



WSOP ANNOUNCES 2018-2019 WSOP U.S. CIRCUIT SCHEDULE

More Starting Chips, New Price Points & Big Blind Ante Coming

Fifteenth Season of U.S. Circuit Features Record 28 Stops

LAS VEGAS – May 24, 2018 – Coming off a record 133,892 entries awarding a record \$66,585,658 in prize money this past season, the 2018-19 season will see more benefits for players, including more starting chips and new price points for the refreshed [WSOP U.S. Circuit's](#) fifteenth season.

While the venues may be familiar, the WSOP is expected to offer a record 28 stops during the 2018-19 WSOP U.S. Circuit tour, all linked by a points system tied to the WSOP gold-bracelet awarding, \$1,000,000+ prize pool, season-culminating [Global Casino Championship](#).

The 2018-19 WSOP Circuit officially gets underway **August 2** at *Harrab's Cherokee* in western North Carolina, and continues virtually non-stop until the season-culminating stop at *Harrab's New Orleans* that begins **May 9, 2019**.

Bally's Las Vegas returns as a stop in late March, 2019 and Horseshoe Hammond and Horseshoe Tunica have both added a second stop on the schedule. Horseshoe Baltimore is off this year's schedule, while Seminole Coconut Creek will be the home to both Florida stops this season.

Instead of running with the status quo after a record-setting year, the WSOP has introduced several new updates and offerings to the Circuit. They include:

- **More Starting Chips** – Each official WSOP Circuit ring event now gives players many more starting chips than previously. The most popular price points, the \$365 (now \$400) and the Main Event (now \$1,700) will increase starting stacks 50% each. So the \$400 buy-in will start with 15,000 chips and the Main Event begins with a 30,000 starting stack.
- **Price Point Polishing** – Both to ease customer and cashier process time and to help beef up the prize pools, the WSOP Circuit will introduce some new price points in 2018-19. Buy-ins will now feature \$250, \$400, \$600, \$1,125, \$1,700, \$2,200, \$3,250 and \$5,300 ranges. The new primary price points will be \$250, \$400 & \$600, while higher buy-ins remaining the same at \$1,125, \$2,200, \$3,250 and \$5,300.
- **Introduction of Big Blind Ante** – Some ring events offered in 2018-19 will feature the Big Blind Ante format. The popular new innovation that replaces players anteing every hand, to anteing once an orbit when in the Big Blind, was tested at points during the last circuit season and has been introduced in some play at the 2018 WSOP. Gaining widespread approval and adoption, Big Blind Ante takes away the frustrations faced when players are slow or forget to ante, as well as eases dealer chip collection, thus making for a more fun and positive experience.

“For our fifteenth season, the time was right to take a hard look at our offering and refreshing it to give players a better experience all around,” said WSOP Tournament Director Jack Effel. “Everyone loves more starting chips, and we think things like the Big Blind Ante and larger prize pools will be big hits for all players.”

In addition to the WSOP U.S. Circuit tour, the International WSOP Circuit will return, with a future announcement planned to detail the stops planned during the 2018-19 season. Confirmed already, is a new International stop in Montreal, Canada at Playground Poker from August 23 to September 4, 2018.

All stops will release their series' event schedules as they get closer and they have been approved by their local regulatory body. Two things are known for sure about every stop. First, every stop will offer at least a dozen official gold ring events starting at the \$250 buy-in level and second, every stop will include a \$1,700 Main Event.

Most stops begin on a Thursday, and the four-day Main Event starts on the second Friday, thereby encompassing a 12 day timeframe including two weekends and offering players non-stop poker action at the regional level. Each stop is encouraged to add Seniors and Ladies events, which will also award a ring but will not count in the *Global Casino Championship* standings.

As has become tradition, the Circuit season will culminate with the Global Casino Championship, a special invitation-only event which has a minimum prizepool of \$1,000,000. Players can qualify for the 2018-19 *Global Casino Championship* several ways (a.) win a Circuit Main Event at any U.S. or international stop (b.) win a "Casino Championship," which is defined as the player at each stop who accumulates the most points throughout the open event gold ring schedule at any U.S. or international stop (c.) be one of the top 50 cumulative point earners over the entire season who hasn't otherwise qualified (U.S. tour only).

