

CHAPTER 11  
GAMBLING GAMES

**491—11.1(99F) Definitions.**

“*Administrator*” means the administrator of the racing and gaming commission or the administrator’s designee.

“*Coin*” means tokens, nickels, and quarters of legal tender.

“*Commission*” means the racing and gaming commission.

“*Currency*” means any coin or paper money of legal tender and paper forms of cashless wagering.

“*Discount rate*” means either the current prime rate as published in the Wall Street Journal or a blended rate computed by obtaining quotes for the purchase of qualified investments at least three times per month.

“*Distributor’s license*” means a license issued by the administrator to any entity that sells, leases, or otherwise distributes gambling games or implements of gambling to any entity licensed to conduct gambling games pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 99F.

“*Facility*” means an entity licensed by the commission to conduct gaming operations in Iowa.

“*Facility grounds*” means all real property utilized by the facility in the conduct of its gaming activity, including the grandstand, concession stands, offices, parking lots, and any other areas under the jurisdiction of the commission.

“*Gambling game*” means any game of chance approved by the commission for wagering, including, but not limited to, gambling games authorized by this chapter.

“*Government sponsored enterprise debt instrument*” means a negotiable, senior, noncallable debt obligation issued by an agency of the United States or an entity sponsored by an agency of the United States that on the date of funding possesses an issuer credit rating equivalent to the highest investment grade rating given by Standard & Poor’s or Moody’s Investment Services.

“*Implement of gambling*” means any device or object determined by the administrator to directly or indirectly influence the outcome of a gambling game; collect wagering information while directly connected to a slot machine; or be integral to the conduct of a commission-authorized gambling game.

“*Independent financial institution*” means a bank approved to do business in the state of Iowa or an insurance company admitted to transact insurance in the state of Iowa with an A.M. Best insurance rating of “A” or other equivalent rating.

“*Manufacturer’s license*” means a license issued by the administrator to any entity that assembles, fabricates, produces, or otherwise constructs a gambling game or implement of gambling used in the conduct of gambling games pursuant to Iowa Code chapter 99F.

“*Present value*” means the current value of a future payment or series of payments, discounted using the discount rate.

“*Qualified investment*” means an Iowa state issued debt instrument, a United States Treasury debt instrument or a government sponsored enterprise debt obligation.

“*Reserve*” means an account with an independent financial institution or brokerage firm consisting of cash, qualified investments, or other secure funding method approved by the administrator used to satisfy periodic payments of prizes.

“*Slot machine*” means a mechanical or electronic gambling game device into which a player may deposit currency or forms of cashless wagering and from which certain numbers of credits are awarded when a particular configuration of symbols or events is displayed on the machine.

“*Storage media*” means EPROMs, ROMs, flash-ROMs, DVDs, CD-ROMs, compact flashes, hard drives and any other types of program storage device.

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**491—11.2(99F) Conduct of all gambling games.**

**11.2(1) Commission policy.** It is the policy of the commission to require that all facilities conduct gambling games in a manner suitable to protect the public health, safety, morals, good order, and general welfare of the state. Responsibility for the employment and maintenance of suitable methods of operation

rests with the facility. Willful or persistent use or toleration of methods of operation deemed unsuitable in the sole discretion of the commission will constitute grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including license revocation.

**11.2(2) *Activities prohibited.*** A facility is expressly prohibited from the following activities:

- a. Failing to conduct advertising and public relations activities in accordance with decency, dignity, good taste, and honesty.
- b. Permitting persons who are visibly intoxicated to participate in gaming activity.
- c. Failing to comply with or make provision for compliance with all federal, state, and local laws and rules pertaining to the operation of a facility including payment of license fees, withholding payroll taxes, and violations of alcoholic beverage laws or regulations.
- d. Possessing, or permitting to remain in or upon any facility grounds, any associated gambling equipment which may have in any manner been marked, tampered with, or otherwise placed in a condition or operated in a manner which might affect the game and its payouts.
- e. Permitting, if the facility was aware of, or should have been aware of, any cheating.
- f. Possessing or permitting to remain in or upon any facility grounds, if the facility was aware of, or should have been aware of, any cheating device whatsoever; or conducting, carrying on, operating, or dealing any cheating or thieving game or device on the grounds.
- g. Possessing or permitting to remain in or upon any facility grounds, if the facility was aware of, or should have been aware of, any gambling device which tends to alter the normal random selection of criteria which determines the results of the game or deceives the public in any way.
- h. Failing to conduct gaming operations in accordance with proper standards of custom, decorum, and decency; or permitting any type of conduct that reflects negatively on the state or acts as a detriment to the gaming industry.
- i. Denying a commissioner or commission representative, upon proper and lawful demand, information or access to inspect any portion of the gaming operation.

**11.2(3) *Gambling aids.*** No person shall use, or possess with the intent to use, any calculator, computer, or other electronic, electrical, or mechanical device that:

- a. Assists in projecting the outcome of a game.
- b. Keeps track of cards that have been dealt.
- c. Keeps track of changing probabilities.

**11.2(4) *Wagers.*** Wagers may only be made:

- a. By a person present at a facility.
- b. In the form of chips, coins, or other cashless wagering.
- c. By persons 21 years of age or older.

[ARC 8029B, IAB 8/12/09, effective 9/16/09]

**491—11.3(99F) *Gambling games approved by the commission.*** The commission may approve a gambling game by administrative rule, resolution, or motion.

**491—11.4(99F) *Approval for distribution, operation, or movement of gambling games and implements of gambling.***

**11.4(1) *Approval.*** Prior to distribution, a distributor shall request that the administrator inspect, investigate, and approve a gambling game or implement of gambling for compliance with commission rules and the standards required by a commission-designated independent testing facility. The distributor, at its own expense, must provide the administrator and independent testing facility with information and product sufficient to determine the integrity and security of the product, including independent testing conducted by a designated testing facility. The commission shall designate up to two independent testing facilities for the purpose of certifying electronic gambling games or implements of gambling.

