

Chuck a Luck

Chuck a luck, also known as bird cage, is a variant of sic bo that is often played in an informal environment. It has a unique dice randomization system. Three dice are kept in an hourglass shaped wire cage that is rotated around its center. When the cage comes to rest with the dice at the bottom, the numbers on the top face of the dice are the numbers called. The cage is welded so that the dice cannot be taken out or replaced. Normally the cage is kept on the dealer's right, which makes it easier for him to rotate the cage. The players are not allowed to rotate the cage. Once the bets are paid out and the lost bets taken by the house, the dealer announces that players can place fresh bets. Till the dealer calls "No more bets", the players can withdraw or change their bets. Once "No more bets" is called the bets stand as placed. There is usually no seating arrangement for the players, who stand and play. This leads to a quick turnover of players.

The most common bet is the single dice bet. An oil or felt cloth is laid out on the table, which has the numbers 1 to 6 imprinted on it. The players place their wagers on the number they want to bet on. If only one die shows the number bet on the player is paid out at 1:1. If two of the dice show the number bet on the player is paid out at 2:1. If all three dice show the number bet on the player is paid out at 3:1. Bets placed on numbers not appearing in any of the dice are lost. There are some special bets as well. A triple, the specified number appearing on all three dice, is paid out at 30:1. This is different from the single dice bet in which all the dice show the number bet on. The triple is exclusive for all three dice showing the same number. It does not payout for the number appearing on one or two dice. A player has to specifically wager on the triple if he wants the higher payout. Big and small are the most popular bets. Big is paid out at 1:1 when the total of the three numbers is 11 or more, with the exception of a triple. Small is paid out at 1:1 when the total of the three numbers is 10 or less, with the exception of a triple. In some games 12 is used in the big wager instead of 11 and 9 is used in the small wager instead of 10, but this increases the house edge. A bet offered in some casinos is the field, which is paid out at 1:1 when the total falls between 3 and 7 or between 13 and 18. Big six is a variant of Chuck a luck in which 54 dice combinations appear on a spinning wheel. When the wheel stops a pointer indicates the selected combination. Betting is as in chuck a luck.