

# Regulatory Analysis Form

(Completed by Promulgating Agency)



**IRRC**  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission

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## SECTION I: PROFILE

(1) Agency:

Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board

(2) Agency Number:

Identification Number: 125-152

IRRC Number:

2898

(3) Short Title:

Table Game Rules for Four Card Poker, Let it Ride Poker, Three Card Poker and Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker

(4) PA Code Cite:

58 Pa.Code §§ 557, 559, 565, 569, 641a., 643a., 649a. and 653a.

(5) Agency Contacts (List Telephone Number, Address, Fax Number and Email Address):

Primary Contact:

Susan A. Yocum  
Assistant Chief Counsel  
Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board  
P.O. Box 69060  
Harrisburg, PA 69060  
Phone (717) 265-8356 / Fax: (717) 703-2988  
Email: [syocum@state.pa.us](mailto:syocum@state.pa.us)

Secondary Contact:

N/A

(6) Primary Contact for Public Comments (List Telephone Number, Address, Fax Number and Email Address) – Complete if different from #5:

N/A

(All Comments will appear on IRRC'S website)

## Regulatory Analysis Form

(7) Type of Rulemaking (check applicable box):

- ☒ Proposed Regulation
- ☐ Final Regulation
- ☐ Final Omitted Regulation
- ☐ Emergency Certification Regulation;
  - ☐ Certification by the Governor
  - ☐ Certification by the Attorney General

(8) Briefly explain the regulation in clear and nontechnical language. (100 words or less)

With this rulemaking, the Board is proposing to replace the temporary regulation in Chapter 557 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 641a., temporary regulation in Chapter 559 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 643a., the temporary regulation in Chapter 565 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 649a and the temporary regulation in Chapter 569 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 653a.

This rulemaking provides the definitions, rules of play, payout odds and amounts and permissible wagers for the authorized table games of Four Card Poker, Let it Ride Poker, Three Card Poker and Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker.

(9) Include a schedule for review of the regulation including:

- |   |                                  |
|---|----------------------------------|
| A. The date by which the agency must receive public comments:                               | <u>30 days after publication</u> |
| B. The date or dates on which public meetings or hearings will be held:                     | <u>N/A</u>                       |
| C. The expected date of promulgation of the proposed regulation as a final-form regulation: | <u>4th Quarter 2011</u>          |
| D. The expected effective date of the final-form regulation:                                | <u>Upon publication</u>          |
| E. The date by which compliance with the final-form regulation will be required:            | <u>Upon publication</u>          |
| F. The date by which required permits, licenses or other approvals must be obtained:        | <u>N/A</u>                       |

(10) Provide the schedule for continual review of the regulation.

No formal review schedule has been established. Instead, the Board is constantly reviewing its regulations and proposing amendments as the need arises.

## Regulatory Analysis Form

### **SECTION II: STATEMENT OF NEED**

(11) State the statutory authority for the regulation. Include specific statutory citation.

Under the general authority in 4 Pa.C.S. § 1202(b)(30)(relating to general and specific powers) and the specific authority in 4 Pa.C.S. §§ 13A02(1) – (4) (relating to regulatory authority).

(12) Is the regulation mandated by any federal or state law or court order, or federal regulation? Are there any relevant state or federal court decisions? If yes, cite the specific law, case or regulation as well as, any deadlines for action.

There are no other applicable federal or state statutes, regulations or court decisions that mandate adoption of these changes contained in this rulemaking.

(13) State why the regulation is needed. Explain the compelling public interest that justifies the regulation. Describe who will benefit from the regulation. Quantify the benefits as completely as possible and approximate the number of people who will benefit.

Pursuant to the Act, the Board was tasked with: establishing standards and rules to govern the conduct of table games; establishing notice requirements pertaining to minimum and maximum wagers; and requiring certificate holders to provide written information or signage regarding the table game rules, payoffs, minimum and maximum wagers. These regulations are necessary to protect the integrity of gaming and ensure the accurate collection of taxes for the Commonwealth on table game revenue.

Table game patrons will benefit from these regulations as they will have notice of the rules of play, permissible wagers and the payout odds at each game offered in the licensed facility. Additionally, with this rulemaking certificate holders will have a clear understanding of layout requirements, dealing procedures and rules of play for the table games.

(14) If scientific data, studies, references are used to justify this regulation, please submit material with the regulatory package. Please provide full citation and/or links to internet source.

There are no studies or research upon which this rulemaking is based.

(15) Describe who and how many will be adversely affected by the regulation. How are they affected?

The Board does not anticipate that anyone will be adversely affected by this regulation.

## Regulatory Analysis Form

(16) List the persons, groups or entities that will be required to comply with the regulation. Approximate the number of people who will be required to comply.

Certificate holders that elect to offer Four Card Poker, Let it Ride Poker, Three Card Poker or Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker at their licensed facilities will be required to comply with this regulation. If electing to offer these games, an operator will be required to submit for approval the table layouts, will be required to update their gaming guides and submit a rules submission form. The rules submission form is available on the PGCB website, are standardized checklists for each and are relatively simple to fill out.

Currently, all ten certificate holders offer Three Card Poker, eight offer Let it Ride Poker, five offer Four Card Poker and one facility offers Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker.

### **SECTION III: COST AND IMPACT ANALYSIS**

(17) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to the **regulated community** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

Although operators will be required to purchase equipment to conduct the table games they choose to offer, the costs vary depending on the type and quality of equipment purchased and the number of tables installed. These costs will be offset by the revenues generated from the play of table games.

(18) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to **local governments** associated with compliance, including any legal, accounting or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

It is not anticipated that this regulation will require expenditures or provide savings to local governments; however, local governments will receive a local share assessment of the operator's revenue.

(19) Provide a specific estimate of the costs and/or savings to **state government** associated with the implementation of the regulation, including any legal, accounting, or consulting procedures which may be required. Explain how the dollar estimates were derived.

It is not anticipated that this regulation will require expenditures or provide savings to state government; however, with the passage of table games, state government will receive 14% of a certificate holder's gross table game revenue for two years following the commencement of table game operations. After the first two years, the state will receive 12% of gross table game revenue.

## Regulatory Analysis Form

(20) In the table below, provide an estimate of the fiscal savings and costs associated with implementation and compliance for the regulated community, local government, and state government for the current year and five subsequent years.

	Current FY Year	FY +1 Year	FY +2 Year	FY +3 Year	FY +4 Year	FY +5 Year
<b>SAVINGS:</b>	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
<b>Regulated Community</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Local Government</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>State Government</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Savings</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>COSTS:</b>						
<b>Regulated Community</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Local Government</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>State Government</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Costs</b>	N/A					
<b>REVENUE LOSSES:</b>						
<b>Regulated Community</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Local Government</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>State Government</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Total Revenue Losses</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

(20a) Provide the past three year expenditure history for programs affected by the regulation.

Program	FY -3	FY -2	FY -1	Current FY
PGCB Overall Budget	\$29,984,000	\$33,310,000	\$33,744,500 (inclusive of the amount below)	\$35,800,000 (inclusive of the amount below)
PGCB Budget for Table Games			\$1,100,000	\$2,700,000

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(21) Explain how the benefits of the regulation outweigh any cost and adverse effects.

The requirements within these chapters are standard throughout the gaming industry and are necessary to ensure the protection of the public and the integrity of gaming as well as the accurate recording of revenues and taxes. Standardized rules of play ensure that patrons who go to any licensed facility know that the basic rules of play at one facility are the same as the basic rules of play at another licensed facility.

(22) Describe the communications with and input from the public and any advisory council/group in the development and drafting of the regulation. List the specific persons and/or groups who were involved.

When the temporary regulations were promulgated, the Board provided for a 30 day public comment period whereby the industry was invited to provide suggestions for revision to the temporary regulations. Several of the suggestions received were incorporated into subsequent revisions to the temporary regulations while others were incorporated into this proposed rulemaking.

(23) Include a description of any alternative regulatory provisions which have been considered and rejected and a statement that the least burdensome acceptable alternative has been selected.

No other regulatory schemes were considered.

(24) Are there any provisions that are more stringent than federal standards? If yes, identify the specific provisions and the compelling Pennsylvania interest that demands stronger regulations.

There are no corresponding federal requirements.

(25) How does this regulation compare with those of other states? How will this affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states?

The regulations are consistent with the standards throughout the gaming industry and are consistent with the objectives and requirements of the Gaming Act. These regulations should therefore not affect Pennsylvania's ability to compete with other states.

(26) Will the regulation affect any other regulations of the promulgating agency or other state agencies? If yes, explain and provide specific citations.

With this rulemaking, the Board is proposing to replace the temporary regulation in Chapter 557 with the

## Regulatory Analysis Form

permanent regulation in Chapter 641a., temporary regulation in Chapter 559 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 643a., the temporary regulation in Chapter 565 with the permanent regulation in 649a and the temporary regulation in Chapter 569 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 653a.

(27) Submit a statement of legal, accounting or consulting procedures and additional reporting, recordkeeping or other paperwork, including copies of forms or reports, which will be required for implementation of the regulation and an explanation of measures which have been taken to minimize these requirements.

This rulemaking will require certificate holders to: post signs at gaming tables; have complete sets of rules for all the games they offer available for public inspection; produce a gaming guide summarizing the rules of the games they offer; and file Rules Submissions for each table game they elect to offer. The Rules Submissions are standardized checklists for each game, are relatively simple to fill out and are available on the Gaming Board website at <http://www.pgcb.state.pa.us/?p=187>

(28) Please list any special provisions which have been developed to meet the particular needs of affected groups or persons including, but not limited to, minorities, elderly, small businesses, and farmers.

No special provisions have been added.

**FACE SHEET  
FOR FILING DOCUMENTS  
WITH THE LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE  
BUREAU**

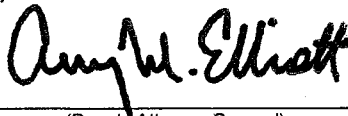
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Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality.  
Attorney General

By:   
(Deputy Attorney General)  
**JUN 09 2011**

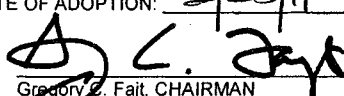
DATE OF APPROVAL

☐ Check if applicable  
Copy not approved. Objections attached.

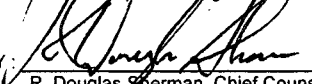
Copy below is hereby certified to be true and correct  
copy of a document issued, prescribed or promulgated  
by:

**Pennsylvania Gaming  
Control Board**

FISCAL NOTE NO.: 125-152

DATE OF ADOPTION: 5/25/11  
BY:   
Gregory C. Fajt, CHAIRMAN

Copy below is hereby approved as to form and legality  
Executive or Independent Agencies

BY:   
R. Douglas Sherman, Chief Counsel  
**5/25/11**  
DATE OF APPROVAL

(Deputy General Counsel)  
(Chief Counsel - Independent Agency)  
(Strike inapplicable title)

☐ Check if applicable. No Attorney General Approval or  
objection within 30 days after submission.

**PROPOSED RULEMAKING  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA**

**58 PA. CODE**

**Subpart K. Table Games  
Chapters 641a, 643a, 649a, 653a**



## PROPOSED RULEMAKING

### PENNSYLVANIA GAMING CONTROL BOARD

58 PA.CODE CHS. 557, 559, 565, 569, 641a., 643a., 649a. and 653a.

#### Table Game Rules for Four Card Poker, Let it Ride Poker, Three Card Poker and Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker.

The Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (Board), under the general authority in 4 Pa.C.S. § 1202(b)(30) (relating to general and specific powers) and the specific authority in 4 Pa.C.S. §§ 13A02(1) - (4) (relating to regulatory authority), proposes to add to Subpart K Chapters 641a, 643a., 649a. and 653a. to read as set forth in Annex A.

#### *Purpose of the Proposed Rulemaking*

Under 4 Pa.C.S. § 13A03 (relating to temporary regulations), the Board initially adopted temporary regulations in Chapter 557, 559 and 565 at 40 Pa.B. 1156 (March 6, 2010) and Chapter 569 at 40 Pa.B. 3519 (June 26, 2010).

With this rulemaking, the Board is proposing to replace the temporary regulation in Chapter 557 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 641a., temporary regulation in Chapter 559 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 643a., the temporary regulation in Chapter 565 with the permanent regulation in 649a and the temporary regulation in Chapter 569 with the permanent regulation in Chapter 653a.

#### *Explanation of Chapter 641a.*

Chapter 641a (relating to Four Card Poker) contains the rules governing the play of Four Card Poker. Section 641a.1 contains the definitions of terms used throughout the chapter. In section 641a.2, the physical characteristics of the table are specified.

The remaining sections address: the number of decks of cards used for play of the game; the opening of the Four Card Poker table for play; the shuffling of cards; the value and rank of the cards; permissible wagers; dealing

procedures; the payout odds for all permissible wagers; and how irregularities in play are to be handled.

#### *Explanation of Chapter 643a.*

Chapter 643a (relating to Let it Ride Poker) contains the rules governing the play of Let it Ride Poker. Section 643a.1 contains the definitions of terms used throughout the chapter. In section 643a.2, the physical characteristics of the table are specified.

The remaining sections address: the number of decks of cards used for play of the game; the opening of the Let it Ride Poker table for play; the shuffling of cards; the value and rank of the cards; permissible wagers; dealing procedures; the payout odds for all permissible wagers; and how irregularities in play are to be handled.

Based on public comments received on the temporary rulemaking, pay tables for the various wagers were updated in this rulemaking which will provide additional options for the operators.

#### *Explanation of Chapter 649a.*

Chapter 649a (relating to Three Card Poker) contains the rules governing the play of Three Card Poker. Section 649a.1 contains the definitions of terms used throughout the chapter. In section 649a.2, the physical characteristics of the table are specified.

The remaining sections address: the number of decks of cards used for play of the game; the opening of the Let it Ride Poker table for play; the shuffling of cards; the value and rank of the cards; permissible wagers; dealing procedures; the payout odds for all permissible wagers; and how irregularities in play are to be handled.

Based on public comments received on the temporary rulemaking, pay tables for the various wagers were updated in this rulemaking which will provide additional options for the operators.

#### *Explanation of Chapter 653a.*

Chapter 653a (relating to Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker) contains the rules governing the play of Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker. Section 653a.1 contains the

definitions of terms used throughout the chapter. In section 653a.2, the physical characteristics of the table are specified.

The remaining sections address: the number of decks of cards used for play of the game; the opening of the Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table for play; the shuffling of cards; the value and rank of the cards; permissible wagers; dealing procedures; the payout odds for all permissible wagers; and how irregularities in play are to be handled.

