

IT'S FUN TO PLAY

3:15
15:3

- Learn how the games work.
- Play for fun, not to make money.
- Have an idea of how long you want to play.
- View your gambling dollars as entertainment dollars.
- Having a gambling budget allows you to have fun now and still be able to do it again another day.
- Time flies when you're having fun. Taking breaks while you play is a great way to enjoy your time gambling.
- Accept your losses as the cost of entertainment.
- Balance gambling with other activities.

WANT
MORE INFO?

Visit a GameSense Info Centre
or gamesenseMB.ca
for more information.

The Problem Gambling Helpline is free,
confidential and available 24 hours a day,
7 days a week. 1-800-463-1554

HOW
GAMBLING
really works



Your GameSense guide
to gambling.

GameSense

MOST FORMS OF GAMBLING ARE BASED ON THREE CONCEPTS:

- **Randomness**
- **Independent Events**
- **House Advantage**

Randomness

All legalized gambling uses some way to generate random outcomes so the results are unpredictable and so you can't know what will happen next.

In slot machines or VLTs, random results are produced by a computer chip called a random number generator (RNG).

In other games it might be a spinning roulette wheel, the shuffling of a deck of cards or the roll of the dice that generates the randomness in a game.

Independent Events

In gambling, independence of events means that what happened before has no effect on what will happen next. Examples of this include:

- Every time a roulette wheel is spun, the result is totally independent of all previous spins, no matter what numbers or colours have come up previously.
- Every time the spin button is pushed on a slot machine or VLT, the result is totally independent of all previous pushes.
- **Exceptions** – There are some types of games where previous results can have some effect on what happens next. Blackjack is a good example: once a card has been dealt, it won't be back in play until all the cards are shuffled again. Previous hands can have some limited effect on current or future hands.

House Advantage

The house advantage (or house edge) ensures the gambling operator makes money over the long term.

While it's possible to win in the short-term, casino games and other forms of gambling are designed to keep more money than what they pay out in winnings over the long term.

This means there is a cost to gamble. You may win occasionally, but expect to spend money over time. The more you play, the more you pay.

IN MOST GAMES SKILL PLAYS NO ROLE

In most forms of gambling skill has no role in the outcome of events. When playing games such as the Lottery, Scratch Tickets, Slot Machines, VLTs, Roulette, Craps, Keno, Mini Baccarat and Raffles the player's skill level is irrelevant to the outcome of the game as the results of these games are produced purely by chance and randomness. The only control you have over these games is the amount you bet, the speed you play at and the length of time you play; so play these games for their entertainment value only.

GAMES THAT HAVE SOME SKILL ELEMENT

Most of the games where skill might play a minor role are card or sports-based games. In games such as these the player is required to make a decision of some sort during the course of play. Players who make educated decisions may win more often than players who make poor decisions.

Examples of these type of games may include:

- Blackjack
- Casino-based poker
- Pai Gow Poker
- Horse Racing
- Sports Pools
- Sports Select Games

In games such as these, even though the player can influence the outcome with some level of skill there is still a house advantage in play meaning that the gaming operator will always make money in the long term.

Remember, the items that you can control are your bet sizes, your speed of play and the length of time you play.

COST OF PLAY

Gambling can be a fun form of entertainment. Setting a time and money limit on your play can help ensure that it remains a fun activity for you. With other forms of entertainment you are likely to find out how much it will cost to enjoy that form of entertainment. You might want to know how much a ticket costs to attend an event, what the cover charge is to get into a venue or how much it costs to see a movie; gambling is no different.

Whether you are a long time player or a first time visitor to the casino Cost of Play Calculators can help you understand how much it costs to enjoy gambling as a form of entertainment.

At its most basic level your approximate cost per hour to enjoy most casino games can be calculated with the following formula:

$$\frac{\text{Bet Size} \times \text{Bets Per Hour} \times \text{House Advantage}}{100} = \text{Average Cost to Play Per Hour}$$



A complete list of the House Advantage associated with most casino games can be found at gamesenseMB.ca or at getgamblingfacts.ca.

Or you can check out our Cost of Play calculators. These can be found on the Digital Kiosks at our GameSense Info Centres or online at gamesenseMB.ca. These calculators are a quick and easy way for you to build your gambling entertainment budget.