**11.4(2) *Trial period.*** Prior to or after commission approval and after completing a review of a proposed gambling game, the administrator may require a trial period of up to 180 days to test the gambling game in a facility. During the trial period, minor changes in the operation or design of

the gambling game may be made with prior approval of the administrator. During the trial period, a gambling game distributor shall not be entitled to receive revenue of any kind from the operation of that gambling game.

**11.4(3) *Gambling game submissions.*** Prior to conducting a commission-authorized gambling game or for a trial period, a facility shall submit proposals for game rules, procedures, wagers, shuffling procedures, dealing procedures, cutting procedures, and payout odds. The gambling game submission, or requests for modification to an approved submission, shall be in writing and approved by the administrator or a commission representative prior to implementation.

**11.4(4) *Public notice.*** The public shall have access to the rules of play, payout schedules, and permitted wagering amounts. Signage shall be conspicuously posted on the gaming floor to direct patrons to the gaming floor area where this information can be viewed. All participants in all licensed gambling games are required to know and follow the rules of play. No forms of cheating shall be permitted.

**11.4(5) *Operation.*** Each gambling game shall operate and play in accordance with the representation made to the commission and the public at all times. The administrator or commission representative may order the withdrawal of any gambling game suspected of malfunction or misrepresentation, until all deficiencies are corrected. The administrator or commission representative may require additional testing by an independent testing facility at the expense of the licensee or distributor for the purpose of complying with this subrule.

**11.4(6) *Distribution, movement and disposal.***

*a.* Except as otherwise authorized by the administrator, written notice, submitted by facsimile or electronic mail, shall be filed with the commission when a gambling game or implement of gambling is shipped, moved or disposed of. The written notice shall be provided as follows:

(1) At least five calendar days prior to arrival of a gambling game or implement of gambling at a licensed facility, the licensed distributor shall provide notice.

(2) At least one day before a gambling game is removed from or disposed of by a licensed facility, the licensed facility or the owner shall provide notice. All methods of disposal for gambling games or implements of gambling are subject to administrator approval.

*b.* The administrator may approve licensee transfers of gambling games or implements of gambling among subsidiaries of the licensee's parent company.

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#### **491—11.5(99F) Gambling games authorized.**

**11.5(1)** Craps, roulette, twenty-one (blackjack), baccarat, big six and poker are authorized as table games. The administrator is authorized to approve multiplayer electronic devices simulating these games, subject to the requirements of rule 491—11.4(99F) and subrule 11.5(3).

**11.5(2)** Slot machines, video poker, and other video games of chance, both progressive and nonprogressive, shall be allowed as slot machine games, subject to the administrator's approval of individual slot machine prototypes and game variations. For racetrack enclosures without a table games license, video machines which simulate table games of chance shall not be allowed.

**11.5(3)** The administrator is authorized to approve variations of approved gambling games and bonus features or progressive wagers associated with approved gambling games, subject to the requirements of rule 491—11.4(99F).

*a.* Features utilizing a controller or a system linked to gambling games that do not require direct monetary consideration and are not otherwise integrated within a slot machine game theme may be allowed as bonus features. Payouts from these bonus features may be included in winnings for the calculation of wagering tax adjusted gross receipts when the following conditions are met:

(1) The only allowable nonmonetary consideration to be expended by a participant shall be active participation in a gambling game with a bonus feature or use of a player's club card, or both.

(2) The actual bonus payout deductible in any month from all qualified system bonuses requiring no additional direct monetary consideration shall be:

1. No more than 2 percent of the coin-in for all slot machines linked to any system bonuses for that month, if slot machines linked to system bonuses exceed 20 percent of the total number of slot machines; or

2. No more than 3 percent of the coin-in for all slot machines linked to any system bonuses for that month, if slot machines linked to system bonuses are less than or equal to 20 percent of the total number of slot machines; or

3. No more than 3 percent of the amount wagered on the qualifying bets for all table games linked to any system bonus for that month.

(3) The probability of winning a system bonus award shall be the same for all persons participating in the bonus feature.

*b.* Noncashable credit payouts may be allowed as bonus feature payouts subject to the administrator's approval of individual accounting, expiration and redemption practices.

**11.5(4)** Gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities at a facility.

*a. Proposals.* Gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities shall be authorized and approved by the commission. Before a facility may conduct such gambling games, all proposals for terms, game rules, prizes, dates of operation and procedures for any gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded through promotional activities shall be submitted in writing to a commission representative for approval. The written submission shall be submitted to the commission representative at least 14 days in advance of the planned activity. Any changes to an approved gambling game of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities shall also require the approval of the commission representative. Gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities shall meet the following requirements:

(1) All rules of play shall be in writing and posted for public inspection;

(2) Such games shall be limited to participants 21 years of age or older;

(3) All games shall be conducted in a fair and honest manner, and all prizes advertised shall be awarded in accordance with the posted rules of play;

(4) All such games shall be conducted on the gaming floor and shall be conducted in accordance with the submission approved by the commission representative;

(5) No entry fees shall be permitted; and

(6) All employees of the facility shall be prohibited from participation.

*b. Limits.* Gambling games of chance involving prizes awarded to participants through promotional activities conducted at a facility shall be subject to the wagering tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 99F.11. However, in determining the adjusted gross receipts, the facility may consider all nonmonetary consideration expended by a participant and shall certify to the commission that the nonmonetary consideration is at least equal to the value of the prizes awarded.

**11.5(5)** Mechanical devices employing kickers or plates to direct coins, tokens or chips to fall over an edge into a payout hopper may be authorized as gambling games, subject to the following conditions:

*a.* All devices are subject to the requirements of rule 491—11.4(99F).

*b.* Devices shall accept no more than one coin, token or chip per play, unless otherwise authorized by the administrator.

*c.* Tokens or chips used in devices shall have a value defined by the facility. Each assigned value must be displayed on the device. Values are subject to approval by the administrator.

