

# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – ESPN/WSOP MAIN EVENT COVERAGE**

## **Quick Facts**

- ◆ ESPN is greatly expanding its video coverage of the 2011 World Series of Poker
- ◆ In addition to the 32 hours of edited coverage on ESPN (Tuesday nights from July 26 through November 8<sup>th</sup>), ESPN now plans some (semi)-live coverage of the WSOP Main Event as well as an expansion of their streaming video plans on ESPN3
- ◆ The 2011 WSOP will receive the broadest and best coverage any poker tournament has ever seen.
- ◆ The ESPN family of networks has planned a total of 158 hours of coverage.
- ◆ The planned “live” coverage (30-minute delay) is as follows:

ESPN2 air times are slated as follows: (32 hours)

- ◆ **Thursday, July 14: 3.5 hours: 8:00 -11:30 pm PT**
  - (Footage gathered from 7:30-11:00 pm PT)
- ◆ **Friday, July 15: 3.5 hours: 8:00 - 11:30 pm PT**
  - (Footage gathered from 7:30-11:00 pm PT)
- ◆ **Saturday, July 16: 9 hours: 12:30 - 7:00 pm PT; 9:00-11:30 pm PT**
  - (Footage gathered from 12 - 6:30; 8:30 -11 pm PT)
- ◆ **Sunday, July 17: 4.5 hours: 7:00 -11:30 pm PT**
  - (Footage gathered from 6:30 - 11:00 pm PT)
- ◆ **Monday, July 18: 5.5 hours: 4:00 – 7:00 pm PT; 9:00 – 11:30 pm PT**
  - (Footage gathered from 3:30 - 6:30 pm PT; 8:30 – 11:00 pm PT)
- ◆ **Tuesday, July 19: 6 hours: 9:00 pm PT to conclusion [3:00 am PT max]**
  - (Footage gathered from 8:30 pm until reaching November Nine)

ESPN air times are slated as follows: (2 hours)

- ◆ **Tuesday, July 19: 2 hours: 5:00 – 7:00 pm PT**
  - (Footage gathered from 4:30 – 6:30 pm PT)

## **Is it true that coverage from ESPN will be live?**

Anything that ESPN/ESPN2 airs on TV in July will be shown on a 30-minute delay *with* hole cards. Anything that ESPN3 streams will be shown on a five-minute delay *without* hole cards.

## **But I heard ESPN is planning to show hole cards, isn't that true?**

Only in very limited instances. First, they are only showing hole cards on two “TV” tables. All other tables will be unaffected. Second, no hole cards will be shown pre-flop at all. Third, once the hand has reached the flop, only players left in the hand have the chance of their hole cards being shown to the TV audience. Lastly, all of this is on a 30-minute delay, meaning no cards are exposed -- ever -- during a hand in play and *never* are hole cards exposed at the physical table unless willingly done so by the players themselves.

## **Is there concern that this could be advantageous to some players?**

We carefully weighed this decision with both our Players Advisory Council and with the Nevada Gaming Control Board to ensure this won't have an affect on the integrity of the competition. Everyone involved has been satisfied that the plans in place will not materially advantage nor disadvantage any player.

## **How are players chosen to sit at one of these “TV” tables?**

The ESPN production team will be following storylines that they believe will be beneficial for a broad television audience to be made aware of and will then request of the tournament staff to have a certain player(s) appear at one of the two “TV” tables. However, the tournament staff ultimately determines if and when to make a table switch. And, no individual players can be moved to a TV table. The entire table will be moved as a whole. Example: You are seated at table Blue 322. If the “TV” table requests a player from Blue 322 Seat 4, they will have to take the *entire* table seated at Blue 322.

**What if I don’t want to appear on TV?**

You should not enter the WSOP Main Event. Any player registering to play in the WSOP Main Event is required to accept the television production element and cooperate with tournament staff, officials and television production.

**Okay, what if I agree to go to the TV table but don’t want to wear a microphone or show my hole cards?**

Again, players may not impede the television production. They must cooperate fully, including wearing a microphone if asked and showing their hole cards to the peeker cameras. Failure to cooperate can result in forfeiture from the tournament.

**Is everyone playing in the Main Event having their hole cards exposed?**

Absolutely not. This is simply limited to two of the tables and only players in the hand after the flop will have their hole cards shown – on a 30-minute delay.

**Is this for every day of the WSOP Main Event?**

No. This is only for Days 3 on – or July 14 to July 19.

**What if I want to make sure I get on one of the “TV” tables?**

Players will not get to choose the table they play on. As always is the case, seat draws are completely random and tournament staff and the television production will determine “TV” table players based on developing storylines.

**How does ESPN plan to use the footage they shoot at the “TV” tables?**

For their “live” telecasts in July, ESPN will shoot it on 30-minute delay and will alternate between their two “TV” tables every 30 minutes. This ensures no one player will have a “pattern” of play exposed over a long period of time. This “live” coverage will feature no hole cards pre-flop and only players in the hand post-flop. All-in situations will be covered from both tables. Players do not have to be concerned that non-stop coverage from their table will be shown. It is 30 minutes on, 30 minutes off in most circumstances.

**What about ESPN3’s live streaming coverage?**

All ESPN3’s coverage will be WITHOUT hole cards and on a 5-minute delay, something they have done in previous years as well.

**Does this mean the regular Tuesday night telecast on ESPN will be impacted?**

No, the great thing is ESPN is trying something new by doing the “live” coverage, but still plans to air two hours a week of WSOP action from July 26 through November 8. In fact, ESPN will use some of the action they shoot during the live coverage again in the “taped” shows if they deem beneficial to the later shows.

**Where will ESPN’s live coverage be shown?**

32 of the 34 hours of planned “live” coverage (30-minute delay) will air on ESPN2 in all the locations ESPN2 currently has rights to air, with the two hours planned for ESPN being available everywhere ESPN is. ESPN3’s streaming (5-minute delay; no hole cards) will be available as well.

**Can footage be shot and used later potentially?**

Yes. Not all hands will make the live television shows however, ESPN does have the ability to edit footage into its regular Tuesday night shows.

**How long will the “TV” tables be going “live” each day?**

The coverage varies from 3 ½ hours per day up to 9 hours potentially. It is highly unlikely any player will sit for more than two hours of “live” coverage on any day. And if you sit for two hours, it really means only one hour of your play is potentially being shown.

**What is the live coverage going to show?**

The coverage (on 30-minute delay) will show table play, talk between players as well as commentary from the host and analyst and interviews with key players. It will not be non-stop poker play, but a traditional mixture of poker action and information. Any “all-in” action is expected to be shown.

**Why is the WSOP allowing this?**

Just like the implementation of the delayed Main Event final table (aka the November Nine) we believe it is important to keep pushing the boundaries of poker and doing what we can to raise the spotlight of the game. The ability to bring the game of poker to television in a format similar to live golf or tennis or any other live event sport we believe is an opportunity worth seizing. Just like the November Nine, we recognize some people will be uncomfortable with this concept. However, we believe it has tremendous potential for the game of poker as a whole – not just the WSOP – and as such, it was an endeavor we are pursuing after careful consideration in consultation with respected players, gaming regulators, tournament staff and our television partner.