

# Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency

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## STAFF AGENDA MEMORANDUM

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 26, 2014

**AGENDA ITEM:** Regulations – Technical Corrections

### Withdrawal and Replacement of Amended Regulation

36.05.09 – Four Card Poker Rules

**PRESENTER:** Charles LaBoy, Assistant Director for Gaming

**ISSUE SUMMARY:** In May 2014, the Commission approved amendments to this chapter of table game regulations, COMAR 36.05.09 – Four Card Poker Rules. However, after the Commission meeting, Staff discovered clerical errors in the approved amendments to Regulation .12 – Payout Odds; Envy Bonus; Rate of Progression. In order to keep all the amendments to this chapter together, Staff is requesting that the Commission withdraw all the amendments to this chapter approved in May, and approve the amendments proposed here.

**COMMISSION ACTION REQUIRED/REQUESTED:** Approval of the withdrawal of the amendments to 36.05.09 that were made at the May Commission meeting and approval of the included amended 36.05.09.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS:** Staff recommends Commission approval.





1 **(4) If the facility operator offers the optional Six Card Bonus Wager**  
2 **authorized under Regulation .07 of this chapter, a separate area designated**  
3 **for the placement of the Six Card Bonus Wager for each player; and**

4 ~~(4)~~ **(5)** Inscriptions that advise a player of the payout odds or amounts for all  
5 permissible wagers offered by the facility operator, except that if payout odds or  
6 amounts are not inscribed on the layout, a sign identifying the payout odds or  
7 amounts for all permissible wagers shall be posted at each Four Card Poker table.

8 (C. – F. text unchanged)

9 (.03 - .05 text unchanged)

10 **.06 Four Card Poker Rankings.**

11 (A. - D. text unchanged)

12 E. If the hands are of equal rank after the application of § D of this regulation, the hands  
13 ~~shall be~~ are a tie.

14 **F. If a facility operator offers the optional Six Card Bonus Wager under Regulation**  
15 **.07 of this chapter, the five-card Poker hands eligible for a payout are:**

16 **(1) A royal flush, which is a hand consisting of an ace, king, queen, jack and**  
17 **10 of the same suit;**

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

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

22 **(4) A full house, which is a hand consisting of three-of-a-kind and a pair;**

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

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

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

5 (8) A Super Royal, if the facility operator selects Paytable A or B in  
6 Regulation .12 of this chapter, which is a six-card Poker hand consisting of  
7 an ace, king, queen, jack, 10 and 9 of the same suit.

8 **.07 Wagers.**

9 (A. - D. text unchanged)

10 E. The following wagers may be placed in the game of Four Card Poker:

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

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

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

20 (4) If specified in its Rules Submission, a facility operator may offer to a player at  
21 a Four Card Poker table the option to make an additional Progressive Payout  
22 Wager that the player will receive a Progressive Payout Hand.

23 (a) After placing an Ante Wager or an Aces Up Wager, or both, a player  
24 may make the additional Progressive Payout Wager by placing a value  
25 chip onto the progressive wagering device designated for that player.

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1 (b) Each player shall be responsible for verifying that the player's  
2 respective Progressive Payout Wager has been accepted.

3 **(5) If specified in its Rules Submission, a facility operator may offer to each**  
4 **player at a Four Card Poker table the option to make an additional Six Card**  
5 **Bonus Wager that the one card dealt to the Six Card Bonus box and the five**  
6 **cards dealt to the player will form a five-card Poker hand with a rank of a**  
7 **three-of-a-kind or better.**

8 **(a) After placing an Ante Wager and an Aces Up Wager, a player may**  
9 **make the additional Six Card Bonus Wager by placing a value chip on**  
10 **the designated betting area prior to the dealer announcing "no more**  
11 **bets."**

12 **(b) Under the Six Card Bonus Wager payable in Regulation .12 of**  
13 **this chapter, the one card dealt to the Six Card Bonus Wager box and**  
14 **the five cards dealt to the player shall be used to form a six-card**  
15 **Poker hand for purposes of the Super Royal payout.**

16 F. A facility operator shall specify in its Rules Submission the number of adjacent boxes  
17 on which a player may place a wager in one round of play.

