

Progressive Wager and Envy Bonus In Three Card Poker

Accounting And Internal Controls

Gaming Equipment

Rules Of The Game

Temporary Amendments: N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.20; 19:46-1.10A; and 19:47-20.1, 20.6, 20.10 and 20.11

Temporary New Rules: N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.13 and 20.14

Authority: N.J.S.A. 5:12-5, 69a, 69e, 70f, 99a and 100

The temporary rules follow:

Summary

The temporary new rules and amendments authorize casino licensees to offer a supplemental wager in the game of three card poker known as the “three card poker progressive wager.” The rules also permit an “envy bonus” payout, which shall be awarded to any player who places a losing progressive wager at a table where another player has a “qualifying hand” under the new rules.

A player makes a progressive wager by placing a gaming chip on a sensor or within the progressive wager acceptor device in front of his or her betting position at the beginning of a round of play. A winning progressive payout wager is determined by whether the player’s three card poker hand qualifies as a hand type listed for a progressive payout. Progressive wagers are made in either \$1.00 or \$5.00 fixed amounts, as elected by the casino licensee.

Progressive payout wagers are reconciled and settled at the same time as the player’s other three card poker wagers, one player at a time at the end of the round of play. If a player has a qualifying hand as set forth in the “envy bonus” pay tables, any other player at that table who has placed a losing progressive wager is awarded an envy bonus payout.

Several amendments have been made to the current rules governing the game of three card poker in order to allow for the new progressive wager and

envy bonus. N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.20, which addresses table inventories, is amended to include three card poker tables that use table inventory return devices to accept progressive wagers. The amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.10A requires that a separate area be provided at a three card poker table for each player to place a progressive wager as well as requiring signage notifying all players of the payout odds and amounts for the progressive wager and envy bonus. The amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.1 defines the terms “envy bonus,” “envy bonus qualifying hand” and “progressive payout hand.” N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.6 is amended to authorize the placement of a progressive payout wager in the game of three card poker. N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.10 is amended to read that if a player places an ante and progressive wager but chooses not to make a play wager, the player shall forfeit the ante and progressive wagers but shall still be eligible for an envy bonus, which would be payable at the completion of the round of play. An amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11 includes the pay tables that are applicable for the new progressive wager.

In addition to the above temporary amendments, new rule N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.13 has been temporarily adopted. This new rule sets forth the requirements for offering the progressive payout wager and the procedures that must be followed by a casino licensee if it is offered. The new rule provides that, if a three card poker table includes the equipment required in N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.10A and, by incorporation, N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.39B, a casino licensee may allow for the placement of a progressive payout wager in the game of three card poker. Prior to the first card being dealt in each round of play, a player may place a progressive payout wager by placing a gaming chip in the designated chip acceptor device or by redeeming a progressive payout wager coupon in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.18.

Once such a wager has been placed, a light shall illuminate at each betting position where a progressive wager has been placed. After the dealer verifies that the number of progressive wagers placed matches the number of lights illuminated, and each player verifies that the acceptor light at his or her betting position has been properly illuminated if they placed a progressive wager, the dealer shall announce "No more bets" and the hand shall be dealt in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.7, 20.8 or 20.9. Any player who has placed a progressive payout wager shall win the amount specified in the progressive payout table if he or she has the corresponding matching hand. Furthermore, the progressive wager and/or payout shall not impact any other wager made by a player.

A player shall only receive a payout on a progressive payout wager for the highest possible progressive payout hand. Such a payout shall be made only after it has been verified by the dealer at the conclusion of the round of play, and after the player's regular three card poker wagers are settled pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-1.10. Lastly, the rate of progression for the progressive meter or, if applicable, the reset meter and progressive meter combined, shall be no less than 14% for pay table A in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11 and no less than 20% for pay table B in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11 and in no instance shall the progressive meter or reset meter amount be less than \$1,000.

Additionally, new rule N.J.A.C.19:47-20.14, which authorizes the offering of an envy bonus in the game of three card poker, has been temporarily adopted. Under the new rule, if a player places a losing progressive wager at a table at which another player has a envy bonus qualifying hand, the losing player is entitled to an envy bonus payout. The amount of the envy bonus is determined by the amount of the progressive payout wager placed by the player

receiving the envy bonus according to the pay table set forth at N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.14.

Full text of the temporary adoption follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

19:45-1.20 Table inventories

(a) Whenever a gaming table in a casino or casino simulcasting facility is opened for gaming, operations shall commence with an amount of gaming chips, coins and plaques to be known as the "table inventory" and no casino licensee shall cause or permit gaming chips, coins or plaques to be added to, or removed from, such table inventory during the gaming day except:

1. - 6. (No change.)

7. In conformity with a table inventory return device utilized in the game of **three card poker pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.10A**, pai gow poker pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13B or caribbean stud poker pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.13G, the gaming chips wagered on the progressive payout shall always be placed in the table inventory container; and

8. (No change.)

(b) – (c) (No change.)

19:46-1.10A Three card poker table; physical characteristics

(a) (No change.)

