



Minimum Requirements for (1) Expanding Blackjack-Style Tables to Include a 4th Player Position and (2) the Reintroduction of Craps at the Category 1 Gaming Establishments

Background:

On June 23, 2020, the Commission approved the “Minimum Requirements for the Initial Phase 3 Opening of Gaming Establishments” in the Commonwealth. Item 10.b of those Minimum Requirements provides that no more than 3 player positions at each blackjack-style table are allowed, with chairs for unavailable positions to be removed. Item 10.c. of those Minimum Requirements provides that no craps or roulette are to be allowed “until further notice.”¹ Now, the two Category 1 Gaming Licensees, Encore Boston Harbor and MGM Springfield, have requested to reintroduce a 4th player position at blackjack-style tables, and to reintroduce the game of craps at their respective gaming establishments. If approved by the Commission, the addition of the 4th player position at blackjack-style tables and the reintroduction of craps shall be accompanied by the health and safety measures set forth below.

1. Minimum Requirements for Expanding Blackjack-Style Tables to Include a 4th Player Position:

- a. Player positions would continue to be separated by plexiglass dividers not less than 5’10” tall separating the dealer from players and between player positions.
- b. There shall be a minimum of approximately 3 feet between player positions, measured from center to center of seats, with chairs for unavailable positions removed.
- c. Overall capacity limits shall continue to be capped at approximately 40%, despite the increase in player positions.

2. Minimum Requirements for Craps:

- a. There shall be a maximum of 6 players per craps table, 3 players maximum on each side of the table.
- b. Players are required to remain seated while gambling.
- c. No patrons are permitted to stand or congregate around craps tables.
- d. Players shall be separated from one another and from the table itself by plexiglass barriers not less than 6 feet high, with a distance of approximately 4 feet separating seats, measured from the center of each chair.

¹ At its public meeting on October 8, 2020, the Commission determined to allow the re-opening of roulette, subject to certain Minimum Requirements.

- e. The 3 dealers at each craps table shall be separated from the players by a plexiglass barrier not less than 6 feet high.
- f. Dice shall be sanitized each between shooters.
- g. Compliance with layout requirements shall be approved by the IEB before becoming operational.
- h. Overall capacity limits shall continue to be capped at approximately 40%, despite the increase in player positions.
- i. The reintroduction of craps shall be accompanied by the following temporary change to the licensee internal controls to be applicable in conjunction with Covid-19-related health and safety measures: *All bets must be placed before the dice are sent out. Signage to the same effect is required on each craps table.*