

Published based on [The World Series O Poker Seems As If Its Thriving, But Look Below The Surface.](#)

# **The World Series O Poker Seems As If Its Thriving, But Look Below The Surface.**

The World Series Of Poker had one more record breaking year and remains the market standard, In 2011, there was a record 75,672 entries as compared to last year's record of 72,966. This year was up 3.7 percent of last year. Also, the prize pool set a record in 2011 with a whopping \$191,999,010 dollars compared to last year's previous high of \$187,109,850. This was an improvement of 2.6 percent. These numbers make you think everything is fine and dandy within the poker world.

If you take a look a little deeper you will find most predictions of the turn out for this years tournament were deeply understated. The truth is they broke records as outlined above. So Black Friday did not have the impact some thought it might. Despite thousands of players angry after three of the four sites failed to reimburse them even after the government cleared the way to do so. Many thought players might not be able to afford WSOP buy-ins because of the online poker crackdown. We believe the predictions were a year early. With sponsorship down and much less fish playing online poker these days the sharks won't make much cash for buy ins. It could just have not been long enough for the losses to kick in.

The television portion of the tournament has definitely taken a commercial hit. It's not surprising because the owners of these web sites were huge sponsors especially Poker Stars and Full Tilt Poker. If you have been watching the tournament on television you will see their logos are not on the players either. Even the UFC events don't have these sponsors anymore. If ratings are down this year they can lose even more sponsors. A good thing is Godaddy has signed on this year to become a sponsor and maybe that is a good sign.

The bottom line is next year will be the year to worry about. If poker players cant find online poker sites that accept players from the US, then they could lose interest and take up different hobbies. Even if their desire is to play, but there's no place online, they may get frustrated. In either case the lack of US poker Sites is a concern and the fact these players have never had there funds returned to them is yet another. The environment over the next year can really get bad.

So how can we fix it and keep the best tournament in the world? That certainly will not be an easy one. Here are some thoughts. First, if the government is prosecuting the operators of these poker sites criminally, then they should also pursue the funds being returned to the players just as vigorously. The poker players were not breaking any laws and their funds should be returned. Second, there must be a law that legalizes online poker at the minimum if not all of gambling. The law makers should not play politics with this situation. It's about time to get past the Indian gaming lobby and help the players. Until we get [US poker sites](#) again the game is in trouble and so is the [WSOP](#).

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