



# CARD ROOM CONNECTION

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WASHINGTON STATE GAMBLING COMMISSION  
FOR CARD ROOM OPERATORS AND CARD ROOM EMPLOYEES

July-December 2007 Edition

## Renewing Your License Reinstatement Period No Longer Allowed

By: Philette Hamakua-Ling, Licensing Supervisor

The New Year is here and with the New Year comes changes you need to be aware of. In the past, you could submit a renewal application 14 days after your license expired. The 14 day reinstatement period is no longer available to you.

Beginning January 1, 2008, you must have your properly completed renewal application and fees to us at least 15 days **before** your license expires.

You will no longer have 14 days after your license expires to submit a renewal application and renewal fees. The 15 days gives us time to process your renewal application and for you to receive a new license in the mail.

It is your responsibility to make sure you have a current license in your possession at all times.

**If your license expires before you receive a new license, you must not operate any gambling activity until you have your new license.**

If you allow your license to expire, you must submit a new application and fees for a new license (rather than a renewal application and renewal fees).

We will continue to mail your renewal notice and application at least 45 days before your license expires. The renewal application will have a due date, which will be 15 days before your license expires. Applications received by this due date will help you receive a new license before your current license expires.

If you have questions, please contact Licensing Operations in-state toll free at 800.345.2529 or 360.486.3440.

## Card Room Barring List

Yakima Field Team

There are no rules requiring card room operators to maintain a customer barring list. However, many card room operators are maintaining a list of customers who have been either long term or permanently barred.

Patrons are placed on a barring list for a variety of reasons, including disruptive behavior and writing NSF checks. At times, problem gamblers will voluntarily request to be barred which is called "self-barring."

*(Continued on page 8)*

## Rules Simplification Project Completed

With assistance from licensees and other stakeholders, we just completed a three year project to "Plain Talk" all our rules (WAC 230) so they are easier to use and understand. In total, we rewrote over 600 rules and reduced the number of words in the rules by more than 63,700 words or thirty-seven percent.

Rewriting our rules manual using plain English techniques was one goal of our Strategic Plan. It is also in line with Governor Gregoire's Executive Order asking agencies to "Plain Talk" their communications with the public.

New rules manuals will be mailed to all licensed operators, manufacturers, distributors and gambling service suppliers mid-January.

If you have not received your new manual by the end of January, please call (360) 486-3440 and one will be mailed to you. Card room employees may also receive a copy of the manual by contacting us. Gambling rules are also available electronically on our website at [www.wsgc.wa.gov](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov) / Rules and Laws / Gambling Rules.

## Applicants Can Now Be Fingerprinted at our Lacey Office

By: Tina Griffin,  
Tribal Certification Program Manager

Beginning September 2007, applicants for a gambling license can now be fingerprinted at our Lacey office. We are offering this service so you don't have to go to your local law enforcement agency to get fingerprints.

Fingerprinting services are available Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. We charge \$13 for each person being fingerprinted. The fee is non-refundable and must be paid before you get fingerprinted. Please have the exact amount, \$13, in cash or check. We do not accept credit or debit cards. You will be asked to show photo identification.

Individual license applicants (dealers, managers, representatives, etc.) must drop off their application for a gambling license when they get fingerprinted. If you are part of an organization or business, you must know the license number

for the entity you are associated with.

We will not fingerprint you if your hands are bleeding, have open wounds, or if any of your fingers are bandaged. It takes approximately 20 minutes to get fingerprinted. Neither the fingerprints nor the results will be returned to you.



Only the person being fingerprinted is allowed in the fingerprinting room. Children are not allowed in the fingerprinting room and must be supervised at all times. Commission staff will not be able to supervise your children while you are being fingerprinted.

We are located at 4565 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast, Lacey, Washington 98503. If you have questions, please call us in-state toll free at 800.345.2529, or 360.486.3440, or e-mail TinaG@wsgc.wa.gov.

## New Ex-Officio Members Appointed



Geoff Simpson (47<sup>th</sup> District) was appointed as an Ex-Officio member of the Gambling Commission in June 2007.

Representative Simpson is a professional fire fighter and lives in Covington. He replaces Representative Alex Wood (3<sup>rd</sup> District).



Gary Alexander (20<sup>th</sup> District) was appointed as an Ex-Officio member of the Gambling Commission in December 2007.

Representative Alexander was born in Seattle and moved to Thurston County in 1971. Representative Alexander is on the Appropriations Committee and is the Deputy

Auditor for Thurston County.

Ex Officio members act as liaisons to the rest of the legislature on gambling issues. They only vote on tribal/state gaming compacts and amendments to compacts.

## How to Comment on Proposed Rule Changes

If you would like to comment on a proposed rule change under review, you are encouraged to attend a Commission meeting. If you can't attend a meeting, please send your comments to:

Washington State Gambling Commission  
Attention: Rules Team  
P.O. Box 42400, Olympia, WA 98504  
or E-mail: RulesTeam@wsgc.wa.gov

For detailed information about proposed rule changes, visit our website at [www.wsgc.wa.gov](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov). Select Public Meetings, January 2008 Commission meeting. For a brief outline of proposed and adopted rule changes select Rules and Laws, Rules under Review.

