

## **POKERSTARS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP OF ONLINE POKER 2016 PAYS OUT RECORD-BREAKING \$73 MILLION**

*Play Money events added to celebrate Mini-WCOOP success*

ONCHAN, Isle of Man – October 10, 2016 – PokerStars' flagship online tournament series, the World Championship of Online Poker (WCOOP), has completed another record-breaking year with a guarantee-busting \$73,718,745.19 total prize pool across 82 events from September 4-27. PokerStars, an Amaya Inc. (Nasdaq: AYA; TSX: AYA) brand, also launched a complementary series, Mini-WCOOP, offering low stakes entry into the WCOOP experience for the first time.

Mini-WCOOP generated a total prize pool of \$3,947,555.76 contested by 168,117 unique players from 154 countries. To celebrate globally, PokerStars is giving an even wider audience the chance to take part in WCOOP action with four Play Money WCOOP events taking place over two days in November:

- Nov 12, 13:00 ET: 1M Play Chip NL Hold'em [Play WCOOP Kickoff]
- Nov 12, 16:00 ET: 2M Play Chip NL Omaha Hi/Lo [6-Max]
- Nov 13, 11:00 ET: 5M Play Chip NL Hold'em [6-Max, Win the Button]
- Nov 13, 14:00 ET: 20M Play Chip NL Hold'em Main Event

### **WCOOP HIGHLIGHTS**

The 2016 WCOOP surpassed the 2015 record by more than \$7 million attracting 24,533 unique players from 126 different countries.

- The three-day WCOOP Main Event featured a \$10,052,879 total prize pool, surpassing the \$10 million guarantee, and was one of the five richest PokerStars tournaments of the year.
- PokerStars also added the richest buy-in online tournament ever held: the \$102,000 Super High Roller event, which was won by 'bencb789' from Sweden who beat Fedor 'CrownUpGuy' Holz, to the \$1,172,360.60 first prize. PokerStars Blog report here: <http://psta.rs/2dxjcSLpsta.rs/>
- Event #70: \$21,000 PLO [6-Max, High-Roller] broke a record of its own by generating the biggest ever Omaha prize pool of just over \$1.9 million. 'ludovi333' beat 92 other entries to the top prize of \$462,182.17. PokerStars Blog report here: <http://psta.rs/2dJM6NM>
- Team PokerStars Pro Daniel Negreanu beat Viktor 'Isildur1' Blom heads up in

the finale of Event #71: \$2,100 HORSE Championship. Negreanu took the lion's share of the \$294,000 prize pool, after fighting it out heads up with the online phenom to claim the title and \$61,865. Further information about this can be found on PokerStars Blog: <http://psta.rs/2cUXHcN>

The [PokerStars Twitch channel](#) featured an exclusive broadcast with the winner of the \$102,000 buy-in Super High-Roller, 'bencb789', who took part in a live discussion about playing the highest stakes in online poker, taking questions and reviewing key hands. Viewers were able to send hand histories using PokerStars' 'Boom!' hand re-player to receive feedback and advice.

### **PLAYER OF THE SERIES**

The World Championship of Online Poker Player of the Series was 'SixthSenSe19' from Uruguay who finished ahead of second-placed 'blanconegro' from Mexico. 'SixthSenSe19' won the Champion's trophy, an Ultimate Bahamas Experience and a Turbo Championship of Online Poker (TCOOP) Main Event ticket.

### **MINI-WCOOP**

PokerStars introduced Mini-WCOOP this year, providing players with a lower stakes series to run alongside WCOOP. Mini-WCOOP generated a total prize pool of \$3,948,559. Arguably the most notable win of the 82-event series was when French nurse and poker enthusiast Iwan 'Ethanolo' Robert simultaneously won Mini-WCOOP Event #27 and #28 topping fields of 18,856 and 11,982 respectively. An interview with Robert can be found on PokerStars Blog: <http://psta.rs/2dxktZL>

"Throughout its history, WCOOP has enjoyed huge growth and consistently broken its own records. This year, we offered more Events than ever and are proud to have introduced a companion series in Mini-WCOOP, providing a lower-stakes Championship-level experience, one that was enjoyed by 168,117 unique players and surpassed virtually all of our expectations," said Bryan Slick, Senior Manager, Online Championships.

For further information and stats about WCOOP 2016, go to <https://www.pokerstars.com/wcoop/> or email [press@pokerstars.com](mailto:press@pokerstars.com)



## **About PokerStars**

PokerStars operates the world's most popular online poker sites, serving the global poker community. Since it launched in 2001, PokerStars has become the first choice of players all over the world, with more daily tournaments than anywhere else and with the best online security. More than 145 billion hands have been dealt on PokerStars, which is more than any other site.

PokerStars.com and PokerStars.eu operate globally under licenses from the Isle of Man and Malta governments, respectively. PokerStars also holds local licenses or approvals to offer services to players in many jurisdictions, including Italy, France, Estonia, Belgium, Denmark, Spain, Bulgaria, Greece, United Kingdom, Schleswig-Holstein in Germany, Ireland, Romania and New Jersey in the United States of America.

PokerStars is the flagship brand of Rational Group, which operates gaming-related businesses and brands, including PokerStars, Full Tilt and the European Poker Tour. PokerStars is owned by Amaya Inc. (Nasdaq: AYA; TSX: AYA).

Play Responsibly! For more information on responsible gaming please visit our website at <http://www.pokerstars.com/about/responsible-gaming/>