18 (.08 - .09 text unchanged)

19 **.10 Procedure for Dealing Cards from an Automated Dealing Shoe or Shuffler.**

20 A. If cards are dealt from an automated dealing shoe or Shuffler, the following  
21 requirements shall be met:

22 (1) After the procedures required under Regulation .05 of this chapter have been  
23 completed, the dealer shall place the cards in an automated dealing shoe **or**  
24 **shuffler**.

25 (2) Prior to the shoe **or shuffler** dispensing any stacks of cards, the dealer shall:

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- 1 (a) Announce “no more bets;” and
- 2 (b) If the Progressive Payout Wager is being offered, use the progressive  
3 table game system to prevent the placement of any additional Progressive  
4 Payout Wagers.
- 5 (3) If any Progressive Payout Wagers have been made, the dealer shall:
- 6 (a) On the layout in front of the table inventory container, collect the  
7 wagers;
- 8 (b) Verify that the number of value chips wagered equals the number of  
9 Progressive Payout Wagers accepted by the progressive table game  
10 system; and
- 11 (c) Place the value chips into the table inventory container.

12 B. The dealer shall **use the following procedures when dealing a Four Card Poker**  
13 **game:**

- 14 ~~(1) Deliver the first stack of cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe face~~  
15 ~~down to the player farthest to the dealer’s left who has placed a wager allowable~~  
16 ~~under Regulation .07 of this chapter;~~
- 17 ~~(2) Moving clockwise around the table as the remaining stacks are dispensed to~~  
18 ~~the dealer by the automated dealing shoe, deliver a stack face down to each of the~~  
19 ~~other players who has placed a wager allowable under Regulation .07 of this~~  
20 ~~chapter;~~
- 21 ~~(3) Deliver a stack of five cards face down to the area designated for the~~  
22 ~~placement of the dealer’s cards;~~
- 23 ~~(4) When the automated dealing shoe dispenses the next sequence of five cards,~~  
24 ~~remove the stack and spread the cards face down on the layout so that the top card~~  
25 ~~of the stack is to the dealer’s right and the bottom card is to the dealer’s left;~~

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1 (5) Turn the bottom card of the stack, which is the card on the dealer's far left,  
2 face up on the dealer's hand; and

3 (6) Collect the remaining four cards of that stack and place the cards in the  
4 discard rack without revealing the cards.

5 **(1) Deliver the first card dispensed by the automated dealing shoe or shuffler,**  
6 **face down, to the Six Card Bonus Wager box;**

7 **(2) Take the next stack of six cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe**  
8 **or shuffler face down, then take the bottom card and turn it face up,**  
9 **exposing it for the players to see;**

10 **(3) Take the next stack of five cards dispensed by the automated dealing shoe**  
11 **or shuffler, face down, to the player farthest to the dealer's left who has**  
12 **placed a wager allowable under Regulation .07 of this chapter; and**

13 **(4) Moving clockwise around the table as the remaining stacks are dispensed**  
14 **to the dealer by the automated dealing shoe or shuffler, deliver a stack face**  
15 **down to each of the other players who has placed a wager allowable under**  
16 **Regulation .07 of this chapter.**

17 C. After each stack of five cards has been dispensed and delivered in accordance with § B  
18 of this regulation, the dealer shall:

19 (1) Remove the stub from the automated dealing shoe; and

20 (2) Except as provided in § D of this regulation, place the cards in the discard rack  
21 without exposing the cards.

22 D. ~~If an automated card shuffling device described in Regulation .05B of this chapter is~~  
23 ~~not being used, the dealer shall:~~

24 ~~(1) Count the stub at least once every 5 rounds of play to determine if the correct~~  
25 ~~number of cards are still present in the deck; and~~

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1           ~~(2) Determine the number of cards in the stub by counting the cards face down on~~  
2           ~~the layout.~~

3   ~~E.~~ If the count of the stub indicates that 52 cards are in the deck, the dealer shall place the  
4   stub in the discard rack without exposing the cards.