(b) The layout for a three card poker table shall be approved by the Commission and shall contain, at a minimum:

1. - 3. (No change.)

4. A separate designated betting area located immediately behind each ante wager betting area for the placement of "pair plus" wagers; [and]

5. If the casino licensee offers the progressive wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.13:

i. A separate area for each player, located immediately behind the pair plus wager betting area, designated for the placement of the progressive wager for each player;

ii. Notice of signage or a table inscription, as approved by the Commission, for payout odds for the progressive wager and payout amounts for the envy bonus as defined in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.1; and

[5.] **6.** (No change in existing text.)

(c) (No change.)

(d) If a casino licensee offers a progressive payout wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.13, the three card poker table shall include a progressive payout wager system which shall include, without limitation:

1. A wagering device at each betting position that acknowledges or accepts the placement of the progressive wager;

2. A control device that controls or monitors the placement of progressive wagers at the gaming table, including a mechanism, such as a “lock-out” button, that prevents the recognition of any progressive wager that a player attempts to place after the dealer has announced “No more bets;”

3. One or more devices that meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.39B for progressive wagers and payouts at table games;

4. Any other equipment or device that contributes to the efficient operation or integrity of the game; and

5. Written procedures for the operation and use of the system and its components.

19:47-20.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

...

“Envy bonus” means an additional fixed sum payout made to a player who placed a progressive payout wager when another player at the

three card poker table is the holder of a envy bonus qualifying hand. A player is entitled to multiple envy bonuses if more than one other player is the holder of a envy bonus qualifying hand; provided, however, that a player is not entitled to an envy bonus for his or her own hand or the hand of the dealer.

“Envy bonus qualifying hand” means a three-card poker hand with a rank of ace, king, and queen of the same suit.

...

“Progressive payout hand” means a three-card poker hand of either an ace, king and queen of the same suit, a straight flush, three-of-a-kind or, if included in the paytable elected by the casino licensee under 19:47-20.11(a)(4), a straight, as defined in 19:47-20.3 and 20.11.

...

19:47-20.6 Wagers

(a) The following wagers may be placed in the game of three card poker:

1. - 2. (No change.)
3. A player may compete against both the dealer and the posted payout ledger by placing wagers in accordance with the requirements of (a)1 and 2 above[.]; **or**

4. Upon placing an ante wager or pair plus wager, a player may also compete against a progressive payout ledger by placing a progressive payout wager if such wager is offered by the casino licensee pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.13.

(b) – (c) (No change.)

(d) All ante wagers [and], pair plus wagers **and progressive payout wagers** shall be placed prior to the dealer announcing "No more bets" in accordance with the dealing procedures in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.7, 20.8 or 20.9. No wager shall be made, increased, or withdrawn after the dealer has

announced "No more bets." All play wagers shall be placed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.10(b).

(e) – (f) (No change.)

19:47-20.10 Procedures for completion of each round of play

(a) (No change.)

(b) After examination of his or her cards, each player who has placed an ante wager shall have the option to either make a play wager in an amount equal to the player's ante wager or forfeit the ante wager and end his or her participation in the round of play. The dealer shall offer this option to each player, starting with the player farthest to the left of the dealer and moving clockwise around the table in order. If a player has placed an ante wager and a pair plus wager but does not make a play wager, the player shall forfeit both the ante wager and the pair plus wager. **If a player has placed an ante wager and a progressive payout wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.13 but does not make a play wager, the player shall forfeit both the ante wager and the progressive payout wager, but shall not forfeit his or her eligibility to receive an envy bonus pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.14.** After each player has either placed a wager on the table in the play wager area or forfeited his or her wager and hand, the dealer shall collect all forfeited wagers and associated cards, placing them in the discard rack. The dealer shall then reveal the dealer's cards and place the cards so as to form the highest possible ranking hand. If an automated dealing shoe is used to deal the cards pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.9 and a cover card is used on top of the dealer's stack removed from the shoe, the cover card shall be removed from the stack and placed on the table layout immediately next to the automated dealing shoe.

(c) The dealer shall then settle the wagers remaining on the table by complying with either (c)1 or 2 below. A casino licensee shall identify in its approved gaming submission which alternative the dealer shall use. The dealer's cards shall be placed in the discard rack after all players' cards have been collected.

1. The dealer shall, for each of the following procedures, start with the player farthest to the dealer's right and continue counterclockwise around the table until the procedure has been completed as to all players:

i. - ii. (No change.)

iii. Pay each winning wager in accordance with the payout odds listed in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11; [and]

iv. Pay any envy bonus won in accordance with the payout amount listed in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.14; and

[iv.] v. (No change in existing text.)

2. The dealer shall, starting with the player farthest to the dealer's right and continuing counterclockwise around the table, complete all of the following procedures as to each remaining player in succession:

i. (No change.)

ii. Collect losing wagers or pay winning wagers in accordance with the payout odds listed in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11; [and]

iii. Pay any envy bonus won in accordance with the payout amount listed in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.14 and

[iii.] iv. (No change in existing text.)