*d.* Merchandise, coins, tokens, chips or other legal tender may be added to the device at the discretion of the facility:

(1) Anything of value added to a device must be in accordance with the approval of the device under the requirements of rule 491—11.4(99F); and

(2) Anything of value added to a device shall be documented, and documentation shall be retained in accordance with the retention requirements of 491—subrule 5.4(14).

*e.* Any coins, tokens or chips collected by the facility or not returned to individuals wagering on a device shall be included as gross receipts for the calculation of wagering tax on adjusted gross receipts:

(1) When a device is removed from play, coins, tokens, chips or other legal tender that were added to the device may be used to offset gross receipts for the calculation of wagering tax on adjusted gross receipts; and

(2) Merchandise or other items of value added to a device shall not be considered in the calculation of wagering tax on adjusted gross receipts.

*f.* Merchandise, coins, tokens, chips or other legal tender shall not be removed from a device while it remains in operation, except as winnings to an individual from a wager, or as the result of internal mechanisms of the device for collecting revenue, approved in accordance with rule 491—11.4(99F).

*g.* Anything of value in the machine shall not be tampered with or adjusted while a device remains in operation, except as required to return a malfunctioning device to operation.

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#### **491—11.6(99F) Gambling game-based tournaments.**

**11.6(1) *Proposals.*** Proposals for terms, game rules, entry fees, prizes, dates, and procedures must be submitted in writing and approved by a commission representative before a facility conducts any tournament. Any changes to approved tournaments must be submitted to the commission representative for review and approval prior to being implemented. The written proposal or change shall be submitted to a commission representative at least 14 days in advance of the planned activity. Rules, fees, and a schedule of prizes must be made available to the player prior to entry.

**11.6(2) *Limits.*** Tournaments must be based on gambling games authorized by the commission. Entry fees, less prizes paid, are subject to the wagering tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 99F.11. In determining adjusted gross receipts, to the extent that prizes paid out exceed entry fees received, the facility shall be deemed to have paid the fees for the participants.

**11.6(3) *Tournament chips.*** Tournament chips used as wagers in table game tournament proposals approved pursuant to this rule shall be imprinted with a number representing the value of the chip or shall be assigned a value. The facility shall provide that:

*a.* The assigned value of tournament chips be conspicuously displayed in the tournament area.

*b.* Internal controls which account for all tournament chips and include reconciliation, handling and variance procedures are approved by a commission representative.

[ARC 8029B, IAB 8/12/09, effective 9/16/09; ARC 9987B, IAB 2/8/12, effective 3/14/12]

#### **491—11.7(99F) Table game requirements.**

**11.7(1)** Devices that determine or affect the outcome of wagers or are used in the collection of wagers on table games are subject to the requirements of rule 491—11.4(99F) and subrule 11.5(3). Removable storage media shall be sealed with tamper-evident tape by a commission representative prior to implementation.

**11.7(2) Wagers.**

*a.* All wagers at table games shall be made by placing gaming chips or coins on the appropriate areas of the layout.

*b.* Information pertaining to the minimum and maximum allowed at the table shall be posted on the game.

*c.* A facility may impose an aggregate payout limit on a per round basis for approved table game odds payouts that are greater than 50 to 1. If imposed, aggregate limits shall be at least the highest available award at the posted minimum bet, or \$25,000, whichever amount is greater, and the amount shall be posted on the game. When applying the aggregate payout limit to multiple players' wins, facilities shall calculate each player's win as a pro rata share of the aggregate payout limit. Alternate aggregate or individual player payout limits may be established, as determined by the administrator.

*d.* Any other fee collected to participate in a table game shall be subject to the wagering tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 99F.11.

**11.7(3) Craps.**

*a.* Wagers must be made before the dice are thrown. "Call bets," or the calling out of bets between the time the dice leave the shooter's hand and the time the dice come to rest, not accompanied by the

placement of gaming chips, are not allowed. A wager made on any bet may be removed or reduced at any time prior to a roll that decides the outcome of such wager unless the wager is a “Pass” or “Come” bet and a point has been established with respect to such bet or the wager is a proposition bet contingent on multiple rolls.

*b.* The shooter shall make a “Pass” or “Don’t Pass” bet and shall handle the two selected dice with one hand before throwing the dice in a simultaneous manner.

*c.* Each die used shall be transparent.

**11.7(4) Twenty-one.**

*a.* Before the first card is dealt for each round of play, each player shall make a wager against the dealer. Once the first card of any hand has been dealt by the dealer, no player shall handle, remove, or alter any wagers that have been made until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager. Once a wager on the insurance line, a wager to double down, or a wager to split pairs has been made and confirmed by the dealer, no player shall handle, remove, or alter the wagers until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager, except as explicitly permitted. A facility or licensee shall not permit any player to engage in conduct that violates this paragraph.

*b.* At the conclusion of a round of play, all cards still remaining on the layout shall be picked up by the dealer in a prescribed order and in such a way that they can be readily arranged to indicate each player’s hand in case of question or dispute. The dealer shall pick up the cards beginning with those of the player to the far right and moving counterclockwise around the table. The dealer’s hand will be the last hand collected. The cards will then be placed on top of the discard pile. No player or spectator shall remove or alter any cards used to game at twenty-one or be permitted to do so by a casino employee.

*c.* Each player at the table shall be responsible for correctly computing the point count of the player’s hand. No player shall rely on the point counts announced by the dealer without checking the accuracy of such announcement.

**11.7(5) Roulette.**

*a.* No person at a roulette table shall be issued or permitted to game with nonvalue gaming chips that are identical in color and design to value gaming chips or to nonvalue gaming chips being used by another person at that same table.

*b.* Each player shall be responsible for the correct positioning of the player’s wager on the roulette layout, regardless of whether the player is assisted by the dealer. Each player must ensure that any instructions the player gives to the dealer regarding the placement of the player’s wager are correctly carried out.

*c.* Each wager shall be settled strictly in accordance with its position on the layout when the ball falls to rest in a compartment of the wheel.

**11.7(6) Big six.**

*a.* Wagers must be made before the spin of the wheel.