Each of these projected players will receive a "free roll" seat. Another way to enter the 2018-19 *Global Casino Championship* during the Circuit Season is to win any official "ring event". Any ring winner who doesn't otherwise qualify for entry due to an automatic invite or cumulative standings will be eligible to buy-in to the *WSOP Global Casino Championship* for \$10,000. Likewise, the top 100 ranked players from the previous year's *WSOP Player of the Year*, may also buy in for \$10,000 (thus the 2018 WSOP POY Standings in this case). These buy-ins are rake-free, and every penny of all additional \$10,000 buy-ins will be added to the \$1 million the WSOP is putting into the prize pool.

WSOP U.S. Circuit Event stops feature standardized tournament structures and payouts, so players going from stop to stop will be treated in a consistent manner at each of the stops – (barring any regulatory or local law differences).

Below is the current version of the U.S. circuit schedule as confirmed as of the date of this announcement. Stops may be added, subtracted or adjusted, both in time and duration. Please review WSOP.com/2018/circuit for the latest news and information related to these events. Until actual event-by-event schedules are posted on the WSOP website, these events are not official. Each stop requires its own regulatory approval in its own jurisdiction, and the timing of all approvals is uncertain. The WSOP reserves the right at any time to make changes to any and all events related to the WSOP Circuit.

Circuit schedules are subject to change. For more information on individual circuit events, including event schedules and structure sheets, can be found at each property website or by visiting www.WSOP.com

*The WSOP Circuit Events and culminating championship are subject to tournament rules and restrictions to be released at a later date. The timing, number and location of events are subject to change and all applicable gaming regulations.

The 2018-19 WSOP Circuit U.S. schedule follows on the next page:

WORLD SERIES OF POKER 2018-2019 U.S. CIRCUIT TOUR SCHEDULE

	TOURNAMENT DATES	TOURNAMENT LOCATION
1.	August 2-13, 2018	Harrah's Cherokee (<i>North Carolina</i>)
2.	August 16-27, 2018	Foxwoods Resort Casino (<i>Connecticut</i>)
3.	September 6-17, 2018	Thunder Valley Casino (<i>Sacramento area, California</i>)
4.	September 13-24, 2018	Seminole Casino Coconut Creek (<i>Coconut Creek, Florida</i>)
5.	September 27 – October 8, 2018	Horseshoe Southern Indiana (<i>Louisville</i>)
6.	October 11-22, 2018	Horseshoe Hammond (<i>Chicago</i>)
7.	October 25 – November 5, 2018	Harveys Lake Tahoe (<i>Reno/Tahoe Nevada</i>)
8.	October 31 - November 12, 2018	Choctaw Durant (<i>Dallas/Oklahoma</i>)
9.	November 16–27, 2018	Planet Hollywood (<i>Las Vegas Strip</i>)
10.	November 22 - December 3, 2018	Harrah's Cherokee (<i>North Carolina</i>)
11.	December 1-12, 2018	The Bicycle Casino (<i>Los Angeles</i>)
12.	December 6-17, 2018	IP Casino Resort Spa (<i>Biloxi, Mississippi</i>)
13.	January 2-14, 2019	Choctaw Durant (<i>Dallas/Oklahoma</i>)
14.	January 10-21, 2019	Thunder Valley Casino (<i>Sacramento area, California</i>)
15.	January 17-28, 2019	Horseshoe Tunica (<i>Mississippi</i>)
16.	January 31 - February 11, 2019	Potawatomi (<i>Milwaukee, Wisconsin</i>)
17.	February 7–18, 2019	Seminole Casino Coconut Creek (<i>Coconut Creek, Florida</i>)
18.	February 15-26, 2019	Rio All-Suite Hotel & Casino (<i>Las Vegas</i>)
19.	February 21 – March 4, 2019	Horseshoe Hammond (<i>Chicago</i>)
20.	February 28 – March 11, 2019	TBA
21.	March 3-14, 2019	The Bicycle Casino (<i>Los Angeles</i>)
22.	March 7 – 18, 2019	Harrah's Atlantic City (<i>New Jersey</i>)
23.	March 14-25, 2019	Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Tulsa (<i>Oklahoma</i>)
24.	March 21 – April 1, 2019	Bally's (<i>Las Vegas Strip</i>)
25.	March 28 - April 8, 2019	Horseshoe Council Bluffs (<i>Omaha/Iowa</i>)
26.	April 10-22, 2019	Harrah's Cherokee (<i>North Carolina</i>)
27.	April 25 – May 5, 2019	Horseshoe Tunica (<i>Mississippi</i>)
28.	May 9-20, 2019	Harrah's New Orleans (<i>Louisiana</i>)
	TBD	\$1 million+ Global Casino Championship