Based on public comments received on the temporary rulemaking, the dealing procedure in § 653a.10 for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe has been updated to accommodate the use of an automated dealing shoe that automatically reshuffles the cards.

#### *Affected Parties*

Certificate holders that elect to offer the games of Four Card Poker, Let it Ride Poker, Three Card Poker or Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker will be required to comply with the requirements in this chapter. The requirements for the games are standard throughout the industry, are consistent with the requirements of the Gaming Act and are necessary for the protection of the gaming public and the revenues generated from table games.

The Board has experienced increased regulatory demands resulting from the implementation of table games including the review of rules submissions, table layouts, signage and gaming guides.

#### *Fiscal Impact*

*Commonwealth.* The Board will have to review each certificate holder's table games rules submissions, table layouts, signage and gaming guides to ensure compliance with the regulatory requirements contained within this rulemaking. These reviews will be conducted by existing Bureau of Gaming Operations and Casino Compliance staff, so the Board does not project that it will incur any significant cost increases as a result of this rulemaking.

*Political Subdivisions.* This proposed rulemaking will have no fiscal impact on political subdivisions of the Commonwealth. Host municipalities and counties will benefit from the local share funding mandated by Act 1.

*Private Sector.* This rulemaking will result in additional costs for certificate holders that elect to offer Four Card Poker, Let it Ride Poker, Three Card Poker or Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker. Certificate holders will be required to purchase the table games they elect to offer and to hire and train employees to operate the games. The costs for table game equipment do vary depending on the type and number of tables purchased. The costs are expected to be offset by the revenues generated from table game operations.

*General Public.* This proposed rulemaking will have no fiscal impact on the general public.

#### *Paperwork Requirements.*

This rulemaking will require certificate holders to: post signs at gaming tables; have complete sets of rules for all the games they offer available for public inspection; produce a gaming guide summarizing the rules of the games they offer; and file rules submissions for each table game they elect to offer. The rules submissions are standardized checklists for each game, are relatively simple to fill out and are available on the Gaming Board website.

#### *Effective Date*

The proposed rulemaking will become effective upon final-form publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*.

#### *Public Comments*

Interested persons are invited to submit written comments, suggestions or objections regarding the proposed rulemaking, within 30 days after the date of publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* to Susan A. Yocum, Assistant Chief Counsel, Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, P.O. Box 69060, Harrisburg, PA 17106-9060, Attention; Public Comment on Table Games Rules; Regulation # 125-152.

### *Contact Person*

The contact person for questions about this proposed rulemaking is Susan Yocum, Assistant Chief Counsel, at (717) 265-8356.

### *Regulatory Review*

Under section 5(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5(a)), on June 14, 2011, the Board submitted a copy of this proposed rulemaking and a copy of the Regulatory Analysis Form to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) and to the Chairpersons of the House Gaming Oversight Committee and the Senate Community, Economic and Recreational Development Committee. A copy of this material is available to the public upon request and is available on the Board's website at [www.pgcb.state.pa.us](http://www.pgcb.state.pa.us).

Under section 5(g) of the Regulatory Review Act, IRRC may convey any comments, recommendations or objections to the proposed rulemaking within 30 days of the close of the public comment period. The comments, recommendations or objections must specify the regulatory review criteria which have not been met. The Regulatory Review Act specifies detailed procedures for review, prior to final publication of the rulemaking, by the Board, the General Assembly and the Governor of comments, recommendations or objections raised.

GREGORY C. FAJT,  
Chairperson

## **CHAPTER 641a. FOUR CARD POKER**

### **Sec.**

- 641a.1. Definitions.
- 641a.2. Four Card Poker table physical characteristics.
- 641a.3. Cards; number of decks.
- 641a.4. Opening of the table for gaming.
- 641a.5. Shuffle and cut of the cards.
- 641a.6. Four Card Poker rankings.
- 641a.7. Wagers.
- 641a.8. Procedures for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe.
- 641a.9. Procedures for dealing the cards from the hand.
- 641a.10. Procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe.
- 641a.11. Procedures for completion of each round of play.
- 641a.12. Payout odds; Envy Bonus; rate of progression.
- 641a.13. Irregularities.

### **§ 641a.1. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*Aces Up Wager* - The wager that a player is required to make prior to any cards being dealt in order to compete

against a posted paytable, regardless of the outcome of the player's hand against the dealer's hand.

*Envy Bonus* - An additional fixed sum payout made to a player who placed a Progressive Payout Wager when another player at the Four Card Poker table is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying Hand.

*Envy Bonus Qualifying Hand* - A player's Four Card Poker hand with a rank of four-of-a-kind or, if included in the paytable selected by the certificate holder, a straight flush as defined in § 641a.6(b) (relating to Four Card Poker rankings).

*Hand* - The Four Card Poker hand that is held by each player and the dealer after the cards are dealt.

*Play Wager* - An additional wager that a player must make if the player opts to remain in competition against the dealer after the player reviews his hand.

*Progressive Payout Hand* - A player's Four Card Poker hand with a rank of three-of-a-kind or better as defined in § 641a.6(b).

*Round of play* - One complete cycle of play during which all wagers have been placed, all cards have been dealt and all remaining wagers have been settled in accordance with the rules of this chapter.

**§ 641a.2. Four Card Poker table physical characteristics.**

(a) Four Card Poker shall be played at a table having betting positions for no more than seven players on one side of the table and a place for the dealer on the opposite side of the table.

(b) The layout for a Four Card Poker table shall be approved by the Bureau of Gaming Operations and shall contain, at a minimum:

(1) The name or logo of the certificate holder.

(2) Three separate betting areas designated for the placement of the Ante, Play and Aces Up Wager for each player.

(3) If the certificate holder offers the optional Progressive Payout Wager authorized under § 641a.7(d)(4) (relating to wagers), a separate area designated for the placement of the Progressive Payout Wager for each player.

(4) Inscriptions that advise patrons of the payout odds or amounts for all permissible wagers offered by the certificate holder. If payout odds or amounts are not inscribed on the layout, a sign identifying the payout odds or amounts for all permissible wagers shall be posted at each Four Card Poker table.

(c) If a certificate holder offers a Progressive Payout Wager in accordance with § 641a.7(d)(4) (relating to wagers), the Four Card Poker table must have a progressive



table game system, in accordance with § 605a.7 (relating to progressive table game systems), for the placement of Progressive Payout Wagers. The progressive table game system must include:

(1) A wagering device at each betting position that acknowledges or accepts the placement of the Progressive Payout Wager.

(2) A device that controls or monitors the placement of Progressive Payout Wagers at the gaming table, including a mechanism, such as a lock-out button, that prevents the recognition of any Progressive Payout Wager that a player attempts to place after the dealer has announced "no more bets."

(d) Each Four Card Poker table must have a drop box and a tip box attached on the same side of the gaming table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer, as approved by the Bureau of Casino Compliance. The Bureau of Casino Compliance may approve an alternative location for the tip box when a card shuffling device or other table game equipment prevents the placement of the drop box and tip box on the same side of the gaming table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer.

(e) Each Four Card Poker table must have a discard rack securely attached to the top of the dealer's side of the table.

**§ 641a.3. Cards; number of decks.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), Four Card Poker shall be played with one deck of cards that are identical in appearance and one cover card.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is utilized, Four Card Poker may be played with two decks of cards in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) The cards in each deck must be of the same design, but the backs of the cards in one deck must be of a different color than the cards included in the other deck.

(2) One deck of cards shall be shuffled and stored in the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being used to play the game.

(3) Both decks are continuously alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play.

(4) The cards from only one deck are placed in the discard rack at any given time.

(c) The decks of cards used in Four Card Poker shall be changed:

(1) At least every 4 hours if the cards are dealt by hand.

(2) At least every 8 hours if the cards are dealt from a manual or automated dealing shoe.

**§ 641a.4. Opening of the table for gaming.**

(a) After receiving one or more decks of cards at the table, the dealer shall inspect the cards for any defects. The floorperson assigned to the table shall verify the inspection.

(b) After the cards are inspected, they shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first player to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread in horizontal fan shaped columns by deck according to suit and in sequence.

(c) After the first player arriving at the table has been afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, they shall be turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a washing of the cards and stacked. Once the cards have been stacked, they shall be shuffled in accordance with § 641a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards).

(d) If an automated card shuffling device is utilized and two decks of cards are received at the table, each deck of cards shall be spread for inspection, mixed, stacked and

shuffled in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c).

(e) If the decks of cards received at the table are preinspected and preshuffled in accordance with § 603a.16 (u) or (v) (relating to cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use), the requirements in subsections (a) - (d) do not apply.

**§ 641a.5. Shuffle and cut of the cards.**

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play, unless the cards were preshuffled in accordance with § 603a.16 (u) or (v) (relating to cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use), after each round of play has been completed or when directed by a floorperson or above, the dealer shall shuffle the cards, either manually or by use of an automated card shuffling device, so that the cards are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or automated shuffling device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack; provided, however, that the certificate holder may use an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the shuffling of the cards, inserts the stack of cards directly into a dealing shoe.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is being used, which counts the number of cards in the deck after

the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, and the device reveals that an incorrect number of cards are present, the deck shall be removed from the table.

(c) After the cards have been shuffled and stacked, the dealer shall:

(1) If the cards were shuffled using an automated card shuffling device, deal the cards in accordance with § 641a.8, § 641a.9 or § 641a.10 (relating to procedures for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedures for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe).

(2) If the cards were shuffled manually or were preshuffled, cut the cards in accordance with the procedures in subsection (d).

(d) If a cut of the cards is required, the dealer shall place the cover card in the stack at least ten cards in from the top of the stack. Once the cover card has been inserted, the dealer shall take all cards above the cover card and the cover card and place them on the bottom of the stack. The stack of cards shall then be inserted into the dealing shoe for commencement of play.

(e) After the cards have been cut and before any cards have been dealt, a floorperson or above may require the

cards to be recut if the floorperson determines that the cut was performed improperly or in any way that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game.

(f) If there is no gaming activity at a Four Card Poker table which is open for gaming, the cards shall be removed from the dealing shoe and discard rack and spread out on the table face down unless a player requests that the cards be spread face up on the table. After the first player arriving at the table is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards:

(1) If there is no automated shuffling device in use, the cards shall be mixed thoroughly by a washing of the cards, stacked, then shuffled and cut in accordance with this section.

(2) If an automated shuffling device is in use, the cards shall be stacked and placed into the automated shuffling device to be shuffled. The deck of cards already in the shuffler shall then be removed. Unless a player so requests, the deck of cards removed from the shuffler need not be spread for inspection and reshuffled prior to being dealt, if:

(i) The automated card shuffling device stores a single deck of shuffled cards inside the shuffler in a secure manner.

(ii) The shuffled cards have been secured, released and prepared for play in accordance with procedures approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations.

(g) In lieu of the dealing and shuffling requirements in this section, a certificate holder may utilize a dealing shoe or other device designed to automatically reshuffle the cards provided that the device and the procedures for dealing and shuffling the cards through use of this device are approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations.

**§ 641a.6. Four Card Poker rankings.**

(a) The rank of the cards used in Four Card Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a straight flush or a straight with a 2, 3 and 4 but may not be combined with any other sequence of cards (for example: king, ace, 2 and 3). All suits shall be equal in rank.

(b) The permissible poker hands in the game of Four Card Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

(1) A four-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of four cards of the same rank, with four aces being the highest ranking four-of-a-kind and four 2's being the lowest ranking four-of-a-kind.

(2) A straight flush, which is a hand consisting of four cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with an ace, king, queen and jack being the highest ranking straight flush and an ace, 2, 3, 4 being the lowest ranking straight flush.

(3) A three-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank, with three aces being the highest ranking three-of-a-kind and three 2's being the lowest ranking three-of-a-kind.

(4) A flush, which is a hand consisting of four cards of the same suit, regardless of rank.

(5) A straight, which is a hand consisting of four cards of more than one suit and of consecutive rank, with ace, king, queen and jack being the highest ranking straight and an ace, 2, 3, 4 being the lowest ranking straight.

(6) Two pairs, which is a hand consisting of two pairs with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pair and two 3's and two 2's being the lowest ranking two pair.

(7) A pair, which is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two 2's being the lowest ranking pair.



(c) When comparing two poker hands that are of identical rank under subsection (b), or that contain none of the hands listed in subsection (b), the hand that contains the highest ranking card under subsection (a), which is not contained in the other hand, shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of equal rank after the application of this section, the hands shall be considered a tie.

**§ 641a.7. Wagers.**

(a) Wagers at Four Card Poker shall be made by placing value chips or plaques on the appropriate areas of the table layout. Verbal wagers accompanied by cash may not be accepted.

(b) Only players who are seated at a Four Card Poker table may wager at the game. Once a player has placed a wager and received cards, that player shall remain seated until the completion of the round of play. If a player leaves the table during a round of play, any wagers made by the player may be considered abandoned and may be treated as losing wagers.

(c) All wagers, except the Play Wager, shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing "no more bets" in accordance with the dealing procedures in § 641a.8, § 641a.9 or § 641a.10 (relating to procedures for dealing the cards from

a manual dealing shoe; procedures for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe). Except as provided in § 641a.11(b) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play), no wager may be made, increased or withdrawn after the dealer has announced "no more bets."

(d) The following wagers may be placed in the game of Four Card Poker:

(1) A player may compete solely against the dealer's Four Card Poker hand by placing an Ante Wager then a Play Wager, in accordance with § 641a.11(b), in an amount from one to three times the amount of the player's Ante Wager.

(2) A player may compete solely against a posted payable by placing an Aces Up Wager.

(3) A player may compete against both the dealer's Four Card Poker hand and the posted payable by placing an Ante Wager and an Aces Up Wager in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) A certificate holder may, if specified in its rules submission under 601a.2 (relating to table games Rules Submissions), offer to each player at a Four Card Poker Table the option to make an additional Progressive Payout Wager that the player will receive a Progressive

Payout hand. After placing an Ante Wager or an Aces Up Wager, or both, a player may make the additional Progressive Payout Wager by placing a value chip onto the progressive wagering device designated for that player. Each player shall be responsible for verifying that the player's respective Progressive Payout Wager has been accepted.

(e) A certificate holder shall specify in its rules submission under § 601a.2, the number of adjacent boxes on which a player may place a wager in one round of play.

