

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY FOR 2018

Big Blind Ante: There will be eight events at the 49th Annual World Series of Poker that will use the big blind ante format. This format is new to the WSOP and is designed to help speed up the game. In this format, instead of each player anteing before the hand, only the player in the big blind will ante. For this format, the ante will be equal the big blind for all tournaments and all levels that an ante is in play. In addition to the eight gold bracelet events that will use the big blind ante format, the 4 p.m. \$200 deep stack and 10 p.m. \$150 deep stack will also use big blind antes.

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Shared Liquidity: For the first time ever, New Jersey poker players will be able to enter the official online WSOP gold bracelet events, alongside those participants in Nevada. There is also a new loyalty reward program on WSOP.com called “Poker Rewards” that will allow players to earn up to 32% rake back.

Shot Clocks: In addition the big blind ante format being used to speed up the game, shot clocks will also be introduced for the first time at the 49th Annual World Series of Poker, but to a lesser extent. Three events will use shot clocks—Event #5: \$100,000 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller, Event #77: \$50,000 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller, and Event #78: The Big One for One Drop - \$1,000,000 No-Limit Hold'em.

Revamped Daily Deep Stacks: The popular No-Limit Hold'em daily deep stacks will offer more value in 2018. Each of the four deep stacks will start players with 5,000 more chips than they did last year. The buy-ins have increased in three of them, reducing the percent raked. The 2 p.m. deep stack is now at 1 p.m. and the 5 p.m. is now at 4 p.m. Daily Deep Stack Schedule:

1 p.m. - \$250 No-Limit Hold'em

4 p.m. - \$200 No-Limit Hold'em (Big Blind Antes)

7 p.m. - \$365 No-Limit Hold'em (Accelerated Format)

10 p.m. - \$150 No-Limit Hold'em (Big Blind Antes and Accelerated Format)

New Player of the Year Formula: There is a new formula in place for 2018 that will decide this year's World Series of Poker Player of the Year. Just like last year's formula, any player that cashes an open gold bracelet event will receive PoY points. What is new is how those points are distributed. The formula has been tweaked to weigh wins and final tables heavier and min-cashes lighter than last year. In 2017, wins ranged from 3.25 to 8 times more points than the amount of a min-cash depending on the event. In 2018, the ratio is always roughly 20-1.

- [More Info](#)

WSOP Café: The food options for the 2018 World Series of Poker have been expanded. The WSOP Café will feature both Grab-n'-Go options, as well as action stations in order to satisfy any particular cravings. For comfort, visitors will appreciate the re-vamped seating, with some phone charging stations built-in, along with additional seating on the outdoor patio, plus more scattered in convention center hallways.

King's Lounge High Roller Series: King's Lounge will be hosting a high roller series that consists of \$25K buy-in and up tournaments that will run every weekend from Friday, June 1 to Sunday, July 8. All tournaments part of this series are one-day events. The King's Lounge is located in the Pavilion Ballroom. High Roller Series schedule:

Fridays at 8 p.m. - \$25,000 No-Limit Hold'em

Saturdays at 8 p.m. - \$25,000 Pot-Limit Omaha

Sundays at 8 p.m. - \$50,000 No-Limit Hold'em

ID Verification Requirements: Any person providing a U.S. Passport for identification must provide a secondary, unexpired governmental ID verifying their physical address such as a valid driver's license. (No changes from previous for International Passport holders, meaning separate address documentation still required).

UMG ESports Stage: The World Series of Poker is partnering up with UMG Media Corp. to bring competitive gaming to the WSOP for the first time ever. WSOP players and spectators will have the opportunity to compete in a variety of gaming titles including Fortnite, Hearthstone and FIFA along with other popular titles on the UMG Esports Stage., which will be located on the Pavilion Room stage.

NEW EVENTS – 2018 WSOP SCHEDULE

New Events: This year, nine new events make their WSOP debut. They are:

May 30: Event #2 - *\$10,000 No-Limit Hold'em Super Turbo Bounty*

The first \$10k of the 2018 series is a super turbo bounty tournament. Each bounty is worth \$3,000 and the tournament features 20 minute levels throughout the entire event. This is a one-day tournament.

June 1: Event #5 - *\$100,000 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller*

This event has the largest buy-in in WSOP history for an event without a charity component. This event will use the big blind ante format and will be played with shot clocks.

June 3, 10, 17, 24, July 1: Event #11 - *PLO GIANT – \$365 Pot-Limit Omaha*

After the success of the “*The Giant*” at last year’s series, a Pot-Limit Omaha version was added to this year’s schedule. The tournament features starting flights every Sunday night starting at 7p.m. from June 3 to July 1. All flights combine for Day 2 of the tournament on July 2 and Day 3 is on July 3.

June 16/17: Event #34 - *\$1,000 Double Stack No-Limit Hold'em*

This \$1,000 event will start players with twice as many chips than in a standard No-Limit Hold'em event at the \$1k buy-in level. The tournament has two starting flights and unlimited re-entry.

June 22: Event #47 - *\$565 WSOP.com ONLINE Pot-Limit Omaha 6-Handed*

Event #47 will be the first time ever WSOP.com will host a Pot-Limit Omaha online bracelet event. The entire event will be played on WSOP.com and players are allowed unlimited re-entry. This event requires use of the desktop software.

July 6: Event #67 - *\$1,500 Pot-Limit Omaha Bounty*

This is the first time ever the World Series of Poker has a Pot-Limit Omaha bounty bracelet event on its schedule. The buy-in is \$1,500 and bounties are worth \$500 each.

July 11: Event #73 - *\$1,000 Double Stack No-Limit Hold'em (30-Minute Levels)*

Players start with 10,000 chips and levels are 30 minutes long. Unlike the other \$1k double stack event, this event is a freezeout and has only one starting day.

July 12: Event #75 - *The Closer - \$1,500 No-Limit Hold'em (30-Minute Levels) - \$1 Million Guarantee*

The Closer has a \$1 Million Guaranteed prize pool. The tournament features three starting flights, unlimited re-entry, a 15,000 starting chip stack and 30 minute blind levels

July 13: Event #77 - *\$50,000 No-Limit Hold'em High Roller*

This high roller event will use the big blind ante format and be played with a shot clock.

For more information on this year’s WSOP, please visit, www.WSOP.com/2018