*b.* Each player shall be responsible for the correct positioning of the player’s wager on the layout regardless of whether that player is assisted by the dealer.

*c.* The wheel may be spun in either direction, but must complete at least three revolutions to be considered a valid spin.

*d.* Each wager shall be settled strictly in accordance with its position on the layout when the wheel stops with the winning indicator in a compartment of the wheel. In accordance with subrule 11.4(3), the rules shall include procedures addressing wheel stops that land between two compartments of the wheel. These procedures shall be posted at the game.

**11.7(7) Poker.**

*a.* When a facility conducts poker with an imprest dealer gaming chip bank, the rules in 491—Chapter 12 for closing and distributing or removing gaming chips to or from gaming tables do not apply. The entire amount of the table rake is subject to the wagering tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 99F.11. Proposals for imprest dealer gaming chip banks must be submitted in writing and approved by a commission representative prior to use and must include, but not be limited to, controls to regularly monitor, investigate, and report table bank variances.

*b.* All games shall be played according to table stakes game rules as follows:

- (1) Only gaming chips or coins on the table at the start of a deal shall be in play for that pot.
- (2) Concealed gaming chips or coins shall not play.
- (3) A player with gaming chips may add additional gaming chips between deals, provided that the player complies with any minimum buy-in requirement.

(4) A player is never obliged to drop out of contention because of insufficient gaming chips to call the full amount of a bet, but may call for the amount of gaming chips the player has on the table. The excess part of the bet made by other players is either returned to the players or used to form a side pot.

*c.* Each player in a poker game is required to act only in the player's own best interest. The facility has the responsibility of ensuring that any behavior designed to assist one player over another is prohibited. The facility may prohibit any two players from playing in the same game.

*d.* Poker games where winning wagers are paid by the facility according to specific payout odds or pay tables are permitted.

*e.* The facility shall comply with and receive approval pursuant to subrule 11.4(3) for each type of poker game offered.

*f.* The facility may elect to offer a jackpot award generated from pot contributions at a table or group of tables for predesignated high-value poker hands, subject to the following requirements:

(1) Approval of the jackpot award rules must be obtained from a commission representative prior to play.

(2) Jackpot award rules and jackpot award amounts shall be posted in a conspicuous location within the poker room. Jackpot award amounts shall be updated no less than once per day.

(3) The facility shall divide pot contributions for any single qualifying award circumstance or event into no more than three jackpot award pools.

(4) The jackpot award pool containing the highest monetary value amount shall be the amount posted in the poker room and awarded to a qualifying player or players.

(5) If additional jackpot award pools are in use, the award pool containing the highest monetary value shall be used to seed the primary jackpot award pool.

(6) All moneys collected as pot contributions to a jackpot award payout shall be distributed in their entirety to the players; no facility shall charge an administration fee for distribution of a jackpot award.

**11.7(8) Baccarat.** Before the first card is dealt for each round of play, each player is permitted to make a wager on the Banker's Hand, Player's Hand, Tie Bet, and any proposition bet if offered. All wagers shall be made by placing gaming chips on the appropriate areas of the layout. Once the first card has been dealt by the dealer, no player shall handle, remove, or alter any wagers that have been made until a decision has been rendered and implemented with respect to that wager.

**11.7(9) Preverified cards.** Cards that are verified prior to arrival at the facility may be approved by the administrator for use in table games authorized by this rule. Preverified cards may be shuffled or sequenced according to the licensee's specifications. Each manufacturer of preverified cards shall request approval of its cards, pursuant to subrule 11.4(1), and is subject to the following additional requirements:

*a.* Each device used to verify or automate the randomization of the cards before they are shipped to a licensee shall be certified by a commission-designated independent testing facility.

*b.* The manufacturer shall develop and submit to the administrator a process for producing, shuffling, and packaging preverified cards that includes the following:

(1) A visual inspection of the back of each card, ensuring the cards are not flawed or marked in any way that might compromise the integrity of the gambling game.

(2) A verification that each package of cards contains the correct number of suits and cards in accordance with the commission-approved rules of the game for the game with which the package of cards is intended for use.

(3) Insertion of the cards in a package with a tamper-evident seal that bears conspicuous indication if the package has been opened. The exterior of the package shall indicate:

1. The total number of decks contained within the package.
2. The commission-authorized game with which the cards are intended for use.
3. The color of the cards within the package.

(4) Generation of a receipt in the package or a label on the sealed package to include the following information:

1. The total number of cards and decks contained within the package.
2. The date and time the cards were shuffled, verified and packaged.
3. Information sufficient to determine the specific details regarding any persons or devices involved in the production, verification or packaging of the cards.

[ARC 9987B, IAB 2/8/12, effective 3/14/12; ARC 2927C, IAB 2/1/17, effective 3/8/17; ARC 3608C, IAB 1/31/18, effective 3/7/18]

#### **491—11.8(99F) Keno.**

**11.8(1)** Keno shall be conducted using an automated ticket writing and redemption system where a game's winning numbers are selected by a random number generator.

**11.8(2)** Each game shall consist of the selection of 20 numbers out of 80 possible numbers, 1 through 80.

**11.8(3)** For any type of wager offered, the payout must be at least 70 percent.

**11.8(4)** Multigame tickets shall be limited to 20 games.

**11.8(5)** Writing or voiding tickets for a game after that game has closed is prohibited.

**11.8(6)** All winning tickets shall be valid up to a maximum of one year from the date of purchase. All expired, unclaimed winning tickets shall be subject to the requirements in 491—paragraph 12.11(2) "b."

**11.8(7)** The administrator shall determine minimum hardware and software requirements to ensure the integrity of play. An automated keno system must be proven to accurately account for adjusted gross receipts to the satisfaction of the administrator.

**11.8(8)** Adjusted gross receipts from keno games shall be the difference between dollar value of tickets written and dollar value of winning tickets as determined from the automated keno system. The wagering tax pursuant to Iowa Code section 99F.11 shall apply to adjusted gross receipts of keno games.

