

Internet Gaming

Q: What is Internet Gaming?

These are casino-style games which are also offered at Pennsylvania casinos (table games, poker, slot machines) using communication technology generally through a computer, tablet or mobile phone.

Q: What types of games will be available?

Internet gaming includes three categories:

- o non-banking table games (generally, poker);
- o banking games which simulate casino table games; and,
- o games which simulate slot machines.

Q: Who can own licenses for Internet Gaming?

Existing casino license holders may request the Board for authorization to offer internet gaming.

Q: Do I have to be in Pennsylvania to play internet games?

Yes. The Gaming Control Board will put in place a system that, through the use of GPS software and IP Address identification, will block entry and play of Pennsylvania-licensed internet gaming if a user is outside of the state.

In addition, participating in internet gaming when in a Pennsylvania casino will also be blocked.

Q: What is the difference between PA's Internet Gaming and other Internet Gaming sites that can already be accessed?

If you are in Pennsylvania and currently accessing a gambling site through the internet, that site originates offshore in another country, and is considered illegal in Pennsylvania. Therefore, strict regulation that protects the players may not exist at offshore gambling sites and there may not be guarantees on payment of winnings or access to money placed in your account.

Q: Will the rules for online table games including poker be the same as in PA's land-based casinos?

Specific rules for each game will be submitted by the licensee for review and approval by the Gaming Control Board at a later date. Players should expect that the rules of play for internet gaming will be similar to the rules of play in the land based casinos.

Q: When would Internet Gaming be available?

The Gaming Control Board is in the first phases of a rollout of internet gaming and will update the response to this question at a later date.

Q: What is the minimum age to participate in Internet Gaming?

21, which mirrors the minimum age for gaming in a Pennsylvania casino.

Q: How will people under the age of 21 be kept from participating in Internet Gaming?

The account management system uses identity monitoring and confirmation software to assist in verifying the identity, age, address, and other information about players.

Q: Will problem gamblers be able to exclude themselves from Internet Gaming?

Yes. Law mandates that mechanisms be in place through internet gaming software to block access to any person who has placed themselves on the Gaming Control Board's Self-Exclusion List.

Q: Where does the tax revenue get distributed?

Law specifies distribution of gross revenue from internet gaming as follows:

14% on table games will go to the Pennsylvania General Fund.

52% on slot machine games distributed as follows:

- 34% to the Property Tax Relief Fund
- 13% to the Commonwealth Finance Agency (CFA) for grants to any county
- 5% to be distributed to counties which suffered a decrease in local share assessment funds from slots compared to FY2017-2018

Additionally, from all types of internet gaming, there is a local share tax:

- 1% to the license holder's host county (Philadelphia's host county share goes to the school district; Delaware County's host county share would go to a newly created authority)
- 1% to the CFA for grants to any county

Q: Will there be opportunities for vendors?

Yes, though at this juncture, we have yet to fully develop the regulations and the licensing process for internet gaming and invite you to check back on the Gaming Control Board website regularly after the first of the year for updates.

If your question was not answered, please e-mail us at

gamingexpansion@pa.gov.