**§ 641a.8. Procedures for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe.**

(a) If a manual dealing shoe is used, the dealing shoe shall be located on the table in a location approved by the Bureau of Casino Compliance. Once the procedures required under § 641a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the stacked deck of cards shall be placed in the dealing shoe by the dealer or by an automated card shuffling device.

(b) Prior to dealing any cards, the dealer shall announce "no more bets" and, if the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers

have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(c) Each card shall be removed from the dealing shoe with the hand of the dealer that is closest to the dealing shoe and placed on the appropriate area of the layout with the opposite hand.

(d) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal one card at a time to each player who has placed a wager in accordance with § 641a.7 (relating to wagers) and to the dealer until each player who placed a wager has five cards and the dealer has six cards. All cards dealt to the players and the first five cards dealt to the dealer shall be dealt face down. The dealer's sixth card shall be dealt face up. The dealer's fifth and sixth cards shall be dealt consecutively.

(e) After five cards have been dealt to each player and six to the dealer, the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and, except as provided in

subsection (f), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(g) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(h) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player has more or less than five cards or the dealer has more or less than six cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 641a.9. Procedures for dealing the cards from the hand.**

(a) If the cards are dealt from the dealer's hand, the following requirements shall be observed:

(1) An automated shuffling device shall be used to shuffle the cards.

(2) After the procedures required under § 641a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the dealer shall place the stacked deck of cards in either hand. After the dealer has chosen the hand in which to will hold the cards, the dealer shall continue to use that hand whenever holding the cards during that round of play. The cards held by the dealer shall be kept over the table inventory container and in front of the dealer at all times.

(3) Prior to dealing any cards, the dealer shall announce "no more bets" and, if the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(b) The dealer shall deal each card by holding the deck of cards in the chosen hand and shall use the other hand to remove the top card of the deck and place it face down on the appropriate area of the layout. The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal one card at a time to each player who has placed a wager in accordance with § 641a.7 (relating to wagers) and to the dealer until each player who placed a wager has five cards and the dealer has six cards. All cards dealt to the players and the first five cards dealt to the dealer shall be dealt face down. The sixth card dealt to the dealer shall be dealt face up. The dealer's fifth and sixth cards shall be dealt consecutively.

(c) After five cards have been dealt to each player and six cards have been dealt to the dealer, the dealer shall, except as provided in subsection (d), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer

shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(e) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player has more or less than five cards or the dealer has more or less than six cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 641a.10. Procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe.**

(a) If the cards are dealt from an automated dealing shoe, the following requirements shall be observed:

(1) After the procedures required under § 641a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the cards shall be placed in the automated dealing shoe.



(2) Prior to the shoe dispensing any stacks of cards, the dealer shall announce "no more bets" and, if the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(b) The dealer shall deliver the first stack of cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe face down to the player farthest to the dealer's left who has placed a wager in accordance with § 641a.7 (relating to wagers). As the remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe, the dealer shall, moving clockwise around the table, deliver a stack face down to each of the other players who has placed a wager in accordance with 641a.7. The dealer shall then deliver a stack of five cards face down to the area designated for the placement of the dealer's cards. When the automated dealing shoe dispenses the next sequence of five cards, the dealer shall remove

the stack and spread the cards face down on the layout so that the top card of the stack is to the dealer's right and the bottom card is to the dealer's left. The dealer shall turn the bottom card of the stack (the card on the dealer's far left) face up on the dealer's hand. The dealer shall collect the remaining four cards of that stack and place the cards in the discard rack without revealing the cards.

(c) After each stack of five cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with subsection (b), the dealer shall remove the stub from the automated dealing shoe and, except as provided in subsection (d), place the cards in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(e) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player has more or less than five cards or the dealer has more or less than six cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 641a.11. Procedures for completion of each round of play.**

(a) After the dealing procedures required under § 641a.8, § 641a.9 or § 641a.10 (relating to procedures for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedures for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe) have been completed, each player shall examine his cards, subject to the following limitations:

(1) Each player who wagers at Four Card Poker shall be responsible for his own hand and no person other than the dealer and the player to whom the cards were dealt may touch the cards of that player.

(2) Each player shall keep his five cards in full view of the dealer at all times.

(b) After each player has examined his cards, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's left and moving clockwise around the table, ask each player who placed an Ante Wager if he wishes to make a Play Wager in an amount from one to three times the amount of the player's Ante Wager or forfeit the Ante Wager and end his participation in the round of play. If a player:

(1) Has placed an Ante Wager and an Aces Up Wager but does not make a Play Wager, the player shall forfeit the Ante Wager but shall not forfeit the Aces Up Wager.

(2) Has placed an Ante Wager and a Progressive Payout Wager but does not make a Play Wager, the player shall forfeit both the Ante Wager and the Progressive Payout Wager but shall not forfeit the eligibility to receive an Envy Bonus under § 641a.12(d) (relating to payout odds; Envy Bonus; rate of progression).

(c) After each player who has placed an Ante Wager has either placed a Play Wager on the designated area of the layout or forfeited his Ante Wager and hand, the dealer shall collect all forfeited wagers and associated cards and shall place the cards in the discard rack. The dealer shall then reveal the dealer's cards and select the four cards that form the highest possible ranking Four Card Poker hand. After the dealer's cards are turned face up, the

dealer shall beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's right and continuing around the table in a counterclockwise direction, complete the following applicable procedures in succession for each player:

(1) The dealer shall turn the five cards of each player face up on the layout.

(2) The dealer shall examine the cards of the player and select the four cards that form the highest possible ranking poker hand for each player.

(3) If a player's highest ranking Four Card Poker hand:

(i) Is ranked lower than the dealer's Four Card Poker hand, the dealer shall immediately collect the Ante and Play Wagers made by the player.

(ii) Is ranked higher than or equal to the dealer's Four Card Poker hand, the dealer shall pay the Ante and Play Wagers and any Ante Bonus in accordance with the payout odds in § 641a.12(a) - (b).

(4) After settling a player's Ante and Play Wagers, the dealer shall settle any Aces Up Wagers by determining whether the player's Four Card Poker hand qualifies for a payout in accordance with § 641a.12(c). A winning Aces Up Wager shall be paid irrespective of whether

the player's Four Card Poker hand outranks the dealer's hand.

(5) The dealer shall then settle the Progressive Payout Wager, if offered by the certificate holder. A winning Progressive Payout Wager shall be paid irrespective of whether the player's hand outranks the dealer's hand. If a player has won a progressive payout, the dealer shall:

(i) Verify that the hand is a winning hand.

(ii) Verify that the appropriate light on the progressive table game system has been illuminated.

(iii) Have a floorperson or above validate the progressive payout in accordance with the certificate holder's approved internal control procedures.

(iv) Pay the winning Progressive Payout Wager in accordance with the payout odds in § 641a.12(d). If a player has won a progressive payout that is 100% of the jackpot amount on the progressive meter, the progressive payout may not be paid from the table inventory container. If a player has won a progressive payout that is not being paid from the table inventory container, the cards of that player shall remain on the table until the necessary documentation has been completed.

(v) Pay any Envy Bonus won in accordance with § 641a.12(d). Players making a Progressive Payout

Wager shall receive an Envy Bonus when another player at the same Four Card Poker table is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying hand. Players are entitled to multiple Envy Bonuses if more than one other player is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying hand; provided, however, that a player is not entitled to an Envy Bonus for his own hand or the hand of the dealer.

(d) After all wagers have been settled, the dealer shall remove all remaining cards from the table and place them in the discard rack in a manner that permits the reconstruction of each hand in the event of a question or dispute.

**§ 641a.12. Payout Odds; Envy Bonus; rate of progression.**

(a) A certificate holder shall pay each winning Ante and Play wager at odds of 1 to 1.

(b) A player placing an Ante Wager and a Play Wager shall be paid a bonus on the Ante Wager, at the odds contained in the following payable, regardless of whether the player's Four Card Poker hand outranks the dealer's hand:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable</u>
Four-of-a-kind	25 to 1
Straight Flush	20 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	2 to 1

(c) A player placing an Aces Up Wager shall be paid at the odds contained in one of the following paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>	<u>Paytable C</u>
Four-of-a-kind	50 to 1	50 to 1	50 to 1
Straight Flush	30 to 1	30 to 1	40 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	9 to 1	7 to 1	8 to 1
Flush	6 to 1	6 to 1	5 to 1
Straight	4 to 1	5 to 1	4 to 1
Two Pair	2 to 1	2 to 1	3 to 1
Pair of Aces	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable D</u>	<u>Paytable E</u>	<u>Paytable F</u>
Four-of-a-kind	50 to 1	50 to 1	50 to 1
Straight Flush	40 to 1	30 to 1	40 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	8 to 1	8 to 1	7 to 1
Flush	6 to 1	6 to 1	5 to 1
Straight	4 to 1	4 to 1	4 to 1
Two Pair	2 to 1	2 to 1	3 to 1
Pair of Aces	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1

(d) If a certificate holder offers a Progressive Payout Wager:

(1) A player placing a Progressive Payout Wager shall be paid at the odds contained in one of the following



paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>
Four Aces	100% of meter	100% of meter
Four-of-a-kind	300 for 1	300 for 1
Straight Flush	100 for 1	100 for 1
Three-of-a-kind	9 for 1	15 for 1

(2) A player shall receive the payout for only the highest ranking Four Card Poker hand formed.

(3) The rate of progression for the meter used for the progressive payout in subsection (1) must be contained in the certificate holder's rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2. The initial and reset amount must also be contained in the certificate holder's rules submission and must be at least \$5,000 for payable A and \$1,000 for payable B.

(4) Winning Progressive Payout Hands shall be paid in accordance with the amount on the meter when it is the player's turn to be paid in accordance with § 641a.11(c) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play).

(5) Envy Bonus payouts shall be made according to one of the following payout schedules, selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in

accordance with 601a.2, for Envy Bonus Qualifying hands based upon the amount of the Progressive Payout Wager placed by the player receiving the Envy Bonus:

\$1 Progressive Payout Wager

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A Envy Bonus</u>	<u>Paytable B Envy Bonus</u>
Four Aces	\$100	\$100
Four-of-a-kind	\$10	\$25
Straight Flush	\$5	N/A

\$5 Progressive Payout Wager

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A Envy Bonus</u>	<u>Paytable B Envy Bonus</u>
Four Aces	\$500	\$500
Four-of-a-kind	\$50	\$125
Straight Flush	\$25	N/A

**§ 641a.13. Irregularities.**

(a) A card that is found face up in the shoe or the deck while the cards are being dealt may not be used in that round of play and shall be placed in the discard rack. If more than one card is found face up in the shoe or the deck during the dealing of the cards, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(b) A card drawn in error without its face being exposed shall be used as though it were the next card from the shoe or the deck.

(c) If a player or the dealer is dealt an incorrect number of cards, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(d) If one or more of the dealer's cards is inadvertently exposed prior to the dealer revealing his cards in accordance with § 641a.11(c) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play), all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(e) If an automated card shuffling device is being used and the device jams, stops shuffling during a shuffle, or fails to complete a shuffle cycle, the cards shall be reshuffled.

(f) If an automated dealing shoe is being used and the device jams, stops dealing cards, or fails to deal all cards during a round of play, the round of play shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be removed from the device and reshuffled with any cards already dealt.

(g) If an automated shuffling device or automated dealing shoe malfunctions and cannot be used, the automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe must be covered or have a sign indicating that the automated

shuffling device or automated dealing shoe is out of order placed on the device before any other method of shuffling or dealing may be utilized at that table.

#### **CHAPTER 643a. LET IT RIDE POKER**

Sec.

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##### **§ 643a.1. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*Community card* – A card which is used by all players to form a five-card poker hand.

*Hand* – The five-card poker hand formed for each player by combining the three cards dealt to the player and the two community cards.

*Let It Ride* – When a player does not withdraw a wager as permitted under § 643a.11(b) and (d) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play).

*Round of play* – One complete cycle of play during which all wagers have been placed, all cards have been dealt and all remaining wagers have been settled in accordance with the rules of this chapter.

**§ 643a.2. Let It Ride Poker table physical characteristics.**

(a) Let It Ride Poker shall be played at a table having betting positions for no more than seven players on one side of the table and a place for the dealer on the opposite side of the table.

(b) The layout for a Let It Ride Poker table shall be approved by the Bureau of Gaming Operations and shall contain, at a minimum:

(1) The name or logo of the certificate holder.

(2) Three separate betting areas designated for the placement of the Let it Ride Poker wagers required under § 643a.7(d) (relating to wagers) for each player.

(3) Separate areas designated for the placement of the cards of each player.

(4) A separate area designated for the placement of the community cards located directly in front of the table inventory container.

(5) If the certificate holder offers the optional Let it Ride Bonus Wager authorized under § 643a.7(e), a separate area designated for the placement of the Let it Ride Bonus Wager for each player.

(6) If a certificate holder offers the optional Three Card Bonus Wager authorized under § 643a.7(f), a separate area designated for the placement of the Three Card Bonus Wager for each player.

(7) Inscriptions that advise patrons of the payout odds or amounts for all permissible wagers offered by the certificate holder. If payout odds or amounts are not inscribed on the layout, a sign identifying the payout odds or amounts for all permissible wagers shall be posted at each Let It Ride Poker table.

(8) An inscription indicating the payout limit per hand established by the certificate holder under § 643a.12(d) (relating to payout odds; payout limitation) or a generic inscription indicating the game is subject to the posted payout limit. If the payout limit is not inscribed

on the layout, a sign which sets forth the required information shall be posted at each Let it Ride Poker table.

(c) If a certificate holder offers the Let It Ride Bonus Wager in accordance with § 643a.7(e), the Let It Ride Poker table must have a table game system, approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations, which shall include:

(1) A wagering device at each betting position that acknowledges or accepts the placement of the Let It Ride Bonus Wager.

(2) A device that controls or monitors the placement of Let It Ride Bonus Wagers at the gaming table, including a mechanism, such as a lock-out button, that prevents the recognition of any Let It Ride Bonus Wager that a player attempts to place after the dealer has announced ``no more bets.``

(d) Each Let It Ride Poker table must have a drop box and a tip box attached on the same side of the table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer, as approved by the Bureau of Casino Compliance. The Bureau of Casino Compliance may approve an alternative location for the tip box when a card shuffling device or other table game equipment prevents the placement of the drop box and tip

box on the same side of the gaming table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer.

(e) Each Let It Ride Poker table must have a discard rack securely attached to the top of the dealer's side of the table.

