

## PS 149: Succeed at New-To-You Casinos Live | Ohio Slots in 2021

### Opening

Hello! Today's episode #149 of the Professor Slots podcast discusses three ways to win at new-to-you casinos. Plus, in this episode, I'll be covering the current state of slot machine casino gambling in the great U.S. state of Ohio.

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 updated state returns from my weekly live stream Q&A session on YouTube.

Further, I reviewed Northern Mariana Islands 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 sign up at <https://Courses.ProfessorSlots.com> to register for my online course for slots enthusiasts, *30 Days to Play Slots Smarter and Win*, including how to leave a casino with your winnings.

### YouTube Q&A Session from Saturday, September 18, 2021

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

### Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

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Next up is a new feature. Buried in the last hour-long live stream is what I wanted to share with you about 3 ways to win at new-to-you casinos. Well, next up, I'm sharing it again without interruptions, commercials, donations, or other necessary distractions

found in all my live stream shows. Later, at the end of this episode, I'll have a bit more to share about what this means going forward with upcoming episodes.

## THREE WAYS TO WIN AT NEW-TO-YOU CASINOS

### Introduction to Winning at *New-to-You Casinos*

We're all adding to what we know about slots by learning from other *slots players*. I know I am. And you are, if only from me now through my published content. So, let's get even more deliberate about doing so at new-to-you casinos.

### Alternative Approaches

Have you ever gone to a casino and seen other slots enthusiasts who are winning? What a wonderful resource they are! But why?

Because you can learn from them. What else should we do? Alternatively, we could also learn how to win at slots from scratch or, of course, just do what we always do.

Let's say you've read, watched, and listened to all my free content and perhaps even taken my online course, *Plays Slots Smarter and Win*. And now you want to go to a new-to-you casino and win at playing slot machines. Under this scenario, you have three possible approaches:

1. Forget everything you know from your own experiences at other casinos and start from scratch with my strategies. I don't recommend this approach unless absolute necessary.
2. Stick with your own methods gained and refined at other casinos and hope they also work at this new casino. The operative word here is "hope." Good luck.
3. Look around for winning slots players and learn from them. I recommend this approach even if it's not a new-to-you casino.

### *New-To-You Casinos*

Maybe you're traveling for business or visiting distant family. Perhaps you're on vacation or just passing through. Why you're at a new-to-you casino hardly matters.

But for whatever reason you're away from home, you want to win at slots because you're a slots enthusiast. As I go on about elsewhere, hopefully you've done your pre-work by assessing the casino beforehand. Or maybe that doesn't matter because you've got one choice of casino and, you know what, you're going no matter what.

Besides my nine strategies to help you get started, there's a shortcut you can use instead. A great shortcut is useful, right? Especially when you're someplace new, aren't in the area for more than a few days or maybe a whole lot less, and you don't have much time to waste.

As a quick aside, ask yourself: Do you do this a lot? Do you often visit new-to-you casinos? Because if you do, I recommend that you figure out how to get good at it.

I have. So, take it from me, it's possible especially if your goal is to make a living at playing slots. If it is, this skill is something you'll want to develop to perfection.

## Using My Strategies from Scratch

Let's say that you're new to slots or you've only ever lost so- , either way, you need help winning. And my strategies are exactly what you need to get started. Yes, to get started (or restarted) from scratch.

I start from scratch every time I visit a new-to-me casino, either to meet with a fan or just to provide a review. This year I've mostly gone monthly so far, but plan to shortly make visiting a new-to-me casino a weekly occurrence. I've already done it enough to know which strategies are possible to check over, say, a three-hour visit before heading home.

The first strategy I check is my 5-spin method. Besides being a quick way to win, if this casino is set up to offer it, I find starting here helps me acclimate to the casino's environment. While I'm busy running the 5-spin test procedure and evaluating whether it exists here, I'm also calibrating my ears and eyes.

Is this casino's environment busy? Is it loud? Whatever it is when I first arrive, I have no idea because I've never been to this casino before.

But the sooner I know what normal sounds and looks like, the sooner I'll spot when it stops being normal. That's how I prepare for using my strategy 8 later during my visit.

After I finish the 5-spin test procedure, I choose from several possible next steps. If the 5-spin method both works and is profitable, remember it's only available at 1-in-4 casinos, I'll note that for my casino review. But YOU might stop learning right there and just making money with a 5-spin winning slots strategy for the rest of your trip.

After all, why would you need or want two ways to win at a casino? My casino review needs every possible way to win at slots there to cover all the possibilities, but not you. You've found your success.

But what if the 5-spin method doesn't work or isn't profitable? Well, my eyes and ears are still busy calibrating, seeking to understand what normal sights and sounds are so I can see and hear a difference if it happens. To encourage that, I now walk the casino.

This is where practice helps. Once you've walked throughout a few casinos, you'll start seeing what I see. Maybe you already do.