## Recently Adopted Rule Changes

### Chip Destruction - Staff Proposal WAC 230-15-111

This new rule will help control logo chips when a card room closes or needs to dispose of logo chips. The new rule will require the following to be included in a card room's Internal Controls:



- Chip destruction log;
- Method of destruction;
- Designate the departments responsible for overseeing chip destruction. At least one licensed employee must be from the accounting department; and
- Procedures to be followed if the licensee's chip inventory becomes obsolete (i.e. card room changes its name, or its license is revoked, expired, or voluntarily surrendered).

### Minimum Bankroll for House-Banked Card Rooms WAC 230-15-050

This new rule would require house-banked card rooms to maintain a minimum amount of cash in their cage before opening for the business day.

House-banked card rooms would need to have the following amount of cash in their cage before opening the card room:

1. \$1,000 for each table licensed to operate; plus
2. The amount of the largest prize available, but not more than \$20,000.

For example: A house-banked card room that is licensed for 15 tables and its largest single prize is \$23,000 is required to have at least \$35,000 in their cage before opening for the business day ( $15 \times \$1,000 = \$15,000 + \$20,000 = \$35,000$ ).

### Card Games - Petition for Rule Change WAC 230-15-035

Shuffle Master's request to increase the number of games that can be played within a single hand of cards from two to three was approved.

### Pull-Tabs Petitions for Rule Change

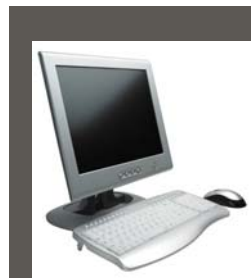
WAC 230-14-040 & WAC 230-14-080

The Washington Charitable and Civic Gaming Association's request to increase pull-tab payouts from \$750 to \$2,500 and the tab count from 10,000 to 25,000 was approved.



WAC 230-14-040 & WAC 230-14-220

The Washington Charitable and Civic Gaming Association's request to increase carry-over jackpot pull-tab payouts from \$2,000 to \$5,000 and the tab count from 6,000 to 10,000 was approved.



Visit our website at  
[www.wsgc.wa.gov](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov)

## Petition for Rule Change Denied

### Card Games - Petition for Rule Change

A licensed card room employee's request to deal Pai Gow by hand, rather than from a shoe was denied at the July 2007 Commission Meeting.

## Rule Change Up for Final Action at the February 15, 2008, Commission Meeting

See page 4 for Commission meeting dates and locations

A poker player has requested a rule change to allow card rooms to operate card games twenty-four hours a day, five days a week and twenty hours a day, two days a week.

Currently, card rooms are authorized to operate up to twenty hours a day, seven days a week.

## What is a Study Session?

Study Sessions are held Thursday mornings of each Commission meeting. Study Sessions give staff, licensees and the public an opportunity to meet and discuss current issues, such as legislative bills and proposed rule changes.

Charitable and nonprofit operators generally meet at 10:00 a.m. and commercial operators at 11:00 a.m..

Study Session meeting agendas are posted on our website about two weeks before each meeting. Go to [www.wsgc.wa.gov](http://www.wsgc.wa.gov) / Public Meetings, select Thursday's Commission meeting agenda, select Study Session agenda.

Licensees and the public are encouraged to attend.

## Rule Changes Under Review at the February 14, 2008, Study Session

### Rules Related to Penalties

In September 2006, the Coalition for Responsible Gaming and Regulation ("Coalition") which includes manufacturers, distributors, and commercial operators) contacted us to discuss their concerns about the monetary penalties for settlements. The Coalition also had concerns regarding some aspects of the administrative case process. Some Coalition members had the perception that Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) were hesitant to impose different penalties than what staff recommended.

Staff worked with the Coalition during the past year to develop the following proposed rule changes:

1. A new rule outlines the maximum fines, by license type, that may be imposed to vacate a suspension. The proposed maximum amounts for each license are based on past settlements. The Director has the discretion to set monetary penalties above the maximum, for cases involving extraordinary circumstances.
2. Language was added to clarify that the presiding officer has the authority to modify sanctions requested by the Commission during administrative hearings. This addition makes it clear that ALJ's can impose any penalties deemed appropriate.
3. A new rule provides guidelines for imposing penalties in administrative actions. The guidelines list a number of mitigating and aggravating factors designed to help ensure that the penalties imposed in administrative actions are fair and consistent. Although legal staff routinely consider these factors, this rule codifies the factors, so that all licensees will be aware of them.