**§ 643a.3. Cards; number of decks.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), Let It Ride Poker shall be played with one deck of cards that are identical in appearance and one cover card.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is utilized, Let It Ride Poker may be played with two decks of cards in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) The cards in each deck must be of the same design, but the backs of the cards in one deck must be of a different color than the cards included in the other deck.

(2) One deck of cards shall be shuffled and stored in the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being used to play the game.

(3) Both decks of cards shall be continuously alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play.

(4) The cards from only one deck shall be placed in the discard rack at any given time.



(c) The decks of cards used in Let It Ride Poker shall be changed:

(1) At least every 4 hours if the cards are dealt by hand.

(2) At least every 8 hours if the cards are dealt from a manual or automated dealing shoe.

**§ 643a.4. Opening of the table for gaming.**

(a) After receiving one or more decks of cards at the table, the dealer shall inspect the cards for any defects. The floorperson assigned to the table shall verify the inspection.

(b) After the cards are inspected, they shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first player to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread in horizontal fan shaped columns by deck according to suit and in sequence.

(c) After the first player arriving at the table has been afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, they shall be turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a washing of the cards and stacked. Once the cards have been stacked, they shall be shuffled in accordance with § 643a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards).

(d) If an automated card shuffling device is utilized and two decks of cards are received at the table, each deck of cards shall be spread for inspection, mixed, stacked and shuffled in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c).

(e) If the decks of cards received at the table are preinspected and reshuffled in accordance with § 603a.16 (u) or (v) (relating to cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use), the requirements in subsections (a) - (d) do not apply.

**§ 643a.5. Shuffle and cut of the cards.**

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play, unless the cards were reshuffled in accordance with § 603a.16 (u) or (v) (relating to cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use), after each round of play has been completed or when directed by a floorperson or above, the dealer shall shuffle the cards, either manually or by use of an automated card shuffling device, so that the cards are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or automated shuffling device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack; provided, however, that the certificate holder may use an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the

shuffling of the cards, inserts the stack of cards directly into a dealing shoe.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is being used, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, and the device reveals that an incorrect number of cards are present, the deck shall be removed from the table.

(c) After the cards have been shuffled and stacked, the dealer shall:

(1) If the cards were shuffled using an automated card shuffling device, deal the cards in accordance with § 643a.8, § 643a.9 or § 643a.10 (relating to procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedure for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedure for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe).

(2) If the cards were shuffled manually or were preshuffled, cut the cards in accordance with the procedures in subsection (d).

(d) If a cut of the cards is required, the dealer shall place the cover card in the stack at least ten cards in from the top of the stack. Once the cover card has been inserted, the dealer shall take all cards above the cover card and the cover card and place them on the bottom of the

stack. The stack of cards shall then be inserted into the dealing shoe for commencement of play.

(e) After the cards have been cut and before the cards have been dealt, a floorperson or above may require the cards to be recut if the floorperson determines that the cut was performed improperly or in any way that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game.

(f) If there is no gaming activity at a Let It Ride Poker table which is open for gaming, the cards shall be removed from the dealing shoe and discard rack and spread out on the table face down unless a player requests that the cards be spread face up on the table. After the first player arriving at the table is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards:

(1) If there is no automated shuffling device in use, the cards shall be mixed thoroughly by a washing of the cards, stacked, then shuffled and cut in accordance with this section.

(2) If an automated shuffling device is in use, the cards shall be stacked and placed into the automated shuffling device to be shuffled. The deck of cards already in the shuffler shall then be removed. Unless a player so requests, the deck of cards removed from the shuffler need

not be spread for inspection and reshuffled prior to being dealt, if:

(i) The automated card shuffling device stores a single deck of shuffled cards inside the shuffler in a secure manner.

(ii) The shuffled cards have been secured, released and prepared for play in accordance with procedures approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations.

(g) In lieu of the dealing and shuffling requirements in this section, a certificate holder may utilize a dealing shoe or other device designed to automatically reshuffle the cards provided that the device and the procedures for dealing and shuffling the cards through use of this device are approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations.

**§ 643a.6. Let It Ride Poker rankings.**

(a) The rank of the cards used in Let It Ride Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a straight flush or straight formed with a 2, 3, 4 and 5 but may not be combined with any other sequence of cards (for example: queen, king, ace, 2, 3). All suits shall be equal in rank.

(b) The permissible poker hands at the game of Let It Ride Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

(1) A royal flush, which is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 of the same suit.

(2) A straight flush, which is a hand, other than a royal flush, consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with king, queen, jack, 10 and 9 being the highest ranking straight flush and ace, 2, 3, 4 and 5 being the lowest straight flush.

(3) A four-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of four cards of the same rank, with four aces being the highest ranking four-of-a-kind and four 2's being the lowest ranking four-of-a-kind.

(4) A full house, which is a hand consisting of three-of-a-kind and a pair, with three aces and two kings being the highest ranking full house and three 2's and two 3's being the lowest ranking full house.

(5) A flush, which is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit, not in consecutive order, with ace, king, queen, jack and 9 being the highest ranking flush and 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 being the lowest ranking flush.

(6) A straight, which is a hand consisting of five cards of consecutive rank, with an ace, king, queen,

jack and 10 being the highest ranking straight and an ace, 2, 3, 4 and 5 being the lowest ranking straight.

(7) A three-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank, with three aces being the highest ranking three-of-a-kind and three 2's being the lowest ranking three-of-a-kind.

(8) Two pairs, which is a hand consisting of two pairs, with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pair and two 3's and two 2's being the lowest ranking two pair.

(9) A pair, which is a hand containing two cards of the same rank, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two 2's being the lowest ranking pair.

(c) If the certificate holder offers the optional Three Card Bonus Wager under § 643a.7(f) (relating to wagers), the Three Card Bonus Wager hands eligible for a payout shall be:

(1) A mini-royal, which is a hand consisting of an ace, king and queen, all of the same suit.

(2) A straight flush, which is a hand, other than a mini-royal, consisting of three cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking.

(3) A three-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank.

(4) A straight, which is a hand consisting of three cards of consecutive rank, including an ace, 2 and 3.

(5) A flush, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit, not in consecutive order.

(6) A pair, which is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank.

**§ 643a.7. Wagers.**

(a) Wagers at Let It Ride Poker shall be made by placing value chips or plaques on the appropriate areas of the table layout. Verbal wagers accompanied by cash may not be accepted.

(b) Only players who are seated at a Let It Ride Poker table may wager at the game. Once a player has placed a wager and received cards, that player shall remain seated until the completion of the round of play. If a player leaves the table during a round of play, any wagers made by the player may be considered abandoned and may be treated as losing wagers.

(c) All wagers at Let it Ride Poker shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing ``no more bets'' in accordance with the dealing procedures in § 643a.8, § 643a.9 or § 643a.10 (relating to procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedure for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedure for dealing the cards



from an automated dealing shoe). Except as provided in § 643a.11(b) and (d) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play), no wager may be made, increased or withdrawn after the dealer has announced ``no more bets.''

(d) To participate in a round of play, a player shall place three equal but separate Let it Ride Poker wagers designated as Bet Number 1, Bet Number 2 and Bet Number 3. Bet Number 1 and Bet Number 2 may subsequently be removed by the player in accordance with § 643a.11(b) and (d).

(e) A certificate holder may, if specified in its rules submission under § 601a.2 (relating to table games rules submissions), offer to each player at a Let It Ride Poker table the option to make an additional Let It Ride Bonus Wager that the player will have a five-card poker hand with a rank of a pair of tens or better, two pair or better, or three-of-a-kind or better, depending on the payable selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission under § 601a.2. After placing the three wagers required under subsection (d), a player may make an additional Let It Ride Bonus Wager by placing a value chip onto the wagering device designated for that player. Each player shall be responsible for verifying that the player's respective Three Card Bonus Wager has been accepted.

(f) A certificate holder may, if specified in its rules submission under § 601a.2, offer to each player at a Let It Ride Poker table the option to make an additional Three Card Bonus Wager that the three cards dealt to the player will have a rank of a pair or better. After placing the three wagers required under subsection (d), a player may make an additional Three Card Bonus Wager by placing a value chip on the designated betting area prior to the dealer announcing ``no more bets.``

(g) A Let It Ride Bonus Wager or a Three Card Bonus Wager shall have no bearing on any other wagers made by the player.

(h) A certificate holder shall specify in its rules submission under § 601a.2, the number of adjacent boxes on which a player may place a wager in one round of play.

**§ 643a.8. Procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe.**

(a) If a manual dealing shoe is used, the dealing shoe shall be located on the table in a location approved by the Bureau of Casino Compliance. Once the procedures required under § 643a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the stacked deck of cards shall be placed in the dealing shoe by the dealer or by an automated card shuffling device.

(b) Prior to dealing any cards, the dealer shall announce ``no more bets'' and, if the Let it Ride Bonus Wager is being offered, shall use the table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Let it Ride Bonus Wagers. If any Let It Ride Bonus Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Let it Ride Bonus Wagers accepted by the table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(c) Each card shall be removed from the dealing shoe with the hand of the dealer that is closest to the dealing shoe and placed on the appropriate area of the layout with the opposite hand.

(d) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal the cards as follows:

(1) One card face down to each player who has placed the three required Let it Ride Poker wagers in accordance with § 643a.7(d) (relating to wagers).

(2) One card face down to the area designated for the placement of the community cards.

(3) A second card face down to each player who has placed the three required Let it Ride Poker wagers in accordance with § 643a.7(d).

(4) A second card face down to the area designated for the placement of the community cards, which card shall be placed to the right of the first card dealt to this area.

(5) A third card face down to each player who has placed the three required Let it Ride Poker wagers in accordance with § 643a.7(d).

(e) After three cards have been dealt to each player and two cards have been dealt to the area designated for the placement of the community cards, the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and, except as provided in subsection (f), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(g) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(h) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player has more or less than three cards or the area designed for the placement of the community cards has more or less than two cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 643a.9. Procedure for dealing the cards from the hand.**

(a) If the cards are dealt from the dealer's hand, the following requirements shall be observed:

(1) An automated shuffling device shall be used to shuffle the cards.

(2) After the procedures required under § 643a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the dealer shall place the stacked deck of cards in either hand. After the dealer has chosen the hand in which he will hold the cards, the dealer shall continue to

use that hand whenever holding the cards during that round of play. The cards held by the dealer shall be kept over the table inventory container and in front of the dealer at all times.

(3) Prior to dealing any cards, the dealer shall announce ``no more bets'' bets'' and, if the Let it Ride Bonus Wager is being offered, shall use the table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Let it Ride Bonus Wagers. If any Let It Ride Bonus Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Let it Ride Bonus Wagers accepted by the table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(b) The dealer shall deal each card by holding the deck of cards in the chosen hand and shall use the other hand to remove the top card of the deck and place it face down on the appropriate area of the layout. The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal the cards as follows:

(1) One card face down to each player who placed the three required Let it Ride Poker wagers in accordance with § 643a.7(d) (relating to wagers).

(2) One card face down to the area designated for the placement of the community cards.

(3) A second card face down to each player who placed the three required Let it Ride Poker wagers in accordance with § 643a.7(d).

(4) A second card face down to the area designated for the placement of the community cards, which card shall be placed to the right of the first card dealt to this area.

(5) A third card face down to each player who placed the three required Let it Ride Poker wagers in accordance with § 643a.7(d).

(c) After three cards have been dealt to each player and two cards have been dealt to the area designated for the placement of the community cards, the dealer shall, except as provided in subsection (d), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least

once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(e) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player has more or less than three cards or the area designed for the placement of the community cards has more or less than two cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 643a.10. Procedure for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe.**

(a) If the cards are dealt from an automated dealing shoe, the following requirements shall be observed:

(1) After the procedures required under § 643a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been



completed, the cards shall be placed in the automated dealing shoe.

(2) Prior to the shoe dispensing any stacks of cards, the dealer shall announce ``no more bets'' and, if the Let it Ride Bonus Wager is being offered, shall use the table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Let it Ride Bonus Wagers. If any Let It Ride Bonus Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Let it Ride Bonus Wagers accepted by the table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(b) The dealer shall deliver the first stack of cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe face down to the player farthest to the dealer's left who has placed the three required Let it Ride Poker wagers in accordance with § 643a.7(d) (relating to wagers). As the remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe, the dealer shall, moving clockwise around the table, deliver a stack face down to each of the other players who has placed the three required wagers in accordance with § 643a.7(d). The dealer shall then deliver a stack of three cards face down to the area designated for the placement of

the community cards, and spread the stack within the designated area so that the top card is to the dealer's right and the bottom card is to the dealer's left. The dealer shall then remove the community card that is to his left, and place that card in the discard rack without exposing the card.

(c) After each stack of three cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with subsection (b), the dealer shall remove the stub from the automated dealing shoe and, except as provided in subsection (d), place the cards in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(e) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall

determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player has more or less than three cards or the area designed for the placement of the community cards has more or less than two cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 643a.11. Procedures for completion of each round of play.**

(a) After the dealing procedures required under § 643a.8, § 643a.9 or § 643a.10 (relating to procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedure for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedure for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe) have been completed, each player shall examine his cards, subject to the following limitations:

(1) Each player who wagers at Let It Ride Poker shall be responsible for his own hand and no person other than the dealer and the player to whom the cards were dealt may touch the cards of that player.

(2) Each player shall keep his three cards in full view of the dealer at all times.

(3) After each player has made a decision regarding Bet Number 2 as required in subsection (d), the player's cards shall be placed face down on the appropriate area of the layout and the player may not touch the cards again.

(b) After each player has examined his cards, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's left and moving clockwise around the table, ask each player if he wishes to withdraw Bet Number 1 or Let It Ride. If a player:

(1) Chooses to let Bet Number 1 ride, that bet shall remain on the designated betting area of the layout until the end of the round of play.

(2) Chooses to withdraw Bet Number 1, the dealer shall move the value chips on the betting area designated for Bet Number 1 toward the player who shall then immediately remove the value chips from the betting area.

(c) After each player has made a decision regarding Bet Number 1, the dealer shall then turn the community card that is to the dealer's left face up and place it on top of the remaining community card. The exposed card shall become the first community card.

(d) After the first community card is exposed, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the

dealer's left and moving clockwise around the table, ask each player if he wishes to withdraw Bet Number 2 or Let It Ride. This decision shall be made by each player regardless of the decision made concerning Bet Number 1. If a player:

(1) Chooses to let Bet Number 2 ride, that bet shall remain on the designated betting area of the layout until the end of the round of play.

