

Chapter 12 — Platform Playbook: Sweeps-Site Operations

Purpose: Where to grind, on what terms, and how to manage money on platforms that exist in a legal gray zone. Facts verified August 2026 — this chapter has a shelf life; re-verify quarterly (see Chapter 16 watch list).

12.1 The Massachusetts Situation

- Sweepstakes poker is unregulated but not illegal in MA. No ban, no AG action against sweeps poker sites (2025 cease-and-desists hit offshore casinos, not sweeps).
- The proposed sweeps ban (bundled into iGaming bill H.4431) was sent to study 11-0 in March 2026 — dead for this session. Sweeps play is effectively safe in MA through at least 2026.
- The national trend is hostile to sweeps casinos and more forgiving of peer-to-peer poker — but platforms can exit states abruptly (VGW left California Jan 1, 2026). Platform risk is real; Section 12.5 is the answer.

12.2 The Four MA-Legal Rooms

	Global Poker	WPT Gold (ClubWPT Gold)	Clubs Poker	Stake.us
Peak traffic	~4,000–6,000 (biggest)	~1,500–2,500	Small	Small
Cash games	NLHE/PLO/O8, 100+ SC tables at peak	NLHE only, 8-max, 9 levels	Best variety, tiny pool	Up to huge stakes, crypto-only
Micro stakes	from ~SC 0.02/0.04	from 0.02/0.05 Chips	from SC 0.05/0.10	—
Rake	5% capped	flat 4%	—	—
MTTs	SC 0.11–218 buy-ins, Sunday Scrimmage SC 50K gtd, 3 annual series	Gold Million 1M-chip mystery bounty, big series, soft promo fields	Small guarantees	Modest
Redemption	1 SC = \$1 · min SC 50 bank / SC 10 gift card · 3–7 days	1 Chip = \$1 · min \$20 · ~72h review + ~5 days	—	Crypto only

12.3 The Assignment

- Primary cash grind: Global Poker. Biggest micro cash-game pool = real table selection, softer lineups, and enough tables to run the multi-tabling ladder (13.4). PLO/O8 exist but stay in the NLHE lane — the binder is an NLHE system.

- MTT lane + secondary cash: WPT Gold. The soft, promo-heavy tournament fields are the value; cash is thinner and NLHE-only. Budget per the MTT side-lane rules (13.8).
- Ignore for now: Clubs Poker (pool too small for volume), Stake.us (crypto rail adds friction and its stakes culture is a degenerate trap, not a grind).

12.4 Platform Facts That Change Your Play

- No HUDs, no trackers, on either site. No hand-history files exist to import, and assistance software violates ToS (ban + balance confiscation risk). Everyone else is equally blind — your Chapter 14 manual system is the edge nobody else bothers building.
- Sharkscope covers Global Poker MTT results — useful for a reality check on your own tournament ROI. Coverage of WPT Gold: unconfirmed, assume no.
- WPT Gold's "Reveal Hands" feature (pay ~2BB+ to see everyone's hole cards after a hand) exists. Two implications: (1) never buy it in-session — it's a tilt tax; (2) opponents who use it are getting information on YOUR play — one more reason showdown discipline matters there.
- WPT Gold's purchase model is now "Hand Analysis Credits" (a training product) with Chips included free. Functionally the same wallet; keep calling it what it is in your log: deposits.
- Anonymized, casual pools mean population reads (Chapter 7) matter more than individual reads. Default exploits hold longer here than on regulated sites.

12.5 Money Rules on Gray-Zone Platforms

The bankroll lives with you, not with them:

1. Working float only. Keep at most 4–6 weeks of buy-ins on any one site. Everything above the float gets redeemed on schedule.
2. Redemption cadence. Global: redeem whenever the surplus clears SC 50 (the bank minimum). WPT Gold: whenever surplus clears \$20-ish thresholds in practice — but batch to reduce review-delay drag.
3. Two-site split doubles as platform-risk insurance: if one site exits MA or freezes, the business keeps operating on the other.
4. Redeemed money goes to the poker account (the 13.6 firewall), not to checking, not to a sportsbook.
5. Screenshot balances weekly into the log folder. Gray-zone sites have no regulator to appeal to; your records are your records.
6. Deposit purchases are scheduled business expenses (month boundaries, per 13.7) — never mid-session reloads.

12.6 Integrity Notes

- Bot concern is legitimate on all sweeps sites. Signals: instant identical timing on every decision, impossible session lengths, identical bet-size patterns across tables. Seeing it = note the username, avoid the table, report in-client. Don't try to out-level a suspected bot — leave.

- Collusion risk is highest at MTT final tables and HU. If two stacks are obviously soft-playing each other, tighten up, take notes, report after.
- The practical defense is the same as the strategic one: table selection. You are never obligated to sit anywhere.