from the casino, most likely starting when you sign up. Sometimes, in the long term, it's often the only way gamblers make a profit. Here's another article with my explanation about these casino rewards clubs called [Seven Advantages of Players Clubs for Playing Slots](#).

So, let's recap what I've pulled together for you to start at slots:

1. Go to the websites of casinos near you to understand their differences relative to your wants and needs.
2. Check to make sure you have some amount of disposable income if you want to play slots.
3. Visit your casino of choice and get a player's club card at the front counter or kiosk.
4. Pick a slot machine, make a bet, and see what happens next.

So, what does happen next? One example would be what happened to me, as explained. Or something similar. If I had one wish for you, it would be this. I hope you don't win.

That's probably shocking, but it really is for the best. If you win big at your first visit to a casino, it sets an unrealistic expectation you might take years to recover from ... if ever. I hope you win big on your second visit to a casino. That's what happened to me.

Once you've visited the casino a few times, maybe you'll want to know more about why casinos are the way they are. If so, I have plenty of articles about them. But that may be too soon. When you're ready, they'll be waiting here for you.

I hope you have a great time at the casino playing slots. As I'm always saying: Have fun, be safe, and make good choices.

SUMMARY

Too often a beginner slots player gets lost. So much happens at once in a casino! Lights! Sounds! Smoke! There really is a lot going on for beginners. And, unfortunately, a casino doesn't help. After all, it isn't in their best interest to help.

Savvy slots enthusiasts understand what they are doing. We are all self-taught. Well, it's time to stop leaving all that learning up to chance. With this primer, a beginner slots player no longer starts from scratch.

When you're ready for more information on playing and winning at slots, I'll be here for you. Best of luck and let me know if you have any questions!

CLOSING

Let's switch back to the Live Chat again...

Thanks for a great show. If you're watch this video later, you'll see a playlist/video I've created on

If you're listening on the podcast, stick around as we'll be moving into the next segment of the show – Idaho slots in 2021! And, as always, have fun, be safe, and make good choices!

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 Idaho slot machine casino gambling in 2021. Here goes!

Idaho slot machine casino gambling consists of six tribal casinos ranging from truck stops with slot machines to casino resorts.

Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Idaho

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

- Land-Based Casinos: 18
- Poker Rooms: Not available
- Bingo: 18
- Lottery: 18
- Pari-Mutuel Wagering: 18

The state originally adopted criminal and constitutional prohibitions against Class III gaming except for pari-mutuel betting and a state lottery. After challenge from the tribes, ultimately the state amended its constitution to allow these Vegas-style gaming machines.

The maximum bet in Idaho is \$50.

Slot Machine Private Ownership in Idaho

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 Idaho, it is legal to own a slot machine privately if manufactured before 1950.

Gaming Control Board in Idaho

Idaho does not have a state gaming commission. Instead, it has state-tribal compacts with the four federally recognized American Indian tribes in Idaho. These negotiated compacts determine Idaho's gaming regulations along with its enforcement.

Casinos in Idaho

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

There are six American Indian tribal casinos in Idaho. The largest casino in Idaho is Coeur D'Alene Casino Resort Hotel in Worley with 1,600 gaming machines. The second-largest casino is Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel near Pocatello and Blackfoot with 900 gaming machines.

Non-Tribal Casinos in Idaho

There are no non-tribal, commercial casinos with slot machines in Idaho.

American Indian Casinos in Idaho

There are six American Indian tribal casinos in Idaho. As usual when there are too many casinos to mention here, a complete list, along with a casino map, are on my webpage for this state at professorslots.com/ID.

Other Gambling Establishments

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

- North: British Columbia, Province of Canada
- East: Montana and Wyoming
- South: Nevada and Utah
- West: Oregon and Washington

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 Montana slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/MT.

Our Idaho Slots Community Facebook Group

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

Payout Returns in Idaho

Idaho's tribal-state compacts do not require a minimum theoretical payout limit. Further, these gaming compacts don't require reporting return statistics to the state.

Summary of Idaho Slots in 2021

In summary, Idaho slot machine casino gambling consists of six tribal casinos offering video slot machines, electronic pull-tabs, and competition-style bingo machines. Some casinos also offer electronic forms of poker, keno, roulette, and blackjack.

Annual Progress in Idaho Slot Machine Casino Gambling

In the last year, Shoshone-Bannock Casino Hotel has become the second largest casino in Idaho with 900 slot machines, exceeding Clearwater River Casino and Lodge with its 601 slot machines.

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.

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 Illinois.

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 <https://professorslots.com/episode126>.

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!