(2) Chooses to withdraw Bet Number 2, the dealer shall move the value chips on the betting area designated for Bet Number 2 toward the player who shall then immediately remove the value chips from the betting area.

(e) The dealer shall then move the first community card to the right of the card that remains face down in the community card area. The face down card shall be turned face up by the dealer and become the second community card.

(f) After the second community card is turned face up, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's right and continuing around the table in a counterclockwise direction, complete the following applicable procedures in succession for each player:

(1) The dealer shall turn the three cards of the player face up on the layout. The two community cards and the three cards dealt to the player shall form the five-card poker hand of that player.

(2) The dealer shall examine the cards of the player and form the highest ranking poker hand for each player.

(3) The dealer shall first settle all Let it Ride Poker wagers of that player, then any Let It Ride Bonus Wager or Three Card Bonus Wager in accordance with the payout odds under 643a.12 (relating to payout odds; payout limitation).

(g) After all wagers have been settled, the dealer shall remove all remaining cards from the table and place them in the discard rack in a manner that permits the reconstruction of each hand in the event of a question or dispute.

**§ 643a.12. Payout odds; payout limitation.**

(a) Subject to the payout limitation in subsection (d), a certificate holder shall pay out winning Let it Ride Poker Wagers at the odds contained in one of the following paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2 (relating to table games rules submissions):

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>
Royal Flush	1000 to 1	500 to 1
Straight Flush	200 to 1	200 to 1
Four-of-a-kind	50 to 1	50 to 1

Full House	11 to 1	11 to 1
Flush	8 to 1	8 to 1
Straight	5 to 1	5 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	3 to 1	3 to 1
Two Pair	2 to 1	2 to 1
Pair - Tens or better	1 to 1	1 to 1

(b) If a certificate holder offers the Let it Ride Bonus Wager, the certificate holder shall pay out winning Let It Ride Bonus Wagers at the amounts contained in one of the following paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>	<u>Paytable C</u>
Royal Flush	\$25,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Straight Flush	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,000
Four-of-a-kind	\$400	\$200	\$100
Full House	\$200	\$75	\$75
Flush	\$50	\$50	\$50
Straight	\$25	\$25	\$25
Three-of-a-kind	\$5	\$5	\$9
Two Pair	\$0	\$4	\$6
Pair - Tens or better	\$0	\$1	\$0

(c) If a certificate holder offers the Three Card Bonus Wager, the certificate holder shall pay off winning

Three Card Bonus Wagers at the odds contained in one of the following paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>	<u>Paytable C</u>
Mini-royal	40 to 1	40 to 1	40 to 1
Straight flush	40 to 1	40 to 1	40 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	30 to 1	30 to 1	30 to 1
Straight	6 to 1	5 to 1	6 to 1
Flush	4 to 1	4 to 1	3 to 1
Pair	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable D</u>	<u>Paytable E</u>	<u>Paytable F</u>
Mini-royal	50 to 1	50 to 1	50 to 1
Straight flush	40 to 1	40 to 1	40 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	30 to 1	30 to 1	30 to 1
Straight	6 to 1	5 to 1	6 to 1
Flush	4 to 1	4 to 1	3 to 1
Pair	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1

(d) Notwithstanding the payout odds in subsection (a), a certificate holder may, in its rules submission under § 601a.2, establish a maximum amount that is payable to a player on a single hand. The maximum amount shall be at least \$50,000 or the maximum amount that one patron could win per round when betting the minimum permissible wager, whichever is greater. Any maximum payout limit established



by a certificate holder shall apply only to payouts of Let It Ride Poker wagers placed under § 643a.7(d) (relating to wagers) but may not apply to payouts of Let It Ride Bonus Wagers placed under § 643a.7(e) or Three Card Bonus Wagers placed under § 643a.7(f).

**§ 643a.13. Irregularities.**

(a) A card that is found face up in the shoe or the deck while the cards are being dealt shall not be used in that round of play and shall be placed in the discard rack. If more than one card is found face up in the shoe or the deck during the dealing of the cards, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(b) A card drawn in error without its face being exposed shall be used as though it were the next card from the shoe or the deck.

(c) If any player or the area designated for the placement of the community cards is dealt an incorrect number of cards, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(d) If either of the community cards is inadvertently exposed prior to the dealer revealing the community cards in accordance with § 643a.11(c) and (e) (relating to

procedures for completion of each round of play), all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(e) If an automated card shuffling device is being used and the device jams, stops shuffling during a shuffle, or fails to complete a shuffle cycle, the cards shall be reshuffled.

(f) If an automated dealing shoe is being used and the device jams, stops dealing cards, or fails to deal all cards during a round of play, the round of play shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be removed from the device and reshuffled with any cards already dealt.

(g) If an automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe malfunctions and cannot be used, the automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe must be covered or have a sign indicating that the automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe is out of order placed on the device before any other method of shuffling or dealing may be utilized at that table.

## **CHAPTER 649a. THREE CARD POKER**

Sec.

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### **§ 649a.1. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*Envy Bonus* — An additional fixed sum payout made to a player who placed a Progressive Payout Wager when another

player at the Three Card Poker table is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying Hand.

*Envy Bonus Qualifying Hand* – A player's Three Card Poker hand of an ace, king and queen of the same suit.

*Hand* – The Three Card Poker hand that is held by each player and the dealer after the cards are dealt.

*Pair Plus Wager* – The wager that a player is required to make prior to any cards being dealt in order to compete against a posted paytable, regardless of the outcome of the player's hand against the dealer's hand.

*Play Wager* – An additional wager that a player must make if the player opts to remain in competition against the dealer after the player reviews his hand.

*Progressive Payout hand* – A player's Three Card Poker hand with a rank of a three-of-a-kind or better; or, if included in the paytable selected by the certificate holder, a straight, as defined in § 649a.6 (relating to Three Card Poker rankings).

*Round of play* – One complete cycle of play during which all wagers have been placed, all cards have been dealt and all remaining wagers have been settled in accordance with the rules of this chapter.

**§ 649a.2. Three Card Poker table physical characteristics.**

(a) Three Card Poker shall be played at a table having betting positions for no more than seven players on one side of the table and a place for the dealer on the opposite side of the table.

(b) The layout for a Three Card Poker table shall be approved by the Bureau of Gaming Operations and shall contain, at a minimum:

(1) The name or logo of the certificate holder.

(2) Three separate betting areas designed for the placement of the Ante, Play and Pair Plus Wager for each player.

(3) If the certificate holder offers the optional Progressive Payout Wager authorized under § 649a.7(d)(4) (relating to wagers), a separate area designated for the placement of the Progressive Payout Wager for each player.

(4) If the certificate holder offers the optional Six Card Bonus Wager authorized under 649a.7(d)(5), a separate area designated for the placement of the Six Card Bonus Wager for each player.

(5) Inscriptions that advise patrons of the payout odds or amounts for all permissible wagers offered by the certificate holder and the phrase "Dealer Plays with Queen High or Better." If payout odds or amounts are not inscribed on the layout, a sign indicating the payout odds

or amounts for all permissible wagers shall be posted at each Three Card Poker table.

(c) If a certificate holder offers a Progressive Payout Wager in accordance with § 649a.7(d)(4) (relating to wagers), the Three Card Poker table must have a progressive table game system, in accordance with § 605a.7 (relating to progressive table game systems), for the placement of Progressive Payout Wagers. The progressive table game system must include:

(1) A wagering device at each betting position that acknowledges or accepts the placement of the Progressive Payout Wager.

(2) A device that controls or monitors the placement of Progressive Payout Wagers at the gaming table, including a mechanism, such as a lock-out button, that prevents the recognition of any Progressive Payout Wager that a player attempts to place after the dealer has announced "no more bets."

(d) Each Three Card Poker table must have a drop box and a tip box attached on the same side of the gaming table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer, as approved by the Bureau of Casino Compliance. The Bureau of Casino Compliance may approve an alternative location for the tip box when a card shuffling device or other table game

equipment prevents the placement of the drop box and tip box on the same side of the gaming table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer.

(e) Each Three Card Poker table must have a discard rack securely attached to the top of the dealer's side of the table.

**§ 649a.3. Cards; number of decks.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), Three Card Poker shall be played with one deck of cards that are identical in appearance and one cover card.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is utilized, Three Card Poker may be played with two decks of cards in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) The cards in each deck must be of the same design, but the backs of the cards in one deck must be of a different color than the cards included in the other deck.

(2) One deck of cards shall be shuffled and stored in the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being used to play the game.

(3) Both decks are continuously alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play.

(4) The cards from only one deck are placed in the discard rack at any given time.

(c) The decks of cards used in Three Card Poker shall be changed:

(1) At least every 4 hours if the cards are dealt by hand.

(2) At least every 8 hours if the cards are dealt from a manual or automated dealing shoe.

**§ 649a.4. Opening of the table for gaming.**

(a) After receiving one or more decks of cards at the table, the dealer shall inspect the cards for any defects. The floorperson assigned to the table shall verify the inspection.

(b) After the cards are inspected, they shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first player to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread in horizontal fan shaped columns by deck according to suit and in sequence.

(c) After the first player arriving at the table has been afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, they shall be turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a washing of the cards and stacked. Once the cards have been stacked, they shall be shuffled in accordance with § 649a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards).



(d) If an automated card shuffling device is utilized and two decks of cards are received at the table, each deck of cards shall be spread for inspection, mixed, stacked and shuffled in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c).

(e) If the decks of cards received at the table are preinspected and reshuffled in accordance with § 603a.16 (u) or (v) (relating to cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use), the requirements in subsections (a) - (d) do not apply.

**§ 649a.5. Shuffle and cut of the cards.**

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play, unless the cards were reshuffled in accordance with § 603a.16(u) or (v) (relating to cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use), after each round of play has been completed or when directed by a floorperson or above, the dealer shall shuffle the cards, either manually or by use of an automated card shuffling device, so that the cards are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or automated shuffling device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack; provided, however, that the certificate holder may use an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the

shuffling of the cards, inserts the stack of cards directly into a dealing shoe.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is being used, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, and the device reveals that an incorrect number of cards are present, the deck shall be removed from the table.

(c) After the cards have been shuffled and stacked, the dealer shall:

(1) If the cards were shuffled using an automated card shuffling device, deal the cards in accordance with § 649a.8, § 649a.9 or § 649a.10 (relating to procedures for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedures for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe).

(2) If the cards were shuffled manually or were preshuffled, cut the cards in accordance with the procedures in subsection (d).

(d) If a cut of the cards is required, the dealer shall place the cover card in the stack at least ten cards in from the top of the stack. Once the cover card has been inserted, the dealer shall take all cards above the cover card and the cover card and place them on the bottom of the

stack. The stack of cards shall then be inserted into the dealing shoe for commencement of play.

(e) After the cards have been cut and before any cards have been dealt, a floorperson or above may require the cards to be recut if the floorperson determines that the cut was performed improperly or in any way that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game.

(f) If there is no gaming activity at a Three Card Poker table which is open for gaming, the cards shall be removed from the dealing shoe and discard rack and spread out on the table face down unless a player requests that the cards be spread face up on the table. After the first player arriving at the table is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards:

(1) If there is no automated shuffling device in use, the cards shall be mixed thoroughly by a washing of the cards, stacked, then shuffled and cut in accordance with this section.

(2) If an automated shuffling device is in use, the cards shall be stacked and placed into the automated shuffling device to be shuffled. The deck of cards already in the shuffler shall then be removed. Unless a player so requests, the deck of cards removed from the shuffler need

not be spread for inspection and reshuffled prior to being dealt, if:

(i) The automated card shuffling device stores a single deck of shuffled cards inside the shuffler in a secure manner.

(ii) The shuffled cards have been secured, released and prepared for play in accordance with procedures approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations.

(g) In lieu of the dealing and shuffling requirements in this section, a certificate holder may utilize a dealing shoe or other device designed to automatically reshuffle the cards provided that the device and the procedures for dealing and shuffling the cards through use of this device are approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations.

**§ 649a.6. Three Card Poker rankings.**

(a) The rank of the cards used in Three Card Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a straight flush or a straight with a 2 and 3 but may not be combined with any other sequence of cards (for example: king, ace and 2). All suits shall be equal in rank.

(b) The permissible poker hands in the game of Three Card Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

(1) A straight flush, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with an ace, king and queen being the highest ranking straight flush and an ace, 2, 3 being the lowest ranking straight flush.

(2) A three-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank with three aces being the highest ranking three-of-a-kind and three 2's being the lowest ranking three-of-a-kind.

(3) A straight, which is a hand consisting of three cards of more than one suit and of consecutive rank, with an ace, king and queen being the highest ranking straight and an ace, 2, 3 being the lowest ranking straight.

(4) A flush, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same suit, regardless of rank.

(5) A pair, which is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two 2's being the lowest ranking pair.

(c) When comparing two poker hands that are of identical rank under subsection (b), or that contain none of the hands listed in subsection (b), the hand that

contains the highest ranking card under subsection (a), which is not contained in the other hand, shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of equal rank after the application of this section, the hands shall be considered a tie.

(d) If a certificate holder offers the optional Six Card Bonus Wager under § 649a.7(d)(5) (relating to wagers), the Six Card Bonus Wager hands eligible for a payout shall be:

(1) A royal flush, which is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 of the same suit.

(2) A straight flush, which is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking.

(3) A four-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of four cards of the same rank, regardless of suit.

(4) A full house, which is a hand consisting of three-of-a-kind.

(5) A flush, which is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit.

(6) A straight, which is a hand consisting of five cards of consecutive rank, regardless of suit.

(7) A three-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank, regardless of suit.

**§ 649a.7. Wagers.**

(a) Wagers at Three Card Poker shall be made by placing value chips or plaques on the appropriate areas of the table layout. Verbal wagers accompanied by cash may not be accepted.

(b) Only players who are seated at a Three Card Poker table may wager at the game. Once a player has placed a wager and received cards, that player shall remain seated until the completion of the round of play. If a player leaves the table during a round of play, any wagers made by the player may be considered abandoned and may be treated as losing wagers.

(c) All wagers, except the Play Wager, shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing "no more bets" in accordance with the dealing procedures in § 649a.8, § 649a.9 or § 649a.10 (relating to procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedure for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedure for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe). Except as provided in § 649a.11(b) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play), no wager may be made, increased or withdrawn after the dealer has announced ``no more bets.``

(d) The following wagers may be placed in the game of Three Card Poker:

(1) A player may compete solely against the dealer's Three Card Poker hand by placing an Ante Wager then a Play Wager, in accordance with § 649a.11(b), in an amount equal to the player's Ante Wager.