5   ~~F.~~ F. If the count of the stub indicates that there are not 52 cards in the deck, the dealer  
6   shall determine if:

7           (1) A player has more or less than 5 cards; or

8           (2) The dealer has more or less than 6 cards.

9   ~~G.~~ F. If 52 cards remain in the deck, but the cards were misdealt as described in § F of  
10 this regulation, all hands are void, and the dealer shall return all wagers to the players.

11 ~~H.~~ G. If the cards were not misdealt as described in § F of this regulation, all hands are  
12 void and the dealer shall return all wagers to the players and remove the entire deck of  
13 cards from the table.

14 ~~I.~~ H. Notwithstanding the requirements in §§ B and C of this regulation, if a facility  
15 operator is using an automated dealing shoe that automatically reshuffles the cards, the  
16 dealer's six cards may be dispensed before the five cards are dispensed to each player.

17 **.11 Procedure for Completing a Round of Play.**

18 (A. – B. text unchanged)

19 C. If a player has placed an Ante Wager and:

20           (1) An Aces Up Wager but does not make a Play Wager, the player shall forfeit  
21           the Ante Wager but may not forfeit the Aces Up Wager; ~~or~~

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1           **(2) A Six Card Bonus Wager but does not make a Play Wager, the player**  
2           **shall forfeit the Ante Wager but may not forfeit the Six Card Bonus Wager;**  
3           **or**

4           ~~(2)~~ **(3)** A Progressive Payout Wager but does not make a Play Wager, the player  
5           shall forfeit both the Ante Wager and the Progressive Payout Wager, but may not  
6           forfeit the eligibility to receive an Envy Bonus under Regulation .12 of this  
7           chapter.

8       D. The dealer shall:

9           (1) Collect all forfeited wagers and associated cards and place the cards in the  
10          discard rack after each player who has placed an Ante Wager has:

11                   (a) Placed a Play Wager on the designated area of the layout; or

12                   (b) Forfeited the player's Ante Wager and hand.

13          (2) Reveal the dealer's cards;

14          (3) Select the four cards that form the highest possible ranking Four Card Poker  
15          hand;

16          (4) After turning the dealer's cards face up, beginning with the player farthest to  
17          the dealer's right and continuing around the table in a counterclockwise direction,  
18          complete the following applicable procedures in succession for each player:

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

21                   (b) The dealer shall examine the cards of the player and select the four  
22                   cards that form the highest possible ranking Poker hand for each player.

23                   (c) If a player's highest ranking Four Card Poker hand is ranked:

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- 1 (i) Lower than the dealer's Four Card Poker hand, the dealer shall  
2 immediately collect the Ante and Play Wagers made by the player;  
3 or
- 4 (ii) Higher than or equal to the dealer's Four Card Poker hand, the  
5 dealer shall pay the Ante and Play Wagers and any Ante Bonus in  
6 accordance with the payout odds in Regulation .12 of this chapter;
- 7 (5) After settling a player's Ante and Play Wagers, settle any Aces Up Wagers by  
8 determining whether the player's Four Card Poker hand qualifies for a payout in  
9 accordance with Regulation .12 of this chapter;
- 10 (6) Pay a winning Aces Up Wager regardless of whether the player's Four Card  
11 Poker hand outranks the dealer's hand;
- 12 **(7) Pay a winning Six Card Bonus Wager regardless of whether the player's**  
13 **Four Card Poker hand outranks the dealer's hand;**
- 14 ~~(7)~~ **(8)** If Progressive Payout Wager is offered by the facility operator, settle a  
15 player's Progressive Payout Wager;
- 16 ~~(8)~~ **(9)** Pay a winning Progressive Payout Wager regardless of whether a player's  
17 hand outranks the dealer's hand;
- 18 ~~(9)~~ **(10)** If a player has won a progressive payout:
- 19 (a) Verify that the hand is a winning hand;
- 20 (b) Verify that the appropriate light on the progressive table game system  
21 has been illuminated;
- 22 (c) Have a floorperson or above validate the progressive payout in  
23 accordance with the facility operator's approved internal control  
24 procedures;

