

Comments of the Independent Regulatory Review Commission



Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board Regulation #125-192 (IRRC #3114)

Heads-Up Hold 'Em and High Card Flush; Table Game Rules of Play

October 14, 2015

We submit for your consideration the following comments on the proposed rulemaking published in the August 15, 2015 *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. Our comments are based on criteria in Section 5.2 of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5b). Section 5.1(a) of the Regulatory Review Act (71 P.S. § 745.5a(a)) directs the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board (Board) to respond to all comments received from us or any other source.

Section 677a.1. Definitions. – Clarity.

This section defines terms for a new table game called Heads-Up Hold 'Em. We have two concerns. First, the term "fold" lacks clarity. It is defined as, "The withdrawal of a player from a round of play by not making a Raise Wager." It is our understanding that a player can only fold under the circumstance outlined in § 677a.11(f) of the rulemaking. Section 677a.11(f) pertains to the procedures for completion of each round of play after the Turn and River cards have been exposed by the dealer. When this late stage of the game occurs, a player that has not already placed a Raise Wager can either place that bet or fold. However, under §§ 677a.11(b) and (d), a player can either place a Raise Wager or check and remain in the game. We believe the definition of "fold" conflicts with Subsections (b) and (d) because these sections allow a player to not make a Raise Wager and remain in the game by checking. This could be clarified by amending the definition of "fold" to indicate that a "fold" can only occur after the Turn and River cards have been exposed.

Second, under the definition of "Bad Beat Bonus," the word "lists" should be changed to "loses."