Where are the busy intersections and how are slot machines arranged there? Where do people gather and what slot machines are facing these groups so they can see any wins? Be sure to look for highly visible slot machines when standing fifteen feet in front of the high-limit slots room entrance to look in, then do the same thing after turning around and looking out onto the casino floor.

And that's how you use my Strategy 9: Location, Location, Location to find candidate winning slot machines. It's how you find perhaps as many as a dozen candidate winning slot machines out of thousands. By now half of my three hour visit is over, I've applied my strategies as best I can without staying overnight at the casino hotel, so now it's time to play those candidate slot machines.

And that's how I learn how to win from scratch at a new-to-me casino. It takes practice to do this smoothly without missing any winning opportunities. But that's how I do it, with some success.

## Using What You Already Know

The second approach for a new-to-you casino is whatever it is that you usually do at your favorite casino. Here, you're making an interesting decision. You're using what you already know and, hopefully, know well.

Maybe it'll work. Perhaps it won't. But one thing is for sure: You'll be doing what you're already best at, are most comfortable doing, even if it was learned somewhere else.

Yes, there's a risk your approach won't work. But I like this approach because you're taking what you know and applying it in an unfamiliar casino environment. There's no doubt you'll learn something useful, something you'll want to try upon your return to your home casino.

At your home casino, you're well practiced at knowing likely outcomes of your slots play. At a new-to-you casino, you'll find yourself feeling better in several ways because you've been removed from the activities and environments that you associate with stress and anxiety.

You know what I mean, right? We experience this positive change whenever we vacation somewhere. We go someplace else to just be ourselves and get benefits like these:

- Improved mood and reduced stress
- To get a better outlook on life
- Find more motivation to achieve goals
- Feel more present and stimulated

If you win at slots using your usual methods, so much the better. But even if you don't, you'll go home with a fresh perspective on those methods. And that's how you re-energize your slots gambling performance at your home casino while visiting new-to-you casinos.

## A Wonderful Resource!

The third way to learn to win at a casino is to meet with, chat with, and get to know its long-term slots enthusiasts. Whether it's a new-to-you casino or your favorite casino at home, winning slots players are wonderful resources. But the question is: Are they indeed winning?

Be careful assuming they're accomplishing anything useful to your gambling goals. I've met plenty of slots enthusiasts that just have an expensive hobby. They come to me for paid consultations not because it bothers them that they're spending a lot of money, because they don't mind the cost, but rather because constantly losing leaves them feeling unhappy.

But they are a resource. We should all try to learn from those that are doing well at slots because it's a shortcut. That is, only if they truly are winning rather than engaging in an expensive habit.

Under these wonderful circumstances, where others are available and worth learning from, my strategies and methods will help you identify why they win. They'll clue you in on what's going on even when they don't know for sure themselves why they're winning. And you can perhaps improve on their results.

Improve on the results of other winning slots enthusiasts? Certainly! Pardon me for being too audacious, but you can't be better than someone else if you're only following them.

Being better than others at slots gambling is your goal, right? So, figure out what they are doing first, then improve upon it. That's where true success is found.

Of course, improving your own slots play has an expected consequence. You become that wonderful resource for other players. Isn't it interesting how that happens?

Other slots enthusiasts will see you winning long-term and want to know how you do it. If explaining your winning slots strategies isn't for you, just go ahead and mention me and I'll be pleased to take that bothersome burden off your plate.

## Summary of Winning at *New-to-You Casinos*

Business travel, vacationing, or just going for a long drive, you can happen across a casino where, naturally enough, you'll want to quickly start winning at slots.

Here, I've explained three ways to learn to win at a new-to-you casino during a short visit.

## Call to Action (add sound effect afterward)

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## 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 Ohio slot machine casino gambling in 2021. Here goes!

Ohio slot machine casino gambling consists of eleven casinos. Four are stand-alone casinos with table games while seven casinos are pari-mutuel racinos with horse tracks and simulcast betting.

## Relevant Legal Statutes on Gambling in Ohio

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

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

In 1933, an approved constitutional amendment legalized pari-mutual wagering at racetracks. The 1970s saw the arrival of the lottery and charity bingo. Social poker games have always existed, but the house must not profit from the game.

The original operators of Ohio's four stand-alone casinos backed a proposed constitutional amendment. In November 2009, 52% of voters approved the constitutional amendment allowing one casino in the cities of:

- Cincinnati
- Cleveland
- Columbus
- Toledo

In addition to the usual fees and taxes imposed on Ohio businesses, the constitutional amendment required or specified:

- A 33% tax on gross casino revenue
- Distribution of the proceeds of the tax
- A license fee of \$50 million per casino dedicated to workforce development
- An initial capital investment of \$250 million for the development of each casino facility
- The existence of the Ohio Casino Control Commission
- The Ohio General Assembly would pass other laws to facilitate the operation of the casino gaming amendment
  - A maximum of 5,000 slot machines at each casino facility
  - There is no limit on the number of table games allowed

Subsequent changes in state lottery legislation allowed pari-mutual racetracks to begin offer video lottery terminal (VLT) style slot machines in 2012. These were the first racinos in Ohio.

