more games that are provided as part of the elimination game. For example, video slot games and video poker games may be used for the game play in the elimination game. One or more elimination tests may be applied to the entities using results from the game play. When conditions used in the elimination tests are met for one of the entities, the entity is removed from the elimination game before reaching the finish of the elimination game. Entities that avoid elimination and reach the finish of the elimination may receive an award.

[0011] One aspect of the present invention is a method of providing an elimination game on one or more gaming machines. The elimination game method may be generally characterized as comprising: (i) enrolling a plurality of entities for the elimination game where each entity comprises one or more players; (ii) receiving a participation fee for the elimination game from at least one of the players; (iii) between a start of the elimination game and a finish of the elimination game, generating at least one elimination game round, the one elimination game round comprising: (a) providing a game that is played by a number of the plurality entities; (b) based upon results of the game, applying an elimination test to each entity of the number of plurality of entities; (c) for each entity of the number of plurality of entities, when one or more conditions of the elimination test are met, removing the entity from the elimination game before the entity has reached the finish of the elimination game; and (iv) indicating a finishing award to at least one of the entities that has reached the finish of the elimination game and has satisfied the conditions necessary to earn the finishing award.

[0012] In particular embodiments of the present invention, the composition of the entities may vary. For example, each of the plurality of entities may comprise a single player. The single player may be a virtual player. In the elimination game, entities may comprise a plurality of players or entities may comprise only a single player where entities with multiple players and entities with a single player may play the elimination game at the same time. In entities with multiple players, all the players may be real players, all the players may be virtual players or the players may be a mixture of real players and virtual players.

[0013] For entities with a plurality of players, the elimination game method may also comprise providing a game that is played by each player; based upon results of the game, applying an elimination test to each of the players; when one or more conditions of the elimination test are met, removing the player from the elimination game before the player has reached the finish of the elimination game. In addition, when players are removed from entities with the plurality of players, the method may also comprise: 1) removing one player in the plurality of players of a first entity from the elimination game and not removing the first entity from the elimination game, 2) after removing the one player from the first entity, providing a game that is played by a number of players remaining in the first entity and indicating an award for the number of players remaining in the first entity and the one removed player, 3) removing one player in the plurality of players of a first entity from the elimination game and removing the first entity from the elimination game. Depending on the rules of the elimination game, the participation fee to play the elimination game may increase as a number of players in an entity increases. For instance, when increasing the number of players in an entity provides an advantage in the elimination game, the participation fee may increase as the number of players in the entity increases.

[0014] In other embodiments, the participation fee may be a wager on an outcome of the elimination game, a buy-in for an elimination game tournament or a wager for a game of chance played on one of the gaming machines where the elimination game is a bonus game triggered from the game of chance. The game of chance may be selected from the group consisting of slot games, poker games, pachinko games, multiple hand poker games, pai-gow poker games, black jack games, keno games, bingo games, roulette games, craps games and card games. Further, the elimination game method may also comprise: after removing a first entity from the elimination game and prior to the finish of the elimination game, adding the first entity back into the elimination game where the first entity is added back into the elimination for an additional participation fee.

[0015] In yet other embodiments of the present invention, the number of entities enrolled in the elimination game may affect the probability of one of the entities reaching the finish of the elimination game. For instance, the elimination game method may also comprise: 1) selecting a total number of entities at the start of the elimination game and 2) enrolling a number of real entities; and enrolling a number of virtual entities where the total number of entities is equal to the number of enrolled real entities and the number of enrolled virtual entities. The total number of entities selected at the start of the elimination game may increase the probability of reaching the finish of the elimination game for one or more of the entities. Also, depending on the rules of the elimination game, the total number of entities selected at the start of the elimination game may decrease the probability of reaching the finish of the elimination game for one or more of the entities.

[0016] An elimination game may comprise at least one elimination game round but may also comprise a plurality of elimination game rounds. In some embodiments, the number of plurality of entities in the at least one elimination game round may be all of the plurality of entities enrolled in the elimination game or a subset of the plurality of entities enrolled in the elimination game. In an elimination game with a plurality of elimination game rounds, the elimination game method may also comprise one or more of the following: 1): in a first elimination game round, applying the elimination test to all of the number of plurality entities; determining a number of remaining entities in the elimination game; and advancing simultaneously, the remaining entities to a next elimination game round, 2) in a first elimination game round with at least a first entity and a second entity, applying the elimination test to a first entity; advancing the first entity to a next elimination game round and while the second entity is playing a first game in the first elimination game round, providing a second game that is played by the first entity in the next elimination game round, and 3) in a first elimination game round, providing a first game that is played by a first entity; and in a second elimination game round, providing a second game that is played by the first entity.

[0017] The elimination game method may utilize different methods of providing awards. For instance, the elimination