

## PS 132: Thinking Person's Game Live | Louisiana Slots in 2021

### Opening

Hello! Today's episode #132 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses how slots is a thinking person's game. Plus, in this episode, I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of Louisiana.

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 gave a tour of my Professor Slots website, channel, and Facebook community groups from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Kentucky 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](http://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 gambler.

### YouTube Q&A Session from March 13, 2021

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

#### OPENING

Hello, slots enthusiasts! How are you? I'm Jon Friedl. Welcome to Professor Slots, a channel where you learn to play slots smarter to, ultimately, leave the casino with your winnings.

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 check in with the live chat a little later in the show. Oh, and a special thanks to Paula for being our moderator today. Thanks, Paula!

Thanks also to the many new slots enthusiasts participating in this weekly live stream or download my podcast episodes. It's great to have you all here.

Today we're going to be diving into two winning slots strategy that, so far, have remained unnumbered and unnamed. These strategies aren't my seven winning slots strategies.

If you've found me on YouTube, where my popularity has surged lately, you probably know me for Strategy #1: Only Win Immediately more commonly known as the 5-spin method. That strategy out of a total of seven strategies.

But today I wanted to clearly state two more strategies which, in the past, I've only implied exist and haven't clearly laid out. So, let's do that in the framework of explaining *The Thinking Person's Game: How to Win at Slots*.

## BODY

### INTRODUCTION

You walk into a casino intending to play slot machines ... and do what, exactly? Randomly play whichever slot machine happens to catch your eye without *thinking* about it? You should have a plan: Here's mine.

### HOW TO START PLANNING

The most common way to start a plan is realize you need one. Are you winning at slots? No? Then you need a plan. Are you winning enough at slots? No? Then, once again, you need a plan.

A large part of starting and having a plan is organization. How you reach the level of organization you need for slots is entirely up to you, because that's how being organized works. You decide how YOU organize and how to become more organized as needed.

This freedom means you figure out how to organize my plan for you. You decide how to remember its parts, how to keep track of each part as you implement it. You decide whether you use a pen and notepad for keeping track of things or use a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet instead.

Whatever you decide, your approach to organizing works just fine. They all do, eventually. But you decide ... now.

### STEP 1 – DECIDE ON YOUR GAMBLING GOAL(S)

Before walking into a casino, you need to know what you want. Why? Because, otherwise, how can you know if you've gotten what you want?

Consider these three top-level slots gambling goals:

- A. Entertainment
- B. Complimentary Gifts
- C. Money

Which goal jumps out at you as most important to you? Are any of them tied or nearly tied as most important? If you were to rank them in order from most important to you to least important to you, what would it be?

There are only six possibilities. Is it ABC? ACB? BAC? BCA? CAB? Or CBA? Decide and, as a reminder, enter your choice of goal at the top of your notebook, whether physical or digital.

Great! Well done! This is excellent progress!

## STEP 2 – DECIDE ON YOUR CASINO(S)

There are nearly 1,000 casinos in the U.S. from high casino resorts with 18-hole golf courses and 1,000s of slot machines to tiny convenient store “gasinos” with only a few (perhaps not even legal) machines.

What's your favorite casino? I've asked this question of slots enthusiasts over 5,000 times as I welcome new members in my 57 private, state-by-state slots enthusiast community FB Groups.

The most common answer is, “The casino closest to where I live.” That's a great answer, because it's so very, very true.

By the way, if you don't mind my saying so, my favorite answer is, “Any casino I win at!” Nice!

Given the most common answer is nearby, what casinos are near you? In your notes, make a list. Google it, if need be. Or click on your state in my State-By-State Online Resource, which will take you to my slots article for your state.

Okay, now you have a list of local casinos. That's good. However, maybe you travel a lot? Like, spend half the year in Florida or make regular trips to Las Vegas or Atlantic City?

It can be hard to make a list of Las Vegas' 163 casinos or even the nine casinos in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Unless you live in either of these cities, I'd avoid adding these casinos to your list.

Later, you can expand your plan to include cities full of casinos like West Wendover, Las Vegas, Reno, Biloxi, Tunica, and others. It'll be the same plan ... only bigger.

### STEP 3 – ONLINE STUFF

Great! You have your notes, goal(s), and casinos. Next, you'll need to get online even if you only have one casino near you. I'm not suggesting you go to the casino's website, since those are nearly useless – although I like those casino websites which now have interactive casino maps.

Instead, you need to get online to go to your state's gaming control board. For 36% of you, in 18 out of 50 states, your gaming commission will offer monthly return statistics with slots player win percent. And 6% of you, in 6 out of 50 states, will have return statistics broken down by slot machine denomination.

These reports, if your state offers them, are must-have information. Again, I've collected all the links you need in the Payouts & Returns section of my slots article for your state.

