

Independent Events

To understand gambling it's important to understand the concept of independent events. Each spin of the wheel or roll of the dice is an independent event; that is, the chances of a specific outcome remain the same and are not influenced by previous events.

For example:

- If you rolled snake eyes, you are no more or less likely on the next roll to get snake eyes again.
- You are no more or less likely to hit a jackpot at a slot machine that hasn't awarded a jackpot for a while.
- There is no such thing, as hot streaks! They are merely random sequences of events perceived by players to be favourable.

The overall outcome of all casino games will favour the casino: that's the **house advantage**.

More information about casino games and the house advantage is available through your casino host or the GameSense Info Centres, located on the gaming floors of most Alberta casinos.

Finding help?

Are you concerned that you or someone you know may have a gambling problem? Visit an AGLC GameSense Info Centre located on the gaming floor of all Alberta casinos. The GameSense Advisors are knowledgeable about responsible gambling and can provide information on problem gambling treatment resources.

Or call the 24-hour, toll-free Alberta Health Services *Addiction Helpline* at 1-866-332-2322.

The House Advantage



Do you have a general question about gambling?
Visit the GameSense Info Centre at this location
or GameSenseAB.ca.

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The odds favour the house

The House Advantage

Because the odds always favour the house, the more you play a casino game or a slot machine, the more you can expect to lose. The same applies to amounts wagered: **the more money you wager, the more money you will lose.**

Casino table games and slot machines are designed with a *house advantage*. House advantage is calculated according to the game that is being played and as a percentage of the player's wager. For example, with a house advantage of 5 per cent, a player will lose, on average, \$5 for every \$100 wagered.

Following are typical house advantages in popular games in Alberta casinos:

Game	Casino Advantage
Baccarat	1.1% (player/banker bets) to 14.4% (tie bets)
Blackjack	0.5% to 1.4%
Craps	1.4% to 16.7%
Roulette	2.7% to 5.3% (single) 5.3% to 7.3% (double)
Slot Machine	4% to 12%
Video Lottery Terminal (VLT)	8%

Skill and House Advantage

In table games the house advantage can be somewhat affected by player skill in either playing or betting decisions. **However, it's important to remember that even if you're a skilled table game player, the house has a statistical advantage in every play of every game.**

GameSense vs. NonSense

There are lots of myths and misconceptions when it comes to gambling. With a little GameSense, you can separate fact from fiction.

Nonsense: *"If I play long enough at one game I'll win big."*

GameSense: Persistence doesn't pay off with gambling. Each play you make is an independent event with the same odds of winning or losing as every other play on that game. So it's impossible to predict a win. Slots are never 'due for a win' – and they don't 'go cold' after a win.

Nonsense: *"I just left a machine that paid out a jackpot. If I'd stayed that would have been me."*

GameSense: A slot machine's Random Number Generator (RNG) is continuously cycling through numbers used to generate a play's result even when the machine isn't being played. The RNG produces approximately 1,000 different results every second. So even if you had continued to play the machine, it's highly unlikely you would have had the same result as the player who followed you.

Nonsense: *"I feel lucky. I'm going to hit the casino and make some money."*

GameSense: While you hope to win, don't expect to get your money back. Expect that **you pay to play**: the odds are always in the house's favour. That's the house advantage.

Nonsense: *"The slots farthest away from the aisle pay out more because they're played less often."*

GameSense: Nothing about where the machine is located, or the way you play, affects the outcome of a game. Slot machine wins and losses are *always* random.