**11.8(9)** An area of a facility shall not be designated as gaming floor for the sole purpose of keno runners, who accept patron wagering funds remotely from the keno game location.

[ARC 9018B, IAB 8/25/10, effective 9/29/10]

#### **491—11.9(99F) Slot machine requirements.**

**11.9(1)** *Payout percentage.* A slot machine game must meet the following maximum and minimum theoretical percentage payouts during the expected lifetime of the game.

*a.* A slot machine game's theoretical payout must be at least 80 percent and no more than 100 percent of the amount wagered. The theoretical payout percentage is determined using standard methods of probability theory. Slot machine games with a bonus feature that is available with varying payouts based on the player's ability shall be allowed if the difference between the minimum and maximum payout for all ability-based outcomes does not exceed a 4 percent contribution to the overall theoretical payout of the slot machine game.

*b.* A slot machine game shall have a probability of obtaining the highest single advertised payout, which must statistically occur at least once in 50 million games.

**11.9(2)** *Features.* Unless otherwise authorized by the administrator, each slot machine in a casino shall have the following features:

*a.* A casino number at least two inches in height permanently imprinted, affixed, or impressed on the outside of the machine so that the number may be observed by the surveillance camera.

*b.* A clear description displayed on the slot machine of any merchandise or thing of value offered as a payout including the cash equivalent value of the merchandise or thing of value offered, the dates the merchandise or thing of value will be offered if the facility establishes a time limit upon initially offering the merchandise or thing of value, and the availability or unavailability to the patron of the optional cash equivalent value. A cash equivalent value shall be at least 75 percent of the fair market value of the merchandise or thing of value offered.

*c.* Devices, equipment, features, and capabilities, as may be required by the commission, that are specific to each slot machine after the prototype model is approved by the commission.

**11.9(3)** *Storage media.* Hardware media devices which contain game functions or characteristics, including but not limited to pay tables and random number generators, shall be verified and sealed with

evidence tape by a commission representative prior to being placed in operation, as determined by the administrator.

**11.9(4) Posting of the actual aggregate payout percentage.** The actual aggregate payout percentage to the nearest one-tenth of 1 percent (0.1%) of all slot machine games in operation during the preceding three calendar months shall be posted at the main casino entrance, cashier cages, and slot booths by the fifteenth day of each calendar month. For the purpose of this calculation, the actual aggregate payout percentage shall be the slot revenue reported to the commission during the preceding three calendar months divided by the slot coin-in reported to the commission during the preceding three calendar months subtracted from 100 percent.

**11.9(5) Communication equipment.** Equipment must be installed in each slot machine that allows for communication to an online monitoring and control system accessible, with read-only access, to the commission representatives using a communications protocol provided to each licensed manufacturer by the commission for the information and control programs approved by the administrator.

**11.9(6) Meter clears.** Prior to the clearing of electronic accounting meters detailed in paragraph 11.10(2) “c,” a licensee must notify a commission representative. All meters recorded by the game must be retained according to the requirements in 491—subrule 5.4(14).

[ARC 8029B, IAB 8/12/09, effective 9/16/09; ARC 9018B, IAB 8/25/10, effective 9/29/10]

#### **491—11.10(99F) Slot machine hardware and software specifications.**

##### **11.10(1) Hardware specifications.**

*a.* Electrical and mechanical parts and design principles shall not subject players to physical hazards.

*b.* The battery backup, or an equivalent, for the electronic meters must be capable of maintaining accuracy of all required information for 30 days after power is discontinued from a slot machine. The backup shall be kept within the locked logic board compartment.

*c.* An identification badge permanently affixed by the manufacturer to the exterior of the cabinet shall include the following information:

- (1) The manufacturer;
- (2) A unique serial number;
- (3) The gaming device model number; and
- (4) The date of manufacture.

*d.* The operations and outcomes of each slot machine must not be adversely affected by influences from outside the device.

*e.* The internal space of a slot machine shall not be readily accessible when the front door is both closed and locked.

*f.* Logic boards and software storage media which significantly influence the operation of the game must be in a locked compartment within the slot machine.

*g.* The currency drop container must be in a locked compartment within or attached to the slot machine. Access to the currency storage areas shall be secured by separate locks which shall be fitted with sensors that indicate door open/closed or stacker removed.

*h.* No hardware switches may be installed that alter the pay tables or payout percentages in the operation of a slot machine. Hardware switches may be installed to control graphic routines, speed of play, and sound.

*i.* A display which automatically illuminates when a player has won a jackpot or other award not paid automatically and totally by the slot machine and which advises players that they will be paid by an attendant shall be located conspicuously on the slot machine.

*j.* A payglass/video display shall be clearly identified and shall accurately state the rules of the game and the award that will be paid to the player when the player obtains a specific combination of symbols or other criteria. All information required in this paragraph must be available and readable at all times the slot machine is in service.

*k.* A light that automatically illuminates when a player has won an amount or is redeeming credits that the machine cannot automatically pay, an error condition has occurred, or a “Call attendant”

condition has been initiated by the player shall be located conspicuously on top of the gaming device. At the discretion of the administrator, tower lights may be shared among certain machines or substituted by an audible alarm.

*l.* If credits are collected and the total credit value is unable to be paid automatically by the gaming device, the device shall lock up until the credits have been paid and the amount collected has been cleared by an attendant handpay or normal operation has been restored.

**11.10(2) Software specifications.**

*a. Random number generator.* Each slot machine must have a random number generator to determine the results of the game symbol selections or production of game outcomes. The selection shall:

- (1) Be statistically independent.
- (2) Conform to the desired random distribution.
- (3) Pass various recognized statistical tests.
- (4) Be unpredictable.
- (5) Have a testing confidence level of 99 percent.

*b. Continuation of game after malfunction is cleared.* Each slot machine must be capable of continuing the current game with all current game features after a malfunction is cleared. This paragraph does not apply if a slot machine is rendered totally inoperable; however, the current wager and all credits appearing on the screen prior to the malfunction must be returned to the player.