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1 (d) Pay the winning Progressive Payout Wager in accordance with the  
2 payout odds in Regulation .12 of this chapter, subject to the following  
3 conditions:

4 (i) If a player has won a progressive payout that is 100 percent of  
5 the jackpot amount on the progressive meter, the progressive  
6 payout may not be paid from the table inventory container;

7 (ii) If a player has won a progressive payout that is not being paid  
8 from the table inventory container, the cards of that player shall  
9 remain on the table until the necessary documentation has been  
10 completed;

11 (e) Pay any Envy Bonus won in accordance with Regulation .12 of this  
12 chapter, subject to the following conditions:

13 (i) A player making a Progressive Payout Wager shall receive an  
14 Envy Bonus when another player at the same Four Card Poker  
15 table is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying Hand;

16 (ii) Players are entitled to multiple Envy Bonuses if more than one  
17 other player is the holder of an Envy Bonus Qualifying Hand; and

18 (iii) A player is not entitled to an Envy Bonus for the player's hand  
19 or the hand of the dealer; and

20 ~~(10)~~ **(11)** After all wagers of the player have been settled:

21 (a) Remove all remaining cards from the table; and

22 (b) Place them in the discard rack in a manner that permits the  
23 reconstruction of each hand in the event of a question or dispute.

24 **.12 Payout Odds; Envy Bonus; Rate of Progression.**

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1 (A. – F. text unchanged)

2 G. An Envy Bonus payout for \$5 Progressive Payout Wager shall be paid according to:

3 (1) Paytable A Envy Bonus:

4 (a) For Four aces the payout shall be \$500;

5 (b) For Four-of-a-kind the payout shall be \$50; and

6 (c) For a Straight flush the payout shall be \$25; or

7 (2) Paytable B Envy Bonus:

8 (a) For Four aces the payout shall be \$500; and

9 (b) For Four-of-a-kind the payout shall be \$125; or

10 (3) Paytable C Envy Bonus:

11 (a) For Four aces the payout is \$5,000; and

12 (b) For Four-of-a-kind the payout is \$1,500.

13 **H. If a facility operator offers the Six Card Bonus Wager, the facility operator shall**  
14 **pay out winning Six Card Bonus Wagers at the amounts in one of the following**  
15 **paytables selected by the facility operator in its Rules Submission:**

16 **(1) Paytable A:**

17 **(a) For a Super Royal of diamonds the payout is \$1,000,000;**

18 **(b) For a Super Royal of hearts, spades or clubs the payout is**  
19 **\$100,000;**

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- 1                   **(c) For a Royal flush the payout is 1,000 to 1;**  
2                   **(d) For a Straight flush the payout is 200 to 1;**  
3                   **(e) For a Four-of-a-kind the payout is 50 to 1;**  
4                   **(f) For a Full house the payout is 20 to 1;**  
5                   **(g) For a Flush the payout is 15 to 1;**  
6                   **(h) For a Straight the payout is 10 to 1; or**  
7                   **(i) For a Three-of-a-kind the payout is 5 to 1.**

8                   **(2) Paytable B:**

- 9                   **(a) For a Super Royal of diamonds, hearts, spades or clubs the payout**  
10                  **is \$100,000;**  
11                  **(b) For a Royal flush the payout is 1,000 to 1;**  
12                  **(c) For a Straight flush the payout is 200 to 1;**  
13                  **(d) For a Four-of-a-kind the payout is 50 to 1;**  
14                  **(e) For a Full house the payout is 20 to 1;**  
15                  **(f) For a Flush the payout is 15 to 1;**  
16                  **(g) For a Straight the payout is 10 to 1; or**  
17                  **(h) For a Three-of-a-kind the payout is 5 to 1.**

18                  (.13 text unchanged)

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