(2) A player may compete solely against a posted payable by placing a Pair Plus Wager.

(3) A player may compete against both the dealer's Three Card Poker hand and the posted payable by placing an Ante Wager and a Pair Plus Wager in accordance with paragraphs (1) and (2).

(4) A certificate holder may, if specified in its rules submission under 601a.2 (relating to table games Rules Submissions), offer to each player at a Three Card Poker Table the option to make an additional Progressive Payout Wager that the player will receive a Progressive Payout Hand. After placing an Ante Wager or a Pair Plus Wager, or both, a player may make the additional Progressive Payout Wager by placing a value chip onto the progressive wagering device designated for that player. Each player shall be responsible for verifying that the player's respective Progressive Payout Wager has been accepted.

(5) A certificate holder may, if specified in its rules submission under 601a.2, offer to each player at a



Three Card Poker table the option to make an additional Six Card Bonus Wager that the three cards dealt to the dealer and the three cards dealt to the player will form a five-card poker hand with a rank of a three-of-a-kind or better. After placing an Ante Wager or a Pair Plus Wager, or both, a player may make the additional Six Card Bonus Wager by placing a value chip on the designated betting area prior to the dealer announcing "no more bets."

(e) Notwithstanding subsection (d)(1)-(3), a certificate holder may offer a version of Three Card Poker requiring:

(1) As a precondition to the placement of a Pair Plus Wager, the placement of an Ante Wager in an amount equal to or greater than the Pair Plus Wager.

(2) As a precondition to the placement of a Pair Plus Wager, the placement of an Ante Wager in an amount equal to at least one-half the Pair Plus Wager.

(3) The compulsory placement of an Ante Wager and a Pair Plus Wager, provided that one wager may be placed in an amount up to a maximum of five times the amount of the other wager without regard to which wager is the greater of the two.

(f) A certificate holder shall specify in its rules submission under § 601a.2, the number of adjacent boxes on which a player may place a wager in one round of play.

**§ 649a.8. Procedures for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe.**

(a) If a manual dealing shoe is used, the dealing shoe shall be located on the table in a location approved by the Bureau of Casino Compliance. Once the procedures required under § 649a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the stacked deck of cards shall be placed in the dealing shoe by the dealer or by an automated card shuffling device.

(b) Prior to dealing any cards, the dealer shall announce ``no more bets`` and, if the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(c) Each card shall be removed from the dealing shoe with the hand of the dealer that is closest to the dealing shoe and placed on the appropriate area of the layout with the opposite hand.

(d) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal one card at a time to each player who has placed a wager in accordance with § 649a.7 (relating to wagers) and to the dealer until each player who placed a wager and the dealer have three cards. All cards shall be dealt face down.

(e) After three cards have been dealt to each player and the dealer, the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and, except as provided in subsection (f), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(g) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(h) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player or the dealer has more or less than three cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 649a.9. Procedures for dealing the cards from the hand.**

(a) If the cards are dealt from the dealer's hand, the following requirements shall be observed:

(1) An automated shuffling device shall be used to shuffle the cards.

(2) After the procedures required under § 649a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the dealer shall place the stacked deck of cards in either hand. After the dealer has chosen the hand in which to hold the cards, the dealer shall continue to use that hand whenever holding the cards during that round of play. The cards held by the dealer shall be kept over the

table inventory container and in front of the dealer at all times.

(3) Prior to dealing any cards, the dealer shall ~~then~~ announce ``no more bets'' and, if the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(b) The dealer shall deal each card by holding the deck of cards in the chosen hand and shall use the other hand to remove the top card of the deck and place it face down on the appropriate area of the layout. The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal one card at a time to each player who has placed a wager in accordance with § 649a.7 (relating to wagers) and to the dealer until each player who placed a wager and the dealer have three cards. All cards shall be dealt face down.

(c) After three cards have been dealt to each player and the dealer, the dealer shall, except as provided in subsection (d), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(e) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player or the dealer has more or less than three cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 649a.10. Procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe.**

(a) If the cards are dealt from an automated dealing shoe, the following requirements shall be observed:

(1) After the procedures required under § 649a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the cards shall be placed in the automated dealing shoe.

(2) Prior to the shoe dispensing any stacks of cards, the dealer shall announce ``no more bets'' and, if the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(b) The dealer shall deliver the first stack of cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe face down to the player farthest to the dealer's left who has placed a wager in accordance with § 649a.7 (relating to wagers). As the

remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe, the dealer shall, moving clockwise around the table, deliver a stack face down to each of the other players who has placed a wager in accordance with § 649a.7. The dealer shall then deliver a stack of three cards face down to the area designated for the placement of the dealer's cards.

(c) After each stack of three cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with subsection (b), the dealer shall remove the stub from the automated dealing shoe and, except as provided in subsection (d), place the cards in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards is still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(e) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.



(f) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt (a player or the dealer has more or less than three cards) but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 649a.11. Procedures for completion of each round of play.**

(a) After the dealing procedures required under § 649a.8, § 649a.9 or § 649a.10 (relating to procedures for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedures for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe) have been completed, each player shall examine his cards, subject to the following limitations:

(1) Each player who wagers at Three Card Poker shall be responsible for his own hand and no person other than the dealer and the player to whom the cards were dealt may touch the cards of that player.

(2) Each player shall keep his three cards in full view of the dealer at all times.

(b) After each player has examined his cards, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's left and moving clockwise around the table, ask each player who placed an Ante Wager if he wishes to make a Play Wager in an amount equal to the player's Ante Wager or forfeit the Ante Wager and end his participation in the round of play. If a player:

(1) Has placed an Ante Wager and a Pair Plus Wager but does not make a Play Wager, the player shall forfeit both the Ante Wager and the Pair Plus Wager.

(2) Has placed an Ante Wager and a Progressive Payout Wager but does not make a Play Wager, the player shall forfeit both the Ante Wager and the Progressive Payout Wager but shall not forfeit the eligibility to receive an Envy Bonus under § 649a.12(e) (relating to payout odds; Envy Bonus; rate of progression).

(3) Has placed an Ante Wager, a Pair Plus Wager and a Six Card Bonus Wager, but does not make a Play Wager, the player shall forfeit both the Ante Wager and the Pair Plus Wager but does not forfeit the Six Card Bonus Wager.

(c) After each player who has placed an Ante Wager has either placed a Play Wager on the designated area of the layout or forfeited his Ante Wager and hand, the dealer shall collect all forfeited wagers and associated cards,

except for the cards of those players who placed a Six Card Bonus Wager, and shall place the cards in the discard rack. The dealer shall then reveal the dealer's cards and place the cards so as to form the highest possible ranking Three Card Poker hand. After the dealer's cards are turned face up, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's right and continuing around the table in a counterclockwise direction, complete the following applicable procedures in succession for each player:

(1) The dealer shall turn the three cards of each player face up on the layout.

(2) The dealer shall examine the cards of the player and form the highest possible ranking Three Card Poker hand for each player.

(3) If the dealer's highest ranking Three Card Poker hand:

(i) Is lower than a queen high, the dealer shall pay each player's Ante Wager and return the player's Play Wager.

(ii) Is a queen high or better, and the player's highest ranking Three Card Poker hand:

(A) Is ranked lower than the dealer's Three Card Poker hand, the dealer shall immediately collect the Ante and Play Wagers made by the player.

(B) Is ranked higher than the dealer's Three Card Poker hand, the dealer shall pay the Ante and Play Wagers and any Ante Bonus in accordance with the payout odds in § 649a.12(a) - (b).

(C) Is equally ranked with the dealer's Three Card Poker hand, the dealer shall return the player's Ante and Play Wagers.

(4) After settling the player's Ante and Play Wagers, the dealer shall settle any Pair Plus Wagers by determining whether the player's Three Card Poker hand qualifies for a payout in accordance with § 649a.12(d). A winning Pair Plus Wager shall be paid irrespective of whether the player's Three Card Poker hand outranks the dealer's hand.

(5) The dealer shall then settle the Progressive Payout Wager, if offered by the certificate holder. A winning Progressive Payout Wager shall be paid irrespective of whether the player's hand outranks the dealer's hand. If a player has won a progressive payout, the dealer shall:

(i) Verify that the hand is a winning hand.

(ii) Verify that the appropriate light on the progressive table game system has been illuminated.

(iii) Have a floorperson or above validate the progressive payout in accordance with the certificate holder's approved internal control procedures.

(iv) Pay the winning Progressive Payout Wager in accordance with the payout odds listed in § 649a.12(e). If a player has won a progressive payout that is 100% of the jackpot amount on the progressive meter, the progressive payout may not be paid from the table inventory container. If a player has won a progressive payout that is not being paid from the table inventory container, the cards of that player shall remain on the table until the necessary documentation has been completed.

(v) Pay any Envy Bonus won in accordance with § 649a.12(e). Players making a Progressive Payout Wager shall receive an Envy Bonus when another player at the same Three Card Poker table is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying hand. Players are entitled to multiple Envy Bonuses if more than one other player is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying hand; provided, however, that a player is not entitled to an Envy Bonus for his own hand or the hand of the dealer.

(6) The dealer shall then settle the Six Card Bonus Wager, if offered by the certificate holder. A winning Six Card Bonus Wager shall be paid irrespective of

the outcome of the player's Ante Wager or Pair Plus Wager. The dealer shall arrange the dealer's three cards and the player's three cards to form the highest ranking five-card poker hand for each player. If a player has a three-of-a-kind or better, as described in § 649a.6(d) (relating to Three Card Poker rankings), the dealer shall pay the winning Six Card Bonus Wager in accordance with the payout odds in § 649a.12(f).

(d) After all wagers have been settled, the dealer shall remove all remaining cards from the table and place them in the discard rack in a manner that permits the reconstruction of each hand in the event of a question or dispute.

**§ 649a.12. Payout odds; Envy Bonus; rate of progression.**

(a) A certificate holder shall pay each winning Ante and Play Wager at odds of 1 to 1.

(b) A player placing an Ante Wager and a Play Wager shall be paid a bonus on the Ante Wager, at the odds contained in one of the following paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2 (relating to table games rules submissions), regardless of whether the player's Three Card Poker hand outranks the dealer's hand:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>	<u>Paytable C</u>
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Straight Flush	5 to 1	5 to 1	4 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	4 to 1	3 to 1	3 to 1
Straight	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1

(c) If a certificate holder offers the version of Three Card Poker as described in § 649a.7(e) (relating to wagers), a player placing an Ante Wager and Play Wager shall be paid an Ante Bonus at the odds contained in one of the following paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2 (relating to table games rules submissions):

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>	<u>Paytable C</u>
Ace, king, queen of spades	50 to 1	50 to 1	50 to 1
Ace, king, queen	5 to 1	50 to 1	10 to 1
Straight flush	4 to 1	8 to 1	6 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	3 to 1	6 to 1	3 to 1
Straight	1 to 1	N/A	N/A

(d) A player placing a Pair Plus Wager shall be paid at the odds contained in one of the following paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>	<u>Paytable C</u>
Straight Flush	35 to 1	40 to 1	40 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	25 to 1	30 to 1	30 to 1
Straight	5 to 1	5 to 1	6 to 1

Flush	3 to 1	4 to 1	3 to 1
Pair	1 to 1	1 to 1	1 to 1

(e) If a certificate holder offers a Progressive

Payout Wager:

(1) A player placing a Progressive Payout Wager shall be paid at the odds contained in one of the following paytables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>
Ace, King & Queen of Spades	100% of meter	100% of meter
Ace, King & Queen of Hearts, Diamonds or Clubs	500 for 1	500 for 1
Straight Flush	70 for 1	100 for 1
Three-of-a-kind	60 for 1	90 for 1
Straight	6 for 1	N/A

(2) A player shall receive the payout for only the highest ranking Three Card Poker hand formed.

(3) The rate of progression for the meter used for the progressive payouts in subsection (1) must be contained in the certificate holder's rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2 and must be at least 14% for payable A and 20% for payable B. The initial and



reset amount must also be contained in the certificate holder's rules submission and must be at least \$1,000.

(4) Winning Progressive Payout Hands shall be paid in accordance with the amount on the meter when it is the player's turn to be paid in accordance with § 649a.11(c) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play).

(5) Envy Bonus payouts shall be made according to the following payout schedules for Envy Bonus Qualifying hands based upon the amount of the Progressive Payout Wager placed by the player receiving the Envy Bonus:

\$1 Progressive Payout Wager

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Envy Bonus</u>
Ace, King & Queen of Spades	\$100
Ace, King & Queen of Hearts, Diamonds or Clubs	\$25

\$5 Progressive Payout Wager

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Envy Bonus</u>
Ace, King & Queen of Spades	\$500
Ace, King & Queen of Hearts, Diamonds or Clubs	\$125

(f) If a certificate holder offers the Six Card Bonus Wager, the certificate holder shall pay out winning Six Card Bonus Wagers at the amounts contained in one of the

following pay tables selected by the certificate holder in its rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>	<u>Paytable C</u>
Royal Flush	1,000 to 1	1,000 to 1	1,000 to 1
Straight Flush	200 to 1	200 to 1	200 to 1
Four-of-a-Kind	50 to 1	100 to 1	100 to 1
Full House	25 to 1	20 to 1	20 to 1
Flush	20 to 1	15 to 1	15 to 1
Straight	10 to 1	9 to 1	10 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	5 to 1	8 to 1	7 to 1

**§ 649a.13. Irregularities.**

(a) A card that is found face up in the shoe or the deck while the cards are being dealt may not be used in that round of play and shall be placed in the discard rack. If more than one card is found face up in the shoe or the deck during the dealing of the cards, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(b) A card drawn in error without its face being exposed shall be used as though it were the next card from the shoe or the deck.

(c) If a player or the dealer is dealt an incorrect number of cards, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall

be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(d) If one or more of the dealer's cards is inadvertently exposed prior to the dealer revealing his cards in accordance § 649a.11(c) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play), all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(e) If an automated card shuffling device is being used and the device jams, stops shuffling during a shuffle, or fails to complete a shuffle cycle, the cards shall be reshuffled.

(f) If an automated dealing shoe is being used and the device jams, stops dealing cards, or fails to deal all cards during a round of play, the round of play shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be removed from the device and reshuffled with any cards already dealt.

(g) If an automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe malfunctions and cannot be used, the automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe must be covered or have a sign indicating that the automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe is out of order

placed on the device before any other method of shuffling or dealing may be utilized at that table.