ABOUT THE WSOP CIRCUIT

The World Series of Poker (WSOP) Circuit Events are a series of poker tournaments hosted throughout the United States and throughout the world beginning in early August each year, and culminating the following summer with a \$1,000,000 Global Casino Championship where the victor earns a WSOP gold bracelet as well. WSOP U.S. Circuit Events are designed to give the recreational and amateur player an opportunity to participate in the WSOP experience at a more affordable price point and with less of a time commitment than the traditional WSOP in Las Vegas. Each stop typically features 12 official events in 12 days, including a \$1,700 buy-in [No-Limit Hold'em](#) Main Event. Official WSOP Circuit events range in buy-in from \$250-\$5,300 and award a prestigious WSOP gold ring to each victor. These poker tournaments are designed to reach a winner within two playing days, with some events even structured to complete in one day. In 2018-19, the WSOP Circuit domestic season consists of 28 stops all tied together by a cumulative points system that awards points based on finish in individual events. A season-ending *WSOP Global Casino Championship* is held each summer. The winner of each stop's Main Event (the only four-day structured event) gains automatic entry into the season-ending WSOP Global Casino Championship, as does each stop's Casino Champion – the person who accumulates the most points throughout the official ring events at a stop. Two

players at each stop earn automatic entries into the season-ending championship, with the remaining players being made up of at large qualifiers whom have accumulated the most points throughout the Circuit season. Players who finish within the top ten percent of the field are typically awarded prize money on an escalating scale until there is one player who has captured all the chips. That victor wins the largest share of the prize pool, a WSOP Circuit gold ring and points toward the Global Casino Championship qualification. The WSOP Circuit Events are a regional and international offshoot of the longest-running, largest, richest and most prestigious gaming event in the world, dating back 48 years to 1970 – the famous World Series of Poker. This marks the fifteenth year the WSOP Circuit Events have been held. They were initially established by Caesars Entertainment (then Harrah’s Entertainment) after its purchase of the WSOP brand in 2004 as a way to bring the WSOP experience to Caesars-owned properties throughout the U.S. In the inaugural season (2004-05), the WSOP Circuit featured five stops – Atlantic City, Lake Tahoe, Las Vegas, San Diego and New Orleans. Now, with 28 stops domestically, the WSOP Circuit visits 13 U.S. states and cumulatively features more entrants than the Las Vegas version of the WSOP. Caesars Interactive Entertainment, Inc., (CIE) owns the WSOP and the WSOP Circuit Events. Visit us at <http://www.wsop.com/2018/Circuit/> or www.twitter.com/wsop

This release includes “forward-looking statements” intended to qualify for the safe harbor from liability established by the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. You can identify these statements by the fact that they do not relate strictly to historical or current facts. These statements contain words such as “may,” “will,” “project,” “might,” “expect,” “believe,” “anticipate,” “intend,” “could,” “would,” “estimate,” “continue” or “pursue,” or the negative or other variations thereof or comparable terminology. In particular, they include statements relating to, among other things, future actions, strategies, future performance, and the outcomes of contingencies of Caesars Entertainment and the WSOP Circuit Events. These forward-looking statements are based on current expectations and projections about future events.

Investors are cautioned that forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future events or results and involve risks and uncertainties that cannot be predicted or quantified and, consequently, the actual events described herein may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements. Such risks and uncertainties include, but are not limited to, the following factors:

- our ability to secure all of the locations of the WSOP Circuit Events and the time and place of such events;
- rules and regulations of the gaming and other regulatory agencies that govern the WSOP Circuit Events; and
- our ability to secure a party to produce and televise the WSOP Circuit Events, and or the Global Casino Championship.

Any forward-looking statements are made pursuant to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 and, as such, speak only as of the date made. Caesars disclaims any obligation to update the forward-looking statements. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date stated, or if no date is stated, as of the date of this press release.

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