

**Maryland General Assembly
Department of Legislative Services**

**Proposed Regulations
Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency
(DLS Control No. 16-120)**

Overview and Legal and Fiscal Impact

These proposed regulations (1) define “standard rules” and incorporate the term in the regulations when referring to the basic requirements that govern table games; (2) establish new sections governing the rotation and replacement of dice and the rotation of cards; (3) clarify that a facility conducting electronic wagering at a table game must do so in accordance with the standard rules for Poker; (4) establish new regulations governing various tables used for gaming; (5) specify the need for the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission’s approval for table game rules submissions and before a new table game or feature is used; (6) require that a facility operator make standard rules available to players; and (7) repeal and amend certain game-specific table game rule regulations.

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Regulations of COMAR Affected

Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency:

Table Games: General: COMAR 36.05.01.02
Table Game Equipment: COMAR 36.05.02.13, .16, .20, .22, and .23
Table Game Procedures: COMAR 36.05.03.19 - .22, and .26 - .31
Blackjack Rules: COMAR 36.05.04.01 - .14
Craps Rules: COMAR 36.05.05.01 - .12
Poker Rules: COMAR 36.05.06.01 - .21
Roulette Rules: COMAR 36.05.07.01 - .06
Big Six Wheel Rules: COMAR 36.05.08.01 - .03
Four Card Poker Rules: COMAR 36.05.09.01 - .13
Midi Baccarat Rules: COMAR 36.05.10.01 - .13
Mississippi Stud Rules: COMAR 36.05.11.01 - .13
Pai Gow Poker Rules: COMAR 36.05.12.01 - .14
Texas Hold 'Em Rules: COMAR 36.05.13.01 - .13
Three Card Poker Rules: COMAR 36.05.14.01 - .13
Pai Gow Tiles Rules: COMAR 36.05.15.01 - .10
Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em Rules: COMAR 36.05.16.01 - .13
Mini Baccarat Rules: COMAR 36.05.17.01 - .13
Let It Ride Poker Rules: COMAR 36.05.18.01 - .13
Double Draw Poker Game: COMAR 36.05.19.01 - .13

Legal Analysis

Background

Maryland casinos offer a variety of table games, with the operation of each game subject to regulation by the State Lottery and Gaming Control Commission.

Summary of Regulations

The regulations repeal in their entirety existing chapters of game-specific table game regulations while also amending certain regulations under other chapters to incorporate these changes. The table games that are impacted by these changes include Blackjack, Craps, Poker, Roulette, Big Six Wheel, Four Card Poker, Midi Baccarat, Mississippi Stud, Pai Gow Poker, Texas Hold 'Em, Three Card Poker, Pai Gow Tiles, Ultimate Texas Hold 'Em, Mini Baccarat, Let It Ride Poker, and Double Draw Poker (COMAR 36.05.04 – .19).

The regulations define “standard rules” as “the basic requirements that govern the play of a table game approved by the Commission” and incorporate this term throughout the regulations dealing with table games (COMAR 36.05.01B(21)).

The regulations provide rules for the rotation and replacement of dice (COMAR 36.05.02.13) and the rotation of cards (COMAR 36.05.02.16). The regulations clarify that a facility conducting electronic wagering at a table game must do so in accordance with the standard rules for Poker (COMAR 36.05.02.20).

New regulations govern the requirements for various tables used for gaming (COMAR 36.05.02.22). New regulations also govern ball, table, and wheel inspection for the game of Roulette, and specify security procedures for the table and equipment when not open for play (COMAR 36.05.02.23).

Submissions by facility operators of rules must be made in writing and may be implemented only after receipt of written notice of approval by the Commission (COMAR 36.05.03.19). Requests to offer a new table game or feature also must be pre-approved by the Commission (COMAR 36.05.03.20). The Commission must maintain a list of all table games approved by the Commission and the standard rules for each, as well as records of the approved rules (COMAR 36.05.03.21). Printed copies of the complete text of the standard rules shall be available to the public on request (COMAR 36.05.03.22).

New regulations govern the inspection of cards (COMAR 36.05.03.26); the shuffling and cutting of cards (COMAR 36.05.03.27); and the procedures for dealing cards from a manual dealing “shoe” (COMAR 36.05.03.28), from the hand (COMAR 36.05.03.29), and from an automated dealing shoe or shuffler (COMAR 36.05.03.30). Finally, the regulations provide the procedure for mixing tiles (COMAR 36.05.03.31).

Legal Issues

The regulations present no legal issues of concern.

Statutory Authority and Legislative Intent

The Maryland State Lottery and Gaming Control Agency cites §§ 9-1A-02(b) and 9-1A-04(d) of the State Government Article as statutory authority for the regulations. Section 9-1A-02(b) requires the agency to provide assistance to the Commission in the performance of the Commission's duties, and § 9-1A-04(d) requires the Commission to adopt regulations, including rules for table game operations.

This authority is correct and complete. The regulations comply with the legislative intent of the law.

Fiscal Analysis

There is no fiscal impact on State or local agencies.

Agency Estimate of Projected Fiscal Impact

The regulations establish "standard rules" procedures for table games, among other provisions relating to table games. The agency advises that the regulations have no impact on State or local governments. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

Impact on Budget

There is no impact on the State operating or capital budget.

Agency Estimate of Projected Small Business Impact

The agency advises that the regulations have minimal or no economic impact on small businesses in the State. The Department of Legislative Services concurs.

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