#### **CHAPTER 653a. ULTIMATE TEXAS HOLD 'EM POKER**

Sec.

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653a.13. Irregularities.

#### **§ 653a.1. Definitions.**

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

*Burn* – To remove the top or next card from the deck and place it face down in the discard rack without exposing the card to anyone.

*Check* – Waiving the right to place a Play Wager but remaining in the round of play.

*Community card* – A card which may be used by all players and the dealer to form the best possible five-card poker hand.

*Envy Bonus* – An additional fixed sum payout made to a player who placed a Progressive Payout Wager when another player at the Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying Hand.

*Envy Bonus Qualifying Hand* – A player's five-card poker hand with a rank of a straight flush or better as defined in § 653a.6(b) (relating to Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker rankings).

*Flop* – The first three community cards dealt during a round of play.

*Fold* – The withdrawal of a player from a round of play by not making a Play Wager.

*Hand* – The five-card poker hand formed from the two cards of the player or the dealer and any of the five community cards.

*Play Wager* – An additional wager that a player must make if the player opts to remain in competition against the dealer after the player reviews his hand.

*Progressive Payout Hand* – A player's five-card poker hand with a rank of three-of-a-kind or better as defined in § 653a.6(b).

*Round of play* – One complete cycle of play during which all wagers have been placed, all cards have been dealt and all remaining wagers have been settled in accordance with the rules of this chapter.

*Trips Wager* – The wager that a player is required to make prior to any cards being dealt in order to compete against a posted paytable, regardless of the outcome of the player's hand against the dealer's hand.

**§ 653a.2. Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table physical characteristics.**

(a) Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker shall be played on a table having betting positions for no more than six players on one side of the table and a place for the dealer on the opposite side of the table.

(b) The layout for an Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table shall be approved by the Bureau of Gaming Operations and shall contain, at a minimum:

(1) The name or logo of the certificate holder.

(2) Four separate betting areas designated for the placement of the Ante, Blind, Play and Trips Wagers for each player. The Blind Wager betting area shall be located to the right of the Ante Wager betting area and shall be separated by an "=" symbol.

(3) A separate area designated for the placement of the five community cards located directly in front of the table inventory container.

(4) A separate area designated for the placement of the dealer's two cards.

(5) If a certificate holder offers the optional Progressive Payout Wager authorized under § 653a.7(d)(3)(relating to wagers), a separate area designated for the placement of the Progressive Payout Wager for each player.

(6) Inscriptions that advise patrons of the payout odds or amounts for all permissible wagers offered by the certificate holder. If the payout odds or amounts are not inscribed on the layout, a sign identifying the

payout odds or amounts for all permissible wagers shall be posted at each Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table.

(7) An inscription indicating: an Ante Wager will push if the dealer has less than a pair; a Blind Wager will push if the player's winning hand is not a straight or better; the rules governing the required amount of a Play Wager as a multiple of the player's Ante Wager; and the payout limit per hand established by the certificate holder under § 653a.12(e) (relating to payout odds; Envy Bonus; rate of progression; payout limitation) or a generic inscription indicating that the game is subject to the posted payout limit. If the information is not inscribed on the layout, a sign which sets forth the required information shall be posted at each Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table.

(c) If a certificate holder offers a Progressive Payout Wager in accordance with § 653a.7(d)(3), the Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table must have a progressive table game system, in accordance with § 605a.7 (relating to progressive table game systems), for the placement of Progressive Payout Wagers. The progressive table game system must include:



(1) A wagering device at each betting position that acknowledges or accepts the placement of the Progressive Payout Wager.

(2) A device that controls or monitors the placement of Progressive Payout Wagers at the gaming table, including a mechanism, such as a lock-out button, that prevents the recognition of any Progressive Payout Wager that a player attempts to place after the dealer has announced "no more bets."

(d) Each Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table must have a drop box and a tip box attached on the same side of the table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer, as approved by the Bureau of Casino Compliance. The Bureau of Casino Compliance may approve an alternative location for the tip box when a card shuffling device or other table game equipment prevents the placement of the drop box and tip box on the same side of the gaming table as, but on opposite sides of, the dealer.

(e) Each Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table must have a discard rack securely attached to the top of the dealer's side of the table.

**§ 653a.3. Cards; number of decks.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (b), Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker shall be played with one deck of cards that are identical in appearance and two cover cards.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is utilized, Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker may be played with two decks of cards in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) The cards in each deck must be of the same design, but the backs of the cards in one deck must be of a different color than the cards included in the other deck.

(2) One deck of cards shall be shuffled and stored in the automated card shuffling device while the other deck is being used to play the game.

(3) Both decks are continuously alternated in and out of play, with each deck being used for every other round of play.

(4) The cards from only one deck are placed in the discard rack at any given time.

(c) The decks of cards used in Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker shall be changed:

(1) At least every 4 hours if the cards are dealt by hand.

(2) At least every 8 hours if the cards are dealt from a manual or automated dealing shoe.

**§ 653a.4. Opening of the table for gaming.**

(a) After receiving one or more decks of cards at the table, the dealer shall inspect the cards for any defects. The floorperson assigned to the table shall verify the inspection.

(b) After the cards are inspected, they shall be spread out face up on the table for visual inspection by the first player to arrive at the table. The cards shall be spread in horizontal fan shaped columns by deck according to suit and in sequence.

(c) After the first player arriving at the table has been afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards, they shall be turned face down on the table, mixed thoroughly by a washing of the cards and stacked. Once the cards have been stacked, they shall be shuffled in accordance with § 653a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards).

(d) If an automated card shuffling device is utilized and two decks of cards are received at the table, each deck of cards shall be spread for inspection, mixed, stacked and shuffled in accordance with the provisions of subsections (a), (b) and (c).

(e) If the decks of cards received at the table are preinspected and preshuffled in accordance with § 603a.16(u) or (v) (relating to cards; receipt, storage,

inspections and removal from use), subsections (a) - (d) do not apply.

**§ 653a.5. Shuffle and cut of the cards.**

(a) Immediately prior to the commencement of play, unless the cards were preshuffled in accordance with § 603a.16(u) or (v) (relating to cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use), after each round of play has been completed or when directed by a floorperson or above, the dealer shall shuffle the cards, either manually or by use of an automated card shuffling device, so that the cards are randomly intermixed. Upon completion of the shuffle, the dealer or automated shuffling device shall place the deck of cards in a single stack; provided, however, that the certificate holder may use an automated card shuffling device which, upon completion of the shuffling of the cards, inserts the stack of cards directly into a dealing shoe.

(b) If an automated card shuffling device is being used, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, and the device reveals that an incorrect number of cards are present, the deck shall be removed from the table.

(c) After the cards have been shuffled and stacked, the dealer shall:

(1) If the cards were shuffled using an automated card shuffling device, deal or deliver the cards in accordance with § 653a.8, § 653a.9 or § 653a.10 (relating to procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedure for dealing the cards from the hand; and procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe).

(2) If the cards were shuffled manually or were preshuffled, cut the cards in accordance with subsection (d).

(d) If a cut of the cards is required, the dealer shall place the cover card in the stack at least ten cards in from the top of the stack. Once the cover card has been inserted, the dealer shall take all cards above the cover card and the cover card and place them on the bottom of the stack. The stack of cards shall then be inserted into the dealing shoe for commencement of play.

(e) After the cards have been cut and before any cards have been dealt, a floorperson or above may require the cards to be recut if the floorperson determines that the cut was performed improperly or in any way that might affect the integrity or fairness of the game.

(f) If there is no gaming activity at an Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table which is open for gaming, the cards shall be spread out on the table face down unless a player requests that the cards be spread face up on the table. After the first player arriving at the table is afforded an opportunity to visually inspect the cards:

(1) If there is no automated shuffling device in use, the cards shall be mixed thoroughly by a washing of the cards, stacked, then shuffled and cut in accordance with this section.

(2) If an automated shuffling device is in use, the cards shall be stacked and placed into the automated shuffling device to be shuffled. The deck of cards already in the shuffler shall then be removed. Unless a player so requests, the deck of cards removed from the shuffler need not be spread for inspection and reshuffled prior to being dealt, if:

(i) The automated card shuffling device stores a single deck of shuffled cards inside the shuffler in a secure manner.

(ii) The shuffled cards have been secured, released and prepared for play in accordance with procedures approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations.

(g) In lieu of the dealing and shuffling requirements in this section, a certificate holder may utilize a dealing shoe or other device designed to automatically reshuffle the cards provided that the device and the procedures for dealing and shuffling the cards through use of this device are approved by the Bureau of Gaming Laboratory Operations.

**§ 653a.6. Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker rankings.**

(a) The rank of the cards used in Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be: ace, king, queen, jack, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3 and 2. Notwithstanding the foregoing, an ace may be used to complete a straight flush or a straight formed with a 2, 3, 4 and 5 but may not be combined with any other sequence of cards (for example, queen, king, ace, 2 and 3). All suits shall be equal in rank.

(b) The permissible five-card poker hands at the game of Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker, in order of highest to lowest rank, shall be:

(1) A royal flush, which is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 of the same suit.

(2) A straight flush, which is a hand, other than a royal flush, consisting of five cards of the same suit in consecutive ranking, with king, queen, jack, 10 and 9 being

the highest ranking straight flush and ace, 2, 3, 4 and 5 being the lowest ranking straight flush.

(3) A four-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of four cards of the same rank, with four aces being the highest ranking four-of-a-kind and four 2's being the lowest ranking four-of-a-kind.

(4) A full house, which is a hand consisting of a three-of-a-kind and a pair, with three aces and two kings being the highest ranking full house and three 2's and two 3's being the lowest ranking full house.

(5) A flush, which is a hand consisting of five cards of the same suit, not in consecutive order, with ace, king, queen, jack and 9 being the highest ranking flush and 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7 being the lowest ranking flush.

(6) A straight, which is a hand consisting of five cards of more than one suit and of consecutive rank, with an ace, king, queen, jack and 10 being the highest ranking straight and an ace, 2, 3, 4 and 5 being the lowest ranking straight.

(7) A three-of-a-kind, which is a hand consisting of three cards of the same rank, with three aces being the highest ranking three-of-a-kind and three 2's being the lowest ranking three-of-a-kind.



(8) Two pairs, which is a hand consisting of two pairs, with two aces and two kings being the highest ranking two pair and two 3's and two 2's being the lowest ranking two pair.

(9) A pair, which is a hand consisting of two cards of the same rank, with two aces being the highest ranking pair and two 2's being the lowest ranking pair.

(c) When comparing two poker hands that are of identical rank under subsection (b), or that contain none of the hands listed in subsection (b), the hand that contains the highest ranking card under subsection (a), which is not contained in the other hand, shall be considered the higher ranking hand. If the hands are of identical rank after the application of this subsection, the hands shall be considered a tie.

**§ 653a.7. Wagers.**

(a) Wagers at Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker shall be made by placing value chips or plaques on the appropriate areas of the table layout. Verbal wagers accompanied by cash may not be accepted.

(b) Only players who are seated at an Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table may wager at the game. Once a player has placed a wager and received cards, that player shall remain seated until the completion of the round of play. If

a player leaves the table during a round of play, any wagers made by the player may be considered abandoned and may be treated as losing wagers.

(c) All wagers, except the Play Wager, shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing ``no more bets'' in accordance with the dealing procedure in § 653a.8, § 653a.9 or § 653a.10 (relating to procedure for dealing cards from a manual dealing shoe; procedure for dealing cards from the hand; and procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe). Except as provided in § 653a.11(b), (d) or (f) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play), no wager may be made, increased or withdrawn after the dealer has announced ``no more bets.''

(d) The following wagers may be placed in the game of Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker:

(1) A player shall compete against the dealer's five-card poker hand by placing both an Ante Wager and a Blind Wager in equal amounts, then a Play Wager, in accordance with § 653a.11(b), (d) or (f).

(2) In addition to the Ante Wager and Blind Wagers, a player may compete against a posted payable by placing a Trips Wager.

(3) A certificate holder may, if specified in its rules submission under § 601a.2 (relating to table games rules submissions), offer to each player at an Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table the option to make an additional Progressive Payout Wager that the player will receive a Progressive Payout Hand. After placing the Ante and Blind Wagers, a player may make the additional Progressive Payout Wager by placing a value chip onto the progressive wagering device designated for that player. Each player shall be responsible for verifying that the player's respective Progressive Payout Wager has been accepted.

(e) A player may not wager on more than one player position at an Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table.

**§ 653a.8. Procedure for dealing the cards from a manual dealing shoe.**

(a) If a manual dealing shoe is used, the dealing shoe must be located on the table in a location approved by the Bureau of Casino Compliance. Once the procedures required under § 653a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the stacked deck of cards shall be placed in the dealing shoe by the dealer or by the automated card shuffling device.

(b) Prior to dealing the cards, the dealer shall announce ``no more bets'' and, if the Progressive Payout

Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(c) Each card shall be removed from the dealing shoe with the hand of the dealer that is the closest to the dealing shoe and placed on the appropriate area of the layout with the opposite hand.

(d) The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal one card at a time to each player who placed the required wagers in accordance with § 653a.7(d)(1) (relating to wagers) and to the dealer, under a cover card, until each player who placed the required wagers, and the dealer have two cards.

(e) After two cards have been dealt to each player and to the area designated for the placement of the dealer's hand, the dealer shall deal the five community cards in accordance with § 653a.11 (relating to

procedures for completion of each round of play). After all community cards have been dealt, the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and, except as provided in subsection (f), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(g) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(h) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 653a.9. Procedure for dealing the cards from the hand.**

(a) If the cards are dealt from the dealer's hand, the following requirements shall be observed:

(1) An automated shuffling device shall be used to shuffle the cards.

(2) After the procedures required under § 653a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been completed, the dealer shall place the stacked deck of cards in either hand. After the dealer has chosen the hand in which he will hold the cards, the dealer shall continue to use that hand whenever holding the cards during that round of play. The cards held by the dealer shall be kept over the table inventory container and in front of the dealer at all times.

(3) Prior to dealing any cards, the dealer shall announce ``no more bets'' and, if the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the

progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(b) The dealer shall deal each card by holding the deck of cards in the chosen hand and shall use the other hand to remove the top card of the deck and place it face down on the appropriate area of the layout. The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's left and continuing around the table in a clockwise manner, deal one card at a time to each player who placed the required wagers in accordance with § 653a.7(d)(1) (relating to wagers) and to the dealer, under a cover card, until each player who placed the required wagers, and the dealer have two cards.