## Slot Machine Private Ownership in Ohio

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:

It is legal to own a slot machine privately in the state of Ohio without restriction as to its date of manufacture.

## Gaming Control Board in Ohio

In 2009, a constitutional amendment created the Ohio Casino Control Commission. Its website is comprehensive but only applies to slot machine casino gambling at Ohio's four stand-alone casinos.

In 1973, a constitutional amendment established the Ohio Lottery Commission. The Ohio Lottery eventually became responsible for and controls video slot machines found at Ohio's seven racinos. These pari-mutuel racetracks began adding VLT-style slot machines starting in 2012.

The state gaming commission offers significant resources for slots enthusiasts besides return statistics. For instance, enforcement provides quarterly and fiscal year gaming crimes and statistics including offenses by statute.

## Casinos in Ohio

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

There are four commercial casino resorts and seven commercial pari-mutuel racetracks with simulcast betting as well as slot machines in Ohio. The largest casino in Ohio is Eldorado Gaming Scioto Downs. The second-largest casino is MGM Northfield Park.

## Non-Tribal Casinos in Ohio

There are four casino resorts and seven pari-mutual racetracks with VLT-style slot machines in Ohio. 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/OH](http://professorslots.com/OH).

## American Indian Casinos in Ohio

Ohio has no tribal casinos as no federally recognized American Indian tribes exist in this state.

## Other Gambling Establishments

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

- North: Michigan and Lake Erie
- East: Pennsylvania
- Southeast: West Virginia
- South: Kentucky
- West: Indiana

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 Michigan slots article is available at ProfessorSlots.com/MI.

## Our Ohio Slots Community Facebook Group

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

## Payout Returns in Ohio

Ohio's Gaming Control Act section 3772.20 states that the minimum theoretical payout is 85% for slot machines at Ohio's casino resorts. This same payout limit applies to slot machines at Ohio's racetracks with slot machines thanks to the Ohio Lottery's Video Lottery Game Rules.

Ohio's five stand-alone casino resorts have return statistics publicly available from the Ohio Gaming Commission. However, Ohio's seven racetracks with slot machines have their return statistics available from the Ohio Lottery. Both sources offer return statistics by:

- Month
- Casino
- State-wide

In August 2021, Monthly Casino Revenue Reports from the Ohio Gaming Commission shows return statistics for the four casino resorts were:

- State-Wide: 91.99%
- Hard Rock Cincinnati: 91.76%
- Hollywood Columbus: 92.28%
- Hollywood Toledo: 91.54%
- JACK Cleveland: 92.41%

The highest return for casino resorts went to JACK Cleveland at 92.4% while the lowest went to Hollywood Toledo at 91.5%.

In August 2021, VLT Fiscal Revenue Reports from the Ohio Lottery shows return statistics for the seven racinos were:

- State-Wide: 90.86%
- Belterra Park: 90.15%
- Eldorado Gaming Scioto Downs: 90.90%
- Hollywood Gaming Dayton Raceway: 91.38%
- Hollywood Gaming Mahoning Valley: 90.52%
- JACK Thistledown Racino: 90.72%
- MGM Northfield Park: 90.89%
- Miami Valley Gaming: 91.09%

The highest return for racinos went to Hollywood Gaming Dayton at 91.4% while the lowest went to Belterra at 90.2%. Overall, JACK Cleveland had the best return of any casino or racino in Ohio while Belterra had the lowest.

## Summary of Ohio Slots in 2021

In summary, Ohio slot machine casino gambling consists of eleven casinos operating under two gaming commissions. These casinos include four stand-alone casino resorts regulated by the Ohio Gaming Commission and seven racinos with pari-mutuel wagering and video-lottery-terminal (VLT) style slot machines regulated and controlled by the Ohio Lottery.

## Annual Progress in Ohio Slot Machine Casino Gambling

In the last year, there has been little change to the slots gaming industry in Ohio.

## 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 not include a live stream Q&A session on YouTube. I hope that you will bear with me as I make some changes, hopefully improvements, to my podcast.

I'll still have a weekly Q&A live stream on YouTube on Saturdays at Noon Eastern Time. However, I will no longer be treating you, dear podcast listener, the same as my live stream audience.

Since podcast episode #65 released nearly two years ago, I've been providing you with the audio from my live streams. Before that, my podcast episodes were only 20 to 40 minutes long. I hope you'll be okay with episodes less than an hour long. But my research says you'll be perfectly fine with it. I hope so.

So next week's episode #150 will have some changes, hopefully improvements, and we'll see how it goes from there. If you have any strong feelings about these changes, one way or another, feel free to email me at [jon@professorslots.com](mailto:jon@professorslots.com) or leave a text or voicemail at 702-90-SLOTS. That's 702-907-5687.

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 Oklahoma.

## 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/episode149>.

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!