Go check what's available. I'll wait. Even if your chosen casino is tribal, check anyway. You might be surprised to know that several states also report returns for their tribal casinos.

If your state offers them, you might learn how each casino near you ranks in terms of player win percent. For a great explanation of what I'm suggesting you do, see my interview "A closer look at casino slot payouts" with the local ABC27 Evening News in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania when they did an investigative report on their local casino.

### INTERLUDE

Before continuing with *Step 4 – Let's Go to Your Casino*, let's check in with the Live Chat to briefly say hello....

That was excellent! Okay, let's pick up where I left off with *Step 4 – Let's Go to Your Casino*.

### BODY

#### STEP 4 – LET'S GO TO YOUR CASINO!

With that preparation under our belt, possibly including watching my *11 Practical Slots Money Management Tips* and maybe my *Learning How to Play Slot Machines Primer* if you're very new to playing slots, it's time to go to the casino.

Perhaps the best place to start with explaining how to win at slots is for you to stop. Go to the casino and STOP. Stopping is crucial to thinking, where thinking is the key to success.

Too many slots enthusiasts take a random approach to playing slot machines. Well, I suppose I shouldn't say too many do this. It's from these slots enthusiasts that casinos make their profits.

If casinos didn't make a profit, a huge profit, they couldn't stay open. But that doesn't mean it needs to be you that funds their operations. Leave that to other slots enthusiasts.

So, when you arrive at a casino, stop. Listen. Walk around. And don't gamble! Yet.

You'll get better at slots, whatever goal you have, as you become more familiar with your casino. Is it busy? Is it not busy? Have you gone enough times to this casino to know the difference yet?

Get to know your casino as you play slots. Get REALLY GOOD at it.

I'm a science fiction fan, so I'll use a time travel metaphor. Imagine you're pick up by a time traveler in their space-time ship and dropped off at your casino last week some day during the time of day you normally go to that casino.

What day of the week is it? Don't look at your watch or your phone. Based on the feel of the casino, tell me the day of the week.

If you spend enough time at your casino, you will be able to tell the difference between the day of the week. None are the same for a casino.

As you get better at listening and observing while you're in your casino, this will be easy. Eventually, with practice, you'll be able to tell what time it is, too. With time and practice, that is.

#### STEP 5 – AN UNNUMBERED SLOTS STRATEGY

As you may know, I have seven numbered winning slots strategies. These strategies are important for you to know, but they are not under discussion now.

The purpose of this discussion is to finally write down my two other unnumbered winning slots strategies. You already know the first, which is to listen and observe your casino's environment to the level where you know what day of the week it is, if not also the time of day.

But how are the observational skills I want you to get great at a winning slots strategy. Simple. Everything you see at your casino, besides the slots enthusiasts, is controlled.

The casino floor layout is carefully designed by experts, including the high-limit rooms. The aisles and larger walkways are exactly how the casino wants them. It's all being presented to you and set up to help the casino make a profit.

Everything you see and hear is a bull-blown marketing strategy. But, once you notice, once your observational skills get exercised and revved up, you can see and hear for yourself what's happening. And, as always with me, once you notice then you can learn to take advantage of it.

Not only does this strategy not have a number, I've yet to give it a name either. But here's how it works.

The casino's central computer server physically connected to each slot machine in most casinos, excluding riverboat casinos (there's nothing under the floor but water, meaning there's no place for lots and lots of cables) and small convenience store-type casinos (which can't afford the server).

And what's on that computer server remotely controlling the odds of winning on every slot machine is most casinos, whether they are "old" 3-reel slot machines or the most modern of touchscreen video slot machines? An algorithm. A program based on a casino setup plan.

My seven numbered strategies take advantage of what that algorithm is doing. Not every strategy works at every casino. But each casino might have the algorithm that one of my strategies takes advantage of.

But another way, not every one of my numbered strategies works at every casino. As best I can tell, Strategy 1: Only Win Immediately (The 5-Spin Method) works at around 1-in-casinos.

But this unnumbered winning slots strategy works at ALL casinos with a central server.

Here it is: Listen to the casino. Is it more busy than usual or less busy than usual, but not because the number of people playing slots has changed? If it's unusually busy, go play a slot machine. If it's not unusually busy, save your money and find something else to do until you hear it get busy.

That's it. That's this unnumbered winning slots strategy.

#### STEP 6 – ANOTHER UNNUMBERED STRATEGY

The real reason why many casinos don't allow pictures to be taken isn't about signed privacy releases or copyright infringement, although those reasons also exist.

Casinos don't allow pictures because it's too easy for us to figure out why the design of the casino floor or high-limit room exactly like it is. Are you a facility planner like, you know, for factories?

Me, I'm more of a hobbyist at facility planning. Combined with a pattern recognition ability, it's a powerful tool winning slots strategy. You've heard the three most important things about real estate, right? Location. Location. Location.