(c) After two cards have been dealt to each player and to the area designated for the placement of the dealer's hand, the dealer shall deal the five community cards in accordance with § 653a.11 (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play). After all community cards have been dealt, the dealer shall remove the stub from the manual dealing shoe and, except as provided in subsection (d), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion

of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(e) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

**§ 653a.10. Procedures for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe.**

(a) If the cards are dealt from an automated dealing shoe, the following requirements shall be observed:

(1) After the procedures required under § 653a.5 (relating to shuffle and cut of the cards) have been



completed, the cards shall be placed in the automated dealing shoe.

(2) Prior to the shoe dispensing any stacks of cards, the dealer shall announce ``no more bets'' and, if the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, shall use the progressive table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive Payout Wagers. If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall collect the wagers and, on the layout in front of the table inventory container, verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game system. The dealer shall then place the value chips into the table inventory container.

(b) The dealer shall deliver the first stack of cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe face down to the player farthest to the dealer's left who has placed the required wagers in accordance with § 653a.7(d)(1) (relating to wagers). As the remaining stacks are dispensed to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe, the dealer shall, moving clockwise around the table, deliver a stack face down to each of the other players who has placed a required wager in accordance with § 653a.7(d)(1). The dealer shall then deliver a stack of two cards face down under a cover

card to the area designated for the placement of the dealer's cards.

(c) After each stack of two cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with subsection (b), the dealer shall remove the remaining cards from the automated dealing shoe and, following the procedures in § 653a.9(a)(2) and (b)(relating to procedure for dealing cards from the hand), deal from his hand the five community cards in accordance with § 653a.11 (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play). After all five community cards have been dealt, the dealer shall, except as provided in subsection (d), place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(d) If an automated card shuffling device, which counts the number of cards in the deck after the completion of each shuffle and indicates whether 52 cards are present, is not being used, the dealer shall count the stub at least once every five rounds of play to determine if the correct number of cards are still present in the deck. The dealer shall determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on the layout.

(e) If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

(f) If the count of the stub indicates that the number of cards in the deck is incorrect, the dealer shall determine if the cards were misdealt. If the cards were misdealt but 52 cards remain in the deck, all hands shall be void and all wagers shall be returned to the players. If the cards were not misdealt, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the entire deck of cards shall be removed from the table.

(g) Notwithstanding the requirements in subsections (b) and (c), if a certificate holder is utilizing an automated dealing shoe which automatically reshuffles the cards, the five community cards may be dispensed before the two cards are dispensed to each player and to the dealer. The community cards shall then be revealed in accordance with 653a.11.

**§ 653a.11. Procedures for completion of each round of play.**

(a) After the dealing procedures required under § 653a.8, § 653a.9 or § 653a.10 (relating to procedure for dealing cards from a manual shoe; procedure for dealing cards from the hand; and procedure for dealing the cards from an automated dealing shoe) have been completed, each player shall examine his cards, subject to the following limitations:

(1) Each player who wagers at Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker shall be responsible for his own hand and no person other than the dealer and the player to whom the cards were dealt may touch the cards of that player.

(2) Each player shall keep his cards in full view of the dealer at all times.

(b) After each player has examined his cards, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's left and moving clockwise around the table, ask each player if he wishes to place a Play Wager prior to the dealing of the Flop. The player may either check or place a Play Wager in an amount equal to three or four times the amount of the player's Ante Wager. If a player:

(1) Places a Play Wager, the wager shall be placed in the area designated for the Play Wager.

(2) Checks, the player shall remain in the game and defer his decision to place a Play Wager until after the Flop is dealt.

(c) Once all players have either placed a Play Wager or checked, the dealer shall burn the next card. The dealer shall then deal the Flop face up to the designated area for the community cards.

(d) After the Flop has been dealt, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's left and

moving clockwise around the table, ask each player who has not already placed a Play Wager if he wishes to place a Play Wager prior to the dealing of the final two community cards. The player may either check or place a Play Wager in an amount equal to two times the amount of the player's Ante Wager. If a player:

(1) Places a Play Wager, the wager shall be placed in the area designated for the Play Wager.

(2) Checks, the player shall remain in the game and defer his decision to place a Play Wager until after the next two community cards are dealt.

(e) Once all players have either placed a Play Wager or checked, the dealer shall burn the next card. The dealer shall then deal the next two cards in the deck face up to the designated area for the community cards.

(f) After the final two community cards have been dealt, the dealer shall, beginning with the player farthest to the dealer's left and moving clockwise around the table, ask each player who has not already placed a Play Wager whether he wishes to fold or place a Play Wager equal in amount to the player's Ante Wager. If a player:

(1) Places a Play Wager, the wager shall be placed in the area designated for the Play Wager.

(2) Folds, the Ante and Blind Wagers of the player shall be collected by the dealer and placed in the table inventory container. If the player:

(i) Has also placed a Trips Wager, the dealer shall place the cards of the player face down underneath the player's Trips Wager pending its resolution at the conclusion of the round of play.

(ii) Has not placed a Trips Wager, the dealer shall immediately collect the player's cards and place them in the discard rack.

(g) After each player has either folded or placed a Play Wager, the dealer shall remove the cover card and turn his two cards face up on the layout. The dealer shall then select five cards from the dealer's two cards and the five community cards to form the highest ranking five-card poker hand and shall announce the dealer's hand to the players.

(h) If the dealer's highest ranking five-card poker hand:

(1) Is lower than a pair, the dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's right who has placed a Play Wager and proceeding in a counterclockwise manner around the table, return each player's Ante Wager and resolve the Blind and Play wagers in accordance with subsection (2).

(2) Is a pair or better, the dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's right who has placed a Play Wager and proceeding in a counterclockwise manner around the table, turn the two cards of each player who has placed a Play Wager face up on the layout. The dealer shall select five cards from the player's two cards and the five community cards to form the highest ranking five-card poker hand and shall announce the player's hand. The wagers of each player shall be resolved one player at a time regardless of outcome. If a player's five-card poker hand:

(i) Is ranked lower than the dealer's five-card poker hand, the dealer shall immediately collect the Ante, Blind and Play Wagers made by the player.

(ii) Is ranked higher than the dealer's five-card poker hand, the dealer shall pay the Ante, Blind and Play Wagers made by the player in accordance with the payout odds in § 653a.12 (relating to payout odds; Envy Bonus; rate of progression; payout limitation); provided, however, that the player's Blind Wager will be returned if the player's winning hand is not a straight or better.

(iii) Is equal in rank to the dealer's five-card hand, the dealer shall return the player's Ante, Blind and Play Wagers.

(i) After settling a player's Ante, Blind and Play Wagers, the dealer shall settle any Trips Wager made by the player by determining whether the player's five-card poker hand qualifies for a payout in accordance with § 653a.12(c). A winning Trips Wager shall be paid irrespective of whether the player's five-card poker hand outranks the dealer's hand.

(j) The dealer shall then settle the Progressive Payout Wager, if offered by the certificate holder. A winning Progressive Payout Wager shall be paid irrespective of whether the player's hand outranks the dealer's hand. If a player has won a progressive payout, the dealer shall:

(1) Verify that the hand is a winning hand.

(2) Verify that the appropriate light on the progressive table game system has been illuminated.

(3) Have a floorperson or above validate the progressive payout in accordance with the certificate holder's approved internal control procedures.

(4) Pay the winning Progressive Payout Wager in accordance with the payout odds in § 653a.12(d). If a player has won a progressive payout that is 100% of the jackpot amount on the progressive meter, the progressive payout may not be paid from the table inventory container. If a player has won a progressive payout that is not being



paid from the table inventory container, the cards of that player shall remain on the table until the necessary documentation has been completed.

(5) Pay any Envy Bonus won in accordance with § 653a.12(d). Players making a Progressive Payout Wager shall receive an Envy Bonus when another player at the same Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker table is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying hand. Players are entitled to multiple Envy Bonuses if more than one other player is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying hand; provided, however, that a player is not entitled to an Envy Bonus for his own hand or the hand of the dealer.

(k) After all wagers have been settled, the dealer shall remove all remaining cards from the table and place them in the discard rack in a manner that permits the reconstruction of each hand in the event of a question or dispute.

**§ 653a.12. Payout odds; Envy Bonus, rate of progression; payout limitation.**

(a) A certificate holder shall pay each winning Ante and Play Wager at odds of 1 to 1.

(b) If a player's five-card hand ranks higher than the dealer's five-card hand, a certificate holder shall pay the player's Blind Wager in accordance with the following odds:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable</u>
Royal flush	500 to 1
Straight flush	50 to 1
Four-of-a-kind	10 to 1
Full house	3 to 1
Flush	3 to 2
Straight	1 to 1
Less than a straight	Push

(c) A player placing a Trips Wager shall be paid at the odds contained in one of the following paytables, selected by the certificate holder in its rule submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2 (relating to table games rules submissions):

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable A</u>	<u>Paytable B</u>
Royal flush	50 to 1	50 to 1
Straight flush	40 to 1	40 to 1
Four-of-a-kind	30 to 1	30 to 1
Full house	9 to 1	8 to 1
Flush	7 to 1	6 to 1
Straight	4 to 1	5 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	3 to 1	3 to 1
<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable C</u>	<u>Paytable D</u>
Royal flush	50 to 1	50 to 1
Straight flush	40 to 1	40 to 1

Four-of-a-kind	30 to 1	20 to 1
Full house	8 to 1	7 to 1
Flush	7 to 1	6 to 1
Straight	4 to 1	5 to 1
Three-of-a-kind	3 to 1	3 to 1

(d) If a certificate holder offers the Progressive Payout Wager:

(1) A player placing a Progressive Payout Wager shall be paid at the following odds:

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Paytable</u>
Royal flush	100% of meter
Straight flush	10% of meter
Four-of-a-kind	300 for 1
Full house	50 for 1
Flush	40 for 1
Straight	30 for 1
Three-of-a-kind	9 for 1

(2) A player shall receive the payout for only the highest ranking five-card poker hand formed.

(3) The rate of progression for the meter used for the progressive payout in subsection (1) must be contained in the certificate holder's rules submission filed in accordance with § 601a.2. The initial and reset

amount must also be contained in the certificate holder's rules submission and must be at least \$10,000.

(4) Winning Progressive Payout Hands shall be paid in accordance with the amount on the meter when it is the player's turn to be paid in accordance with § 653a.11(j) (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play).

(5) Envy Bonus payouts shall be made according to the following payout schedule for Envy Bonus Qualifying hands based upon the amount of the Progressive Payout Wager placed by the player receiving the Envy Bonus:

\$1 Progressive Payout Wager

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Envy Bonus</u>
Royal Flush	\$1,000
Straight Flush	\$300

\$5 Progressive Payout Wager

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Envy Bonus</u>
Royal Flush	\$5,000
Straight Flush	\$1,500

(e) Notwithstanding the payout odds in subsections (a), (b) and (c), a certificate holder may, in its rules submission under § 601a.2, establish a maximum amount that is payable to a player on a single hand. The maximum amount shall be at least \$50,000 or the maximum amount that one

patron could win per round when betting the minimum wager, whichever is greater. Any maximum payout limit established by the certificate holder shall apply only to payouts of Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Poker wagers placed under § 643a.7(d)(1) and (2) (relating to wagers) but does not apply to payouts for Progressive Payout Wagers placed under § 643a.7(d)(3).

**§ 653a.13. Irregularities.**

(a) A card that is found face up in the shoe or the deck while the cards are being dealt may not be used in that round of play and shall be placed in the discard rack. If more than one card is found face up in the shoe or the deck during the dealing of the cards, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if the cards are found face up after each player and the dealer has received their initial two cards, the community cards shall be dealt and any Trips Wager shall be settled in accordance with the payout odds in § 653a.12(c).

(b) A card drawn in error without its face being exposed shall be used as though it were the next card from the shoe or the deck.

(c) If any player, the dealer or the area designated for the placement of the community cards is dealt an

incorrect number of cards, all hands shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be reshuffled.

(d) If either of the dealer's cards is inadvertently exposed prior to each player having either folded or placed a Play Wager as provided for under § 653a.11 (relating to procedures for completion of each round of play), all hands shall be void, all Ante, Blind and Play Wagers shall be returned to the players, and the cards shall be reshuffled. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if a player has placed a Trips Wager, the community cards shall be dealt and each Trips Wager shall be settled in accordance with the payout odds in § 653a.12(c) (relating to payout odds).

(e) If an automated card shuffling device is being used and the device jams, stops shuffling during a shuffle or fails to complete a shuffle cycle, the cards shall be reshuffled.

(f) If an automated dealing shoe is being used and the device jams, stops dealing cards or fails to deal cards during a round of play, the round of play shall be void, all wagers shall be returned to the players and the cards shall be removed from the device and reshuffled with any cards already dealt.

(g) If an automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe malfunctions and cannot be used, the automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe shall be covered or have a sign indicating that the automated card shuffling device or automated dealing shoe is out of order placed on the device before any other method of shuffling or dealing may be utilized at that table.

**TRANSMITTAL SHEET FOR REGULATIONS SUBJECT TO THE  
REGULATORY REVIEW ACT**

**I.D. NUMBER:** 125-152

**DATE:** 6/14/11

**SUBJECT:** Subpart K. Table Games; Chapters 641a, 643a, 649a, 653a

**AGENCY:** Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (PGCB)

**TYPE OF REGULATION**

X

Proposed Regulation

\_\_\_\_\_

Final-Form Regulation

\_\_\_\_\_

Final Regulation with Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Omitted

\_\_\_\_\_

120-day Emergency Certification of the Attorney General

\_\_\_\_\_

120-day Emergency Certification of the Governor

\_\_\_\_\_

Delivery of Tolled Regulation

a. With Revisions

b. Without Revisions

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**FILING OF REGULATION**

**DATE**

**SIGNATURE**

**DESIGNATION**

1. 6-14-11

*Jane Earll*  
Senator Jane Earll

Senate Community, Economic  
& Recreational Development

2. 6-14-11

*Wayne Fontana*  
Senator Wayne Fontana

Senate Community, Economic  
& Recreational Development

3. 6-14-11

*Curt Schroder*  
Representative Curt Schroder

House Gaming Oversight

4. 6-14-11

*Rosita Youngblood*  
Representative Rosita Youngblood

House Gaming Oversight

5. 6/14/11

*K Cooper*

Independent Regulatory Review  
Commission

6. \_\_\_\_\_

Attorney General

7. 6/14/11

*n. nichols*

Legislative Reference Bureau