(d) (No change.)

19:47-20.11 Payout odds

(a) There are [three] **four** payout types as follows:

1. - 3. (No change.)

4. In the event that a casino licensee offers optional progressive payout wagers pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.13, a player placing a progressive payout wager shall be paid a progressive payout in accordance with one of the following pay tables pre-selected by the casino licensee:

\$1.00 PROGRESSIVE WAGER

<u>Hand Type</u>	<u>Payout Option A</u>	<u>Payout Option B</u>
Ace, King & Queen of Spades	100 % of meter	100 % of meter
Ace, King & Queen of Hearts, Diamonds or Clubs	\$500.00	\$500.00
Straight Flush	\$70.00	\$100.00
Three-of-a-Kind	\$60.00	\$90.00
Straight	\$6.00	n/a

\$5.00 PROGRESSIVE WAGER

<u>Hand Type</u>	<u>Payout Option A</u>	<u>Payout Option B</u>
Ace, King & Queen of Spades	100 % of meter	100 % of meter
Ace, King & Queen of Hearts, Diamonds or Clubs	\$2,500	\$2,500
Straight Flush	\$350.00	\$500.00
Three-of-a-Kind	\$300.00	\$450.00
Straight	\$30.00	n/a

19:47-20.13 Progressive payout wager

(a) If a three card poker table is properly equipped to offer an optional progressive payout wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.10A, a casino licensee may give each player at that three card poker table the option to make an additional wager on whether the player will be dealt a hand type as set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11(a)4. The progressive payout wager shall, in the discretion of the casino licensee, be either a \$1.00 or \$5.00 wager.

(b) Prior to the first card being dealt, each player may make a progressive payout wager by placing a gaming chip into the appropriate progressive wager acceptor device at his or her betting position or by redeeming a progressive payout wager coupon in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.18, provided that the player has also placed an ante wager or pair plus wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.6. Once the progressive payout wager has been placed, a light shall illuminate at

each betting position at which a progressive payout wager has been made. The dealer shall ensure that only one progressive wager has been made for each light that is illuminated and shall verify that the number of gaming chips wagered for the progressive payout wager equals the number of lights illuminated. Each player shall be responsible for verifying that the acceptor light for his or her betting position has been properly illuminated upon placement of the progressive payout wager. The dealer shall then announce "No more bets" and register the progressive payout wagers on the progressive meter and reset meter, if applicable. The dealer shall then deal to all players in accordance with either N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.7, 20.8 or 20.9.

(c) A winning progressive payout wager shall be paid in accordance with the payout table in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11 and the procedures approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.52. A winning player shall receive the payout for only the highest ranking hand formed from his or her three card poker hand. A winning progressive payout wager shall be paid irrespective of the outcome of the player's ante wager or pair plus wager and shall have no bearing on any other wagers made by the player.

(d) Prior to making a payout for a progressive payout wager, the dealer shall:

1. Verify that the player has received a winning hand;
2. Verify that the light on the correct acceptor device has been illuminated; and
3. Have a casino supervisor validate any payouts to be deducted from the progressive meter pursuant to (f) below and the casino licensee's approved internal controls.

(e) All winning progressing payout wagers shall be paid after the player's other three card poker wagers are settled pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.10. If a player has won a progressive payout that is a percentage of the jackpot amount on the progressive meter under N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11(a)4, such progressive payout shall not be paid from the table

inventory container and the cards of that player shall not be collected until the necessary documentation has been completed pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.52. All other winning progressive payout wagers shall be paid from the table inventory container.

(f) The rate of progression for the progressive meter or, if applicable, the reset meter and progressive meter combined, shall be no less than 14 percent for pay table A and 20 percent for pay table B in N.J.A.C. 19:47-20.11(a)4. The initial and reset amounts for the progressive meter shall be established by each casino licensee and approved pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.39B. In no instance shall the initial amount on the progressive meter or the reset meter that is funded by the casino licensee be less than \$1,000.

(g) Any payout determined by the amount on the progressive meter shall be based upon the amount that is on the meter at the time the player's progressive payout wager is paid, irrespective of the amount on the meter when the player placed the wager or when the dealer dealt the player's cards.

19:47-20.14 Envy Bonus

(a) Players making a progressive payout wager in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:47-20.6(a)4 and 20.13 shall receive an envy bonus when another player at the same three card poker table is the holder of an envy bonus qualifying hand.

(b) Envy bonus payments shall be made according to the following schedules for envy bonus qualifying hands based upon the amount of the progressive wager placed by the player receiving the envy bonus:

\$1.00 PROGRESSIVE WAGER

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Envy Bonus</u>
Ace, King and Queen of Spades	\$100
Ace, King and Queen of Hearts, Diamonds or Clubs	\$25

\$5.00 PROGRESSIVE WAGER

<u>Hand</u>	<u>Envy Bonus</u>
Ace, King and Queen of Spades	\$500
Ace, King and Queen of Hearts, Diamonds or Clubs	\$125