*c. Electronic accounting meters.* Each slot machine must maintain electronic accounting meters at all times, regardless of whether the slot machine is being supplied with power. For each meter recording values, the slot machine must be capable of maintaining no fewer than ten digits. For each meter recording occurrences, the slot machine must be capable of maintaining no fewer than eight digits. No slot machine may have a mechanism that will cause the electronic accounting meters to automatically clear due to an error. The electronic meters must record, at a minimum, the following:

- (1) Coin-in.
- (2) Coin-out.
- (3) Drop.
- (4) Attendant-paid jackpots.
- (5) Currency in.
- (6) Currency out.
- (7) External door.
- (8) Bill validator door.
- (9) Machine-paid external bonus payout.
- (10) Attendant-paid external bonus payout.
- (11) Attendant-paid progressive payout.
- (12) Machine-paid progressive payout.

*d. Error conditions.* Each slot machine shall display and report error conditions to the online monitoring system. For machines that display only a code, definitions for all codes must be permanently affixed to the interior of the slot machine. Error conditions that must be displayed and reported include but are not limited to:

- (1) Currency in.
- (2) Currency out.
- (3) Door open.
- (4) RAM.
- (5) Low battery.
- (6) Program authentication.
- (7) Reel spin.
- (8) Power reset.

**11.10(3) Previous slot machine models.** Subject to administrator approval of specific gaming devices, slot machines may be used that do not meet the requirements of subrules 11.10(1) and

11.10(2) but have been certified under previously approved specifications by a commission-designated independent testing facility and maintain a current certification.  
[ARC 8029B, IAB 8/12/09, effective 9/16/09]

**491—11.11(99F) Slot machine specifications.** Rescinded IAB 8/12/09, effective 9/16/09.

**491—11.12(99F) Progressive slot machines.**

**11.12(1) Meter required.** A progressive machine is a slot machine game with an award amount that increases based on a function of credits bet on the slot machine and that is awarded when a particular configuration of symbols or events is displayed on the slot machine. Random events generating awards independent of the base slot machine game and not dependent on any specific slot machine game shall be considered bonus features. A progressive slot machine or group of linked progressive slot machines must have a meter showing the progressive jackpot payout.

**11.12(2) Progressive controllers.** The reset or base value and the rate of increment of a progressive jackpot game must be filed with a commission representative prior to implementation. A reset or base value must equal or exceed the equivalent nonprogressive jackpot payout.

**11.12(3) Limits.** A facility may impose a limit on the progressive jackpot payout of a slot machine if the limit imposed is greater than the progressive jackpot payout at the time the limit is imposed. The facility must prominently display a notice informing the public of the limit. No progressive meter may be turned back to a lesser amount unless one of the following circumstances occurs:

- a. The amount shown on the progressive meter is paid to a player as a jackpot.
- b. It is necessary to adjust the progressive meter to prevent it from displaying an amount greater than the limit imposed by the facility.
- c. It is necessary to change the progressive indicator because of game malfunction.

**11.12(4) Transfer of jackpots.** In the event of malfunction, replacement, or other reason approved by the commission, a progressive jackpot that is removed shall be transferred, less the reset value, to other progressive slot machine jackpots of similar progressive wager and probability at the same facility within 30 days from the removal date. In the event a similar progressive jackpot at the same facility is unavailable, other transfers shall be allowed. A commission representative shall be notified in writing prior to a removal or transfer.

**11.12(5) Records required.** Records must be maintained that record the amount shown on a progressive jackpot meter. Supporting documents must be maintained to explain any reduction in the payoff amount from a previous entry. The records and documents must be retained for a period of three years unless permission to destroy them earlier is given in writing by the administrator.

**11.12(6) Transfer of progressive slot machines.** A progressive slot machine, upon permission of the administrator, may be moved to a different facility if a bankruptcy, loss of license, or other good cause warrants.

**11.12(7) Linked machines.** Each machine on the link shall have the same probability of winning the progressive jackpot, adjusted for the total amount wagered. The probability of winning the progressive jackpot multiplied by the maximum amount wagered shall be within the maximum allowable tolerance for all games on the link. For the purpose of this calculation, the maximum allowable tolerance when linked with any other game shall be the product of the probability of winning the progressive jackpot, adjusted for amount wagered, multiplied by:

- a. 1 percent (0.01) for games where the probability of winning the progressive jackpot is less frequent than or equal to 1 in 100,000; or
- b. 5 percent (0.05) for games where the probability of winning the progressive jackpot is more frequent than 1 in 100,000.

**11.12(8) Wide area progressive systems.** A wide area progressive system is a method of linking progressive slot machines or electronic gaming machines by secured data communication as part of a network that connects participating facilities. The purpose of a wide area progressive system is to offer a common progressive jackpot (system jackpot) at all participating locations within Iowa or in multiple

states. The operation of a wide area progressive system (multilink) is permitted, subject to the following conditions:

*a.* The provider of a multilink (provider) shall be an entity licensed as a manufacturer, a distributor, or an operator of gambling games within the state of Iowa or be the qualified parent company of an operator of gambling games within the state of Iowa. No entity shall be licensed for the sole purpose of providing a multilink.

*b.* Prior to operation of a multilink, the provider shall submit to the administrator for review and approval information sufficient to determine the integrity and security of the multilink. The information must include, but is not limited to, the following:

- (1) Central system site location, specifications, and operational procedures.
- (2) Encryption and method of secured communication over the multilink and between facilities.
- (3) Method and process for obtaining meter data from slot machines on the multilink.
- (4) Disbursement options for jackpot payoffs, including information for periodic payments. Periodic payment information, including number of payments and time between payments must be displayed as part of the slot machine pay table or prominently displayed on the face of the slot machine.

- (5) Jackpot contribution rates, including information sufficient to determine contributions to the jackpot are consistent across all entities participating in the multilink. Any subsequent changes to the contribution rate of a multilink jackpot must be submitted to the administrator for review and approval.

- (6) Jackpot verification procedures.

