

Generally, What is gambling?

- Most forms of gambling contain the elements of prize, chance and consideration.
- Sometimes expressed as risking something of value upon the outcome of an uncertain event.

Common Elements of Lottery and Chance Game Gambling

- Consideration
- Chance
- Prize

Note

• Though many states use the “dominant factor test” many courts in those states have come to different conclusions regarding the analysis of the same games or events. For example, (i) both Massachusetts and Kansas have used the predominance test to assess the element of chance, yet the states disagree on the classification for the “crane game”; (ii) both Alabama and New Jersey have used the predominance test to assess the element of chance, yet the states disagree on the classification for backgammon; and (iii) both Nevada and North Dakota have used the predominance test to assess the element of chance, yet the states disagree whether skill or chance predominates in a hole-in-one golfing contest. How do you explain these differences?

Chance



Chance

• **THE DOMINANT FACTOR TEST**

- This is the prevailing test used by most state courts and the federal courts when assessing the existence of the gambling element of chance, and is sometimes referred to as the "American test" or the "predominance test."
- Under this test, one must envision a continuum with pure skill on one end and pure chance on the other. The element of chance is met if chance predominates over skill in determining the outcome of the contest, even if the activity requires some skill. In theory, an activity crosses from skill to chance exactly in the middle of the continuum. On the continuum, games such as chess would be almost at the pure skill end, while traditional slot machines would be at the pure chance end of the continuum. Between these ends, there are many games that contain both skill and chance. In this area, there is always legal risk because it is a subjective assessment as to where on the continuum a game that is part skill and part chance lies.

Chance

• **GAMBLING INSTINCT TEST**



CHANCE

- GAMBLING INSTINCT TEST

- In a minority of states, the relative predominance of skill versus chance is irrelevant. In these states, courts merely look at the nature of an activity to determine whether it appeals to one's "gambling instinct." If an activity appeals to one's "gambling instinct," it is prohibited. Because this test is as subjective, and arguably more so, than the predominance test, court decisions vary widely in its application to particular games.

Chance

- Any Chance / Material Element

- In a few states, the relative predominance of skill versus chance is irrelevant. These states prohibit any payment for the opportunity to win something based on a game where chance has any role in determining the outcome.

EXAMPLES

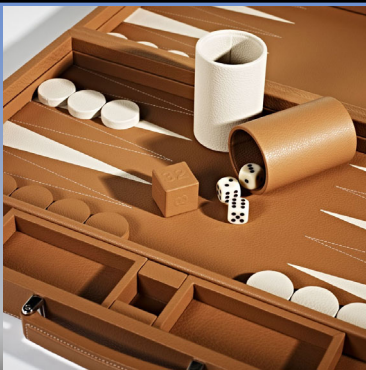
Chance



Chance



Chance



Chance



Chance

- The Crane Game



- <https://youtu.be/eHzxgucnHjA>

Chance

- The Crane Game



- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JeijJ-RgLvc>

Chance

- Dominant Factor Revisited
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 - How do you explain these differences?

Chance

- Remember it is the whether the participants risking consideration are controlling the outcome of the event.
 - “Bona-fide contests of skill, speed, strength or endurance.

Chance

- Bob and Ray play chess and bet each other \$100 each on who will win...



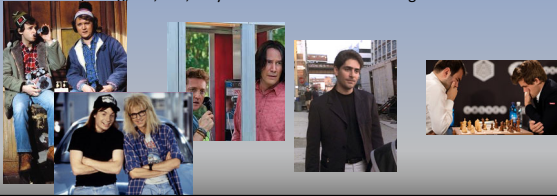
Chance

- Bob and Ray play chess and bet each other \$100 each on who will win.
- They bet against each other with Michael, who will take \$110 from each of them and pay the winner \$210, keeping \$10 for his services



Chance

- Bob, Doug, Bill, Ted, Wayne and Garth also want to bet on the chess game between Bob and Ray. Bob, Doug, and Garth bet on Ray through Michael. Wayne, and Bill bet on Bob through Michael.
- Are Bob, Doug, Bill, Ted, Wayne and Garth's bets skill wagers?



Hypotheticals – Part 1

- Client Alex T. wants to put coin operated networked trivia machines in bars with a game show theme.
- Players pay \$5 to enter an hourly round of trivia games.
- Each hour, the player with the highest score nationally wins \$100, to be paid out by the sponsoring bar.
- Client Alex T. is asking for a clean opinion, can it be provided?
- What risk reduction measures would you suggest?

Hypotheticals – Part 2

- Ezra from rebgame.com calls
 - Rebgame is an online streaming site with Xbox Series X head-to-head gaming content (Forza Racing, NHL 22, FIFA 22, NBA 22, Madden 22...)
 - Rebgame is funded entirely by player subscriptions
- Rebgames wants to add the following:
 - H2H Bets – Players can play each other for money in amounts determined by the players. Rebgame will collect a service fee of 10% of the total amount of the combined wagers.
 - H2H Staking – Players can be staked by streaming content watchers. At the end of a game, 10% of the total amount staked will be kept by Rebgame the watchers that staked the winning player will get back their stake, 50% of the remainder goes to the winning player and 50% of the remainder goes to those that staked the winner in proportion of their stakes to the total winning stakes. For example:
 - Bob plays Doug in Madden 22.
 - Bill stakes \$300 on Bob.
 - Ted stakes \$200 on Bob, and Jake stakes \$100 on Bob.
 - Ethoed stakes \$400 on Doug and Jim stakes \$100 on Jim.
 - The total pot is \$1100.
 - Rebgames gets \$110 in service fees leaving \$990
 - Bill gets his \$300 back, Ted gets his \$200 back and Jake gets his \$100 back leaving \$390
 - Bob gets half of the remainder \$195, the other half is split 50% to Bill(\$97.50), 33.3% to Ted (\$65), and 16.6% to Jake (\$32.50)

RECAP

•Common Elements

- Consideration
- Chance
- Prize

RECAP

•Consideration

U.S. Gaming Law in General

- With regard to online gaming, U.S. courts have deemed a bet or wager to occur in both the jurisdiction in which the bettor is located and the jurisdiction where the bet is recorded or offered.



U.S. Gaming Law in General

- In the United States, federal and state laws share concurrent jurisdiction over gaming activities.
- With the exception of sports wagering, federal laws generally assist states in enforcing state gambling prohibitions regarding interstate and foreign gaming that are offered in a state.
- States are often the primary source of legal authority with regard to most forms of gaming other than sports wagering.

U.S. Gaming Law in General



U.S. Gaming Law in General



Federal Wire Act

- Part of the 1961 legislative package designed to cut off activities that financially sustained organized crime and to help states enforce their gambling laws.

Federal Overview

- Crimes
 - Title 18
 - Federal Wire Act
 - Illegal Gambling Business Act
 - Wagering Paraphernalia Act
 - Travel Act
 - Johnson Act
 - Lottery Ticket Transportation
 - Lottery Ticket Broadcasting

Federal Overview

- Financial Crimes
 - Title 31
 - Bank Secrecy Act
 - Unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act

Federal Overview

- Indian Gaming
 - Title 25
 - Indian Gaming Regulatory Act

Federal Overview

- Judiciary & States
 - Title 28
 - Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act [DEAD]

