



Play Smart

THE GO-TO SOURCE FOR FACTS, TOOLS AND ADVICE ABOUT GAMBLING FOR ALL LEVELS OF PLAYERS.



IT'S EASY TO KEEP GAMBLING FUN

WHEN YOU PLAY SMART

PLAYSMART GUIDE TO GAMBLING FUN

TIPS AND TOOLS TO KEEP YOUR PLAY SMART

To learn more about your favourite game, take a break from playing or get support should you need it, visit our on-site PlaySmart centres, PlaySmart.ca or call the Virtual PlaySmart Centre at 1-833-888-2306.

PlaySmart Centres are managed by the Responsible Gambling Council - an independent non-profit organization dedicated to problem gambling prevention.

Scan the QR code and browse the site to learn more about how gambling works and what keeps it fun.



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FUN-E4



GAMBLING 101

KNOW THE FUNDAMENTALS

Knowledge is key to playing smart and keeping gambling fun. Make sure you have a handle on these important gambling concepts before your next play session:

RANDOMNESS – GAMBLING IS UNPREDICTABLE

Randomness is built into every game and there are no guaranteed wins in gambling. For example:



Slot machines in Ontario contain a random number generator which generates thousands of number combinations per second – even when no one is playing. Each combo corresponds with either a win or a loss. The second you press the play button, one of those combos are chosen, and the result is displayed with all sorts of entertaining lights and sounds.



Table Games are randomized by the use of several combined decks of cards, all of which are shuffled in random order. You can't predict a win or loss because you don't know which card will be next.



Bingo games at Charitable Gaming Centres use a mechanical air blower machine to mix plastic balls which are removed one at a time and announced by a Caller. Each ball is equal in size and weight to ensure a random draw every time. Bingo games played on electronic devices may use a random electronic ball draw.

INDEPENDENCE OF EVENTS – GAMBLING IS IN THE MOMENT

This means that what happened in the past doesn't determine what will happen in the future. Winning or losing on your current round doesn't determine whether you will win or lose in the next.

HOUSE ADVANTAGE – GAMBLING IS A BUSINESS

The odds of you losing are always greater than you winning – that's house advantage and ultimately how gaming sites make money.

There's always a chance of winning and that's what makes gambling exciting! But the house always has the edge in the long run.

CHANCE VS. SKILL-BASED GAMES

Every game has an element of chance. The outcome of a slot spin, the numbers drawn for bingo and lotteries, or the cards dealt in table games are all unpredictable. Some games are based on chance while others can be impacted by player knowledge and skill.

So which games are which?

GAMES OF PURE CHANCE

Pure chance means you have no control over the outcome of a game because it's completely random. In these games, there's nothing you can do during the game to affect its results. The only thing you can control in these games is how much time and money you can afford to spend on them. Here are some games that are based on pure chance:



GAMES OF SKILL AND CHANCE

In some games it is possible to improve your odds of winning. Poker and Blackjack are perfect examples. If you're a knowledgeable and skilled player you can increase your odds ever so slightly during a game. But since you still can't predict the cards you'll be dealt, the game is ultimately still ruled by chance.

A PLAYER IS ONLY AS GOOD AS THEIR TOOLS

We've developed some great PlaySmart Tools and Resources to make understanding and playing games as simple as a roll of the dice:

PLAYSMART.CA

The PlaySmart website is home to videos, quizzes, and other resources that make it easy to understand games, concepts, and your style of play.

PLAYSMART CENTRES

The go-to place for facts, tools and advice about gambling. Located at every casino and Charitable Gaming Centre in Ontario.

Pick up one of the game guides available at the PlaySmart Centre to learn more about your favourite game!

PLAYSMART TIPS

Gambling can always be fun if you stick to some key PlaySmart tips – make these a habit for your play session!

- Set a money limit and stick to it (and don't bring your debit/credit card with you)
- Set time limits for yourself and take frequent breaks from play
- Only use spare cash – money that's borrowed or meant for necessities shouldn't be risked...ever
- Gamble occasionally – always mix it up with other entertainment options
- Play for entertainment – gambling odds aren't meant for making money or winning back losses (also known as "chasing")
- Keep your impulses in check by limiting alcohol consumption during play
- Gamble when it feels fun – avoid playing when you're worried, upset, stressed or depressed
- Learn about how games work and be realistic about your chances of winning
- Don't expect to win – but celebrate when you do!