- (7) Jackpot discontinuation procedures, including procedures for distribution of contributions to another jackpot or return of pro rata shares to participating facilities.

*c.* The provider of the multilink shall, upon request, supply reports and information to the administrator which detail the contributions and economic activity of the system, subject to the following requirements:

- (1) Aggregate and detail reports that show both the economic activity of the entire multilink, as well as details of each machine on the multilink.

- (2) Upon invoicing a facility, details regarding each machine at the facility and each machine's contribution to the multilink for the period of the invoice shall be supplied, as well as any other details required by the administrator.

*d.* Concurrent jackpots which occur before the multilink jackpot meters show reset and updated jackpot amounts will be deemed to have occurred simultaneously. Each winner shall receive the full amount shown on the system jackpot meter.

*e.* The provider must suspend play on the multilink if a communication failure of the system cannot be corrected within 24 consecutive hours.

*f.* A meter that shows the amount of the system jackpot must be conspicuously displayed at or near the machines to which the jackpot applies. Jackpot meters may show amounts that differ from the actual system jackpot, due to delays in communication between sites and the central system, but meters shall not display an incorrect amount for an awarded jackpot.

*g.* In calculating adjusted gross receipts, a facility may deduct its pro rata share of the present value of any system jackpots awarded. Such deduction shall be listed on the detailed accounting records supplied by the provider. A facility's pro rata share is based on the amount of coin-in from that facility's machines on the multilink, compared to the total amount of coin-in on the whole system for the time period between awarded jackpots.

*h.* In the event a facility ceases operations and a progressive jackpot is awarded subsequent to the last day of the final month of operation, the facility may not file an amended wagering tax submission or make a claim for a wagering tax refund based on its contributions to that particular progressive prize pool.

*i.* The payment of any system jackpot offered on a multilink shall be administered by the provider, and the provider shall have sole liability for payment of any system jackpot the provider administers.

*j.* The provider shall comply with the following:

- (1) A reserve shall be established and maintained by the provider in an amount of not less than the sum of the following amounts:

1. The present value of the amount currently reflected on the jackpot meters of the multilink.
  2. The present value of one additional reset (start amount) of the multilink.
- (2) For system jackpots disbursed in periodic payments, a provider shall fund the periodic payments within 90 days of the notice of the jackpot award with:
1. Purchase of a qualified investment. A copy of such qualified investment shall be provided to the administrator within 30 days of purchase. Any qualified investment shall have a surrender value at maturity, excluding any interest paid before the maturity date, equal to or greater than the value of the corresponding periodic jackpot payment and shall have a maturity date prior to the date the periodic jackpot payment is required to be made; or
  2. A surety bond or an irrevocable letter of credit with an independent financial institution which provides periodic payments to a winner should the establishment default for any reason. The written agreement establishing a surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit shall be submitted to the administrator within 30 days of purchase; or
  3. An irrevocable trust with an independent financial institution in accordance with a written trust agreement approved by the administrator which provides periodic payments from an unallocated pool of assets to a group of winners and which shall expressly prohibit the winner from encumbering, assigning or otherwise transferring in any way the winner's right to receive the deferred portion of the winnings except to the winner's estate. The assets of the trust shall consist of federal government securities including but not limited to treasury bills, treasury bonds, savings bonds or other federally guaranteed securities in an amount sufficient to meet the periodic payments as required; or
  4. Another irrevocable method of providing the periodic payments to a winning player consistent with the purpose of this subparagraph, and which is approved by the administrator prior to implementation.
- (3) The provider shall not be permitted to sell, trade, or otherwise dispose of any periodic payment funding unless approval to do so is first obtained from the administrator.
- (4) Upon becoming aware of an event of noncompliance with the terms of the reserve requirement mandated by subparagraph 11.12(8) "j"(1) above, or in the event of nonpayment of a periodic payment directly by the provider, the provider must immediately notify the administrator. An event of noncompliance includes a nonpayment of a jackpot periodic payment or a circumstance which may cause the provider to be unable to fulfill, or which may otherwise impair the provider's ability to satisfy, the provider's jackpot payment obligations.
- (5) On a quarterly basis, the provider must deliver to the administrator a calculation of system reserves required under subparagraph 11.12(8) "j"(1) above. The calculation shall come with a certification of financial compliance signed by a duly authorized financial officer of the provider, on a form prescribed by the administrator, validating the calculation.
- (6) On an annual basis, the provider must deliver to the administrator updated information sufficient to determine compliance with the funding requirements of all outstanding periodic payments. This shall include an updated listing of all winners showing outstanding periodic payment amounts and any updates to funding documents and agreements. The updated information shall come with a certification of compliance signed by a duly authorized financial officer of the provider.
- (7) The reserve required under subparagraph 11.12(8) "j"(1) must be examined by an independent certified public accountant according to procedures approved by the administrator. Two copies of the report must be submitted to the administrator within 90 days after the conclusion of the provider's fiscal year.
- (8) The administrator may require additional information or audits at any time to ensure compliance with this paragraph.
- k.* For system jackpots disbursed in periodic payments, subsequent to the date of the win, a winner may be offered the option to receive, in lieu of periodic payments, a discounted single cash payment in the form of a "qualified prize option," as that term is defined in Section 451(h) of the Internal Revenue Code. The provider shall calculate the single cash payment based on the discount rate. Until the new discount rate becomes effective, the discount rate selected by the provider shall be used to calculate the single cash payment for all qualified prizes that occur subsequent to the date of the selected discount rate.

*l.* Multilinks to be offered in conjunction with jurisdictions in other states within the United States are permitted. Multistate multilinks are subject to the requirements of this subrule; in addition, any multistate plans or controls are subject to administrator review and approval.