The casino has planned the location of every slot machines on the casino floor or high-limit room. And the casino's central server algorithm matches odds of winning to those locations.

Why is this? Like my prior unnumbered strategy, it's all about marketing and casino profit. Profit which might instead by ours if we take advantage of this casino setup.

This strategy works at every casino larger than a convenient store. It works at non-tiny casinos with and without a central server algorithm. Yes, that means it works at riverboat casinos with a central server.

Once upon a time, before central servers with its algorithm came into existence at casinos, it was the only non-luck-based way to win. On a past, hour-long live stream on YouTube, I called this unnumbered strategy *The World's Oldest Winning Slots Strategy*.

Since then, I noticed strategy 1, the 5-spin method, was on an old episode of Columbo from the 70s (the one where he solves a murder while on a cruise). But I still think this unnumbered strategy is the oldest.

What casinos are trying to do is to let others see your win, so that those others get excited and go spend some money playing slots. In this way, the casino can recoup from others some, or all, of the winnings paid to you. That's the way, but what's the how? How do you find these slot machines at your casino? Well, it helps you to know that they exist.

There might be up to three slot machines in your casino which are set up to have significantly higher odds so others can see its wins. These winners aren't entirely easy to find and, if you do find them, they are likely busy – for good reason. Why? Because this unnumbered strategy isn't entirely unknown. But it's not always consciously known.

During consultation sessions, I've played a YouTube video I'd found where a slots channel is walking through an area of my client's favorite casinos. There isn't very many of these videos, but one YouTuber at San Manuel has a few seconds showing them walking into the high-limit room.

And that's all the video evidence I needed to point out to my consultation client which high limit machines were most likely set to win. And you know what? He already knew.

He was so familiar with that high-limit room that he knew from experience that it was often a winner, far more often than most other slot machines.

And you know what else? If you turned up the volume of the video, the YouTuber even said so! But neither my client nor the YouTuber could explain why. But now you know why.

With this unnumbered strategy, there are only up to three slot machines with awesome odds of winning. But there are many other slot machines with above-average odds of winning. Look for those above-average slot machines.

Here's how to get you started taking advantage of these above-average slot machines.

1. Stand in front of a slot machine.
2. Turn around so your back is to the front of the slot machine.
3. What do you see?
  - a. If you see a wall, try another slot machine.
  - b. If you see other people looking back at you, try playing that slot machine.

For example, look at the free-to-distribute stock picture of a casino below. Of all the many slot machines shown, which slot machines have the view we want.

How many do you count? I count six:

- The first three machines in the first row.
- The first two machines in the second row.
- The first machine in the fourth-to-last row from the back wall.

Those machines next to the wide aisle are the machines I'd pick. There may be others on the other side of the aisle that we can't see in the picture. There's more to consider about location, but the simple approach narrows down a room full of slots machines to just a few.

Since I'm trying to keep this simple and clear, and leaving more to discuss in a consultation session with you sometime about your casino, I won't give my thoughts about the tall slot machines in the center of the picture as well as near the back wall. Well, they make the casino seem a little desperate, which raises my suspicions. But we can talk about that later.



## CLOSING

Okay, so now I have a quite a few announcements which I'll try to get through quickly.

1. Those of you on the live chat may have noticed a few changes. Some participants now have badges and emoji's they can use because I've gotten. That's because they've joined my YouTube's Membership program, basically my players' club. It has three tiers, where each tier has its rewards and perks as well as all the rewards and perks from lower tiers. Unlike casino players' clubs however, you don't have to wait to earn your way to top-tier every year. Instead, you can jump straight to my Champion level. I thought this would be a great feature for slots enthusiasts, as we're very used to players clubs. And now we have our own. Click on the Join button next to the subscribe button to see the rewards and perks for each level, then pick which level works for you.
2. Also, as I briefly mentioned last time, my merchandise shelf is now available beneath each of my YouTube videos as well as under my new Store tab on my main YouTube page. For example, here's Professor Slots' Professor Slots coffee mug. Keep in mind that there are many other colors available for most items.

3. Okay, another announcement! You see the softcover version of my slots book, *Learning to Win?* You may also know there's a printable PDF version on my website plus e-book and audio versions on Amazon. Well, I've worked with Amazon to now offer a hardcover version! I've ordered a couple of them to show it to you here next weekend.
4. Okay, how about I switch it up a little and announce a PSA. Tomorrow morning Daylight Savings Time starts so don't forget to turn your clocks ahead an hour. I know it's become automatic for most electronic devices, but perhaps not for your very important alarm clock. Since most podcast audience typically listen to my podcast before going to sleep, I thought I'd be of service to them tomorrow when I release this podcast episode.
5. I also want to thank everyone who participated in my annual survey. Hundreds have responded, giving me a much clearer understanding of your wants and needs. I'll soon close the survey, so I can start a deep dive to analyze the results but, for now, it's still available at <https://ProfessorSlots.com/2021-survey> if you haven't taken this opportunity to be heard and completed it yet.
6. Finally, stay tuned to next week's live stream and podcast episode as I'll be releasing important details on the upcoming beta version of my online course.