[ARC 7757B, IAB 5/6/09, effective 6/10/09; ARC 8029B, IAB 8/12/09, effective 9/16/09; ARC 9018B, IAB 8/25/10, effective 9/29/10; ARC 1876C, IAB 2/18/15, effective 3/25/15; ARC 2927C, IAB 2/1/17, effective 3/8/17; ARC 4378C, IAB 3/27/19, effective 5/1/19]

#### **491—11.13(99F) Licensing of manufacturers and distributors of gambling games or implements of gambling.**

**11.13(1) *Impact on gambling.*** In considering whether a manufacturer or distributor applicant will be licensed or a specific product will be distributed, the administrator shall give due consideration to the economic impact of the applicant's product, the willingness of a licensed facility to offer the product to the public, and whether its revenue potential warrants the investigative time and effort required to maintain effective control over the product.

**11.13(2) *Licensing standards.*** Standards which shall be considered when determining the qualifications of an applicant shall include, but are not limited to, financial stability; business ability and experience; good character and reputation of the applicant as well as all directors, officers, partners, and employees; integrity of financial backers; and any effect on the Iowa economy.

**11.13(3) *Application procedure.*** Application for a manufacturer's or a distributor's license shall be made to the commission for approval by the administrator. In addition to the application, the following must be completed and presented when the application is filed:

*a.* Disclosure of ownership interest, directors, or officers of licensees.

(1) An applicant or licensee shall notify the administrator of the identity of each director, corporate officer, owner, partner, joint venture participant, trustee, or any other person who has any beneficial interest of 5 percent or more, direct or indirect, in the business entity. For any of the above, as required by the administrator, the applicant or licensee shall submit background information on forms supplied by the division of criminal investigation and any other information the administrator may require.

For purposes of this rule, beneficial interest includes all direct and indirect forms of ownership or control, voting power, or investment power held through any contract, lien, lease, partnership, stockholding, syndication, joint venture, understanding, relationship (including family relationship), present or reversionary right, title or interest, or otherwise.

(2) For ownership interests of less than 5 percent, the administrator may request a list of these interests. The list shall include names, percentages owned, addresses, social security numbers, and dates of birth. The administrator may request the same information required of those individuals in subparagraph (1) above.

*b.* Investigative fees.

(1) Advance payment. The department of public safety may request payment of the investigative fee in advance as a condition to beginning investigation.

(2) Payment required. The administrator may withhold final action with respect to any application until all investigative fees have been paid in full.

*c.* A bank or cashier's check made payable to the Iowa Racing and Gaming Commission for the annual license fee as follows:

(1) A manufacturer's license shall be \$250.

(2) A distributor's license shall be \$1,000.

*d.* A copy of each of the following:

(1) Articles of incorporation and certificate of incorporation, if the business entity is a corporation.

(2) Partnership agreement, if the business entity is a partnership.

(3) Trust agreement, if the business entity is a trust.

(4) Joint venture agreement, if the business entity is a joint venture.

(5) List of employees of the aforementioned who may have contact with persons within the state of Iowa.

*e.* A copy of each of the following types of proposed distribution agreements, where applicable:

(1) Purchase agreement(s).

- (2) Lease agreement(s).
- (3) Bill(s) of sale.
- (4) Participation agreement(s).

*f.* Supplementary information. Each applicant shall promptly furnish the administrator with all additional information pertaining to the application or the applicant which the administrator may require. Failure to supply the information requested within five days after the request has been received by the applicant shall constitute grounds for delaying consideration of the application.

*g.* Any and all changes in the applicant's legal structure, directors, officers, or the respective ownership interests must be promptly filed with the administrator.

*h.* The administrator may deny, suspend, or revoke the license of an applicant or licensee in which a director, corporate officer, or holder of a beneficial interest includes or involves any person or entity which would be, or is, ineligible in any respect, such as through want of character, moral fitness, financial responsibility, professional qualifications, or due to failure to meet other criteria employed by the administrator, to participate in gaming regardless of the percentage of ownership interest involved. The administrator may order the ineligible person or entity to terminate all relationships with the licensee or applicant, including divestiture of any ownership interest or beneficial interest at acquisition cost.

*i.* Disclosure. Disclosure of the full nature and extent of all beneficial interests may be requested by the administrator and shall include the names of individuals and entities, the nature of their relationships, and the exact nature of their beneficial interest.

*j.* Public disclosure. Disclosure is made for the benefit of the public, and all documents pertaining to the ownership filed with the administrator shall be available for public inspection.

**11.13(4) Temporary license certificates.**

*a.* A temporary license certificate may be issued at the discretion of the administrator.

*b.* Temporary licenses—period valid. Any certificate issued at the discretion of the administrator shall be valid for a maximum of 120 calendar days from the date of issue.

Failure to obtain a permanent license within the designated time may result in revocation of the license eligibility, fine, or suspension.

**11.13(5) Withdrawal of application.** A written notice of withdrawal of application may be filed by an applicant at any time prior to final action. No application shall be permitted to be withdrawn unless the administrator determines the withdrawal to be in the public interest. No fee or other payment relating to any application shall become refundable by reason of withdrawal of the application.

**11.13(6) Record keeping.**

*a.* *Record storage required.* Distributors and manufacturers shall maintain adequate records of business operations, which shall be made available to the administrator upon request. These records shall include:

(1) All correspondence with the administrator and other governmental agencies on the local, state, and federal level.

(2) All correspondence between the licensee and any of its customers who are applicants or licensees under Iowa Code chapter 99F.

(3) A personnel file on each employee of the licensee, including sales representatives.

(4) Financial records of all transactions with facilities and all other licensees under these regulations.

*b.* *Record retention.* The records listed in 11.13(6)“a” shall be retained as required by 491—subrule 5.4(14).

**11.13(7) Violation of laws or regulations.** Violation of any provision of any laws of the state or of the United States of America or of any rules of the commission may constitute an unsuitable method of operation, subjecting the licensee to limiting, conditioning, restricting, revoking or suspending the license, or fining the licensee, or any combination of the above.

**11.13(8)** *Consent to inspections, searches, and seizures.* Each manufacturer or distributor licensed under this chapter shall consent to inspections, searches, and seizures deemed necessary by the administrator and authorized by law in order to enforce licensing requirements.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code chapter 99F.

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