Once again, let's switch over to the Live Chat again and see what new questions you might have....

Thanks for a great show and thanks to everyone who donated in support of the show. And, as always, have fun, be safe, and make good choices!

## Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

Remember to visit [professorslots.com/subscribe](http://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 Louisiana slot machine casino gambling in 2021. Here goes!

Louisiana slot machine casino gambling consists of nineteen commercial casinos, four tribal casinos, and numerous small businesses across Louisiana.

## Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Louisiana

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

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

Louisiana has had a long history of illegal casinos, with the state alternating between raiding illegal casino operations and ignoring them. Eventually, pari-mutuel wagering received state-approval in the 1920s. Next, the collapse of the state's oil-based industry in the 1980s led to the extended presence of legalized gambling.

Louisiana legalized riverboat casinos in 1991 along with the return of the state lottery. In 1992, an additional provision allowed a land-based casino in New Orleans.

In 1993, negotiations began to create state-tribal compacts with Louisiana's three federally recognized American Indian tribes. A fourth American Indian tribe, federally recognized in 2002, also successfully negotiated a state-tribal compact.

In 1997, efforts by the three pari-mutuel racetracks to add slot machines to their facilities were successful. Later, a fourth track received similar approval.

Somewhat accidentally, an ambiguous definition for "truck stops" in state gaming regulations allowed the addition and spread of video gaming devices (VGD), typically offering versions of video poker, at many small businesses throughout the state.

## Slot Machine Private Ownership in Louisiana

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

## Gaming Control Board in Louisiana

The Louisiana Gaming Control Board (LGCB) regulates the gaming industry in Louisiana. The LGCB works closely with the Louisiana State Police's Gaming Enforcement Division.

## Casinos in Louisiana

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

Louisiana has 19 commercial casinos, four American Indian tribal casinos, and 12,543 video gaming devices at 1,550 small retail businesses in Louisiana. The largest casino in Louisiana is Coushatta Casino Resort with 2,800 gaming machines. The second-largest casino is Paragon Casino Resort with 2,200 gaming machines.

## Non-Tribal Casinos in Louisiana

There are 19 commercial casinos in Louisiana.

## American Indian Casinos in Louisiana

Plus, there are four tribal casinos in Louisiana. 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/LA](http://professorslots.com/LA).

## Other Gambling Establishments

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

- North: Arkansas
- East: Mississippi
- South: The Gulf of Mexico
- West: Texas

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 Arkansas slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/AR.

## Our Louisiana Slots Community Facebook Group

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

## Payout Returns in Louisiana

Louisiana has theoretical payout limits for commercial casinos and business retailers with VGDs.

Louisiana's theoretical payout limits are:

- Commercial casinos: 80% to 99.9%
- Retailer VGDs: 80% to 94%

The Louisiana State Police's Gaming Enforcement Division offers monthly return statistics by slot machine denomination for four state regions at Slot Payout Summary.

These four state regions are:

- Baton Rouge Region
- Lake Charles Region
- New Orleans Region
- Shreveport/Bossier Region

The latest return statistics are from October 2020 showing a state-wide return of 91.0% for all slot machine denominations. Each state region had the following player's win percentages for all denominations:

- Baton Rouge Region: 90.5%
- Lake Charles Region: 93.8%
- New Orleans Region: 90.1%
- Shreveport/Bossier Region: 90.0%

The denominations with the highest or second-highest win percentages for each region were:

- Baton Rouge Region: \$2 at 100.7% and \$10 at 99.0%.
- Lake Charles Region: 5-cent at 95.1% and both \$2 and \$5 tied at 92.6%.
- New Orleans Region: \$100 at 107.9% and \$50 at 101.4%.
- Shreveport/Bossier Region: \$25 at 107.9% and \$2 at 94.0%.

Helpfully, these reports include the number of slot machines with each denomination but unfortunately not which specific casino they are at within a state region.

It's essential to mention that those player win percentages over 100% typically indicate a large jackpot for that slot machine denomination which significantly skewed the reported average.

## Summary of Louisiana Slots in 2021

In summary, Louisiana slot machine casino gambling consists of 23 casinos of which four are tribal. Further, there are over 12,000 video gaming devices at over 1,500 small business retail locations.

## Annual Progress in Louisiana Slot Machine Casino Gambling

More than a year ago, DiamondJacks Casino Hotel Bossier City closed, although its state gambling license remains available for use.

## 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](https://www.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 Maine.

## 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/episode132>.

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!