## Washington State Gambling Commission 2008 Meeting Schedule

### January 10 & 11

**DoubleTree Guest Suites - Seattle**  
16500 Southcenter Parkway  
Seattle, WA 98188 (206) 575-8220

### February 14 & 15

**Best Western – Tacoma Dome Hotel**  
2611 East E Street  
Tacoma, WA 98421 (253) 272-7737

### March 13 & 14

**Red Lion Hotel – Olympia**  
2300 Evergreen Park Drive  
Olympia, WA 98502 (360) 943-4000

### April 10 & 11

**Red Lion Hotel – Olympia**  
2300 Evergreen Park Drive  
Olympia, WA 98502 (360) 943-4000

### May 8 & 9

**Red Lion Hotel - Pasco**  
2525 N. 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pasco, WA 99301 (509) 547-0701

### June No Meeting

### July 10 & 11

**The Heathman Lodge-Vancouver**  
7801 NE Greenwood Drive  
Vancouver, WA 98662 (360) 254-3100

### August 14 & 15

**Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel/  
Convention Center**  
201 North Wenatchee Avenue  
Wenatchee, WA 98801 (509) 662-1234

### September 11 & 12

**Inn at Gig Harbor**  
3211 56<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Gig Harbor, WA 98335 (253) 858-1111

### October 9 & 10

**Red Lion Hotel at the Park**  
303 W. North River Drive  
Spokane, WA 99201 (509) 326-8000

### November 13 & 14

**DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport (Tentative)**  
18740 International Boulevard  
Seattle, WA 98188 (206) 575-8220

### December No Meeting

## Administrative actions taken for violating gambling rules.

Name	Violation	Case Outcome
Robert Barker, Card Room Employee (CRE), (employed by Westside Lanes Restaurant & Lounge), Olympia	Criminal History.	The Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued an Order revoking Mr. Barker's license.
Charles C. Jarrett, CRE, (employed by Great American Casino/Tukwila), Seattle	Criminal History.	The ALJ issued an Initial Order revoking Mr. Jarrett's license. Mr. Jarrett filed a Petition for Review. The Commission overturned the Initial Order and suspended Mr. Jarrett's license until his license expires.
Monica N. Nguyen, CRE, (employed by Silver Dollar Casino/SeaTac), SeaTac	Criminal History.	The ALJ issued an Order of Dismissal with Prejudice, dismissing the charges.
Manuel Rocha, CRE (formerly employed by Casino Caribbean), Yakima	Criminal History.	The ALJ issued an Order revoking Mr. Rocha's license.
Matthew T. Schindler, CRE, (formerly employed by 11th Frame Restaurant & Lounge), Bremerton	Criminal History.	The ALJ issued an Order revoking Mr. Schindler's license.
Frank S. Nakayama, CRE, (employed by Ringo's Little Vegas Casino), Spokane Valley	Member of career offender cartel. This association is detrimental to the proper operation of gambling.	The licensee agreed to surrender his license.
Tracy M. Fugate, CRE, (formerly employed by Crazy Moose Casino), Mountlake Terrace	Placed additional bet after play began.	The licensee agreed to surrender her license.
Fay Lee, CRE, (formerly employed by Royal Casino), Kent	Set aside a portion of a player's winning wager and dropped it in his tip box.	The licensee did not respond to charges, and a Default Order was entered revoking Mr. Lee's license.
John Ford, CRE, (formerly employed by Iron Horse Casino), Auburn	Theft of chips worth \$100 each.	The licensee did not respond to charges, and a Default Order was entered revoking Mr. Ford's license.
Eric J. Mafnas, Applicant, Spokane	Criminal History.	The ALJ issued an Order denying Mr. Mafnas' application.
Brian A. Long, CRE, (formerly employed at Classic Rock Casino), Spokane	Theft of \$100.	The ALJ issued an Order revoking Mr. Long's license.

## Administrative actions continued.

Name	Violation	Case Outcome
Dave G. Swyter, Card Room Employee (CRE), (formerly employed at Ringo's Little Vegas, and Classic Rock Casino), Spokane	Theft of \$104.	The ALJ issued an Initial Order revoking Mr. Swyter's license. Mr. Swyter filed a Petition for Review of the Order, which the Commissioners upheld. Mr. Swyter also filed a Petition for Reconsideration, which the Commissioners denied. Mr. Swyter then filed a Petition for Declaratory Order, which was denied. Mr. Swyter next filed a Petition for Reconsideration on the Final Order Denying the Petition for Declaratory Order, which was also denied.
Derek Vanweerdhuizen, CRE, (formerly employed by Chips Casino & The Palace), La Center	Took money from unsecured drop boxes.	The licensee did not respond to charges, and a Default Order was entered revoking Mr. Vanweerdhuizen's license.
Marcus C. Matthews, CRE, (formerly employed by Happy Days Casino), Lakewood	Unauthorized use of credit card, charged \$800.	The licensee did not respond to charges, and a Default Order was entered revoking Mr. Matthews' license.
Nga T. Tran, CRE, (formerly employed at Silver Dollar Casino/Renton and Benny's Riverside Inn/Tukwila), Renton	Used marked cards to cheat card room while employed as a floor supervisor.	A Summary Suspension was served, and Ms. Tran did not respond. A Default Order was entered, and Ms. Tran submitted a Petition for Reconsideration, which the Commission denied.
Brian R. Eng, (CRE), (formerly employed by Happy Days Casino), Tacoma	Conspired with others to cheat by removing and receiving decks of cards in exchange for payment.	The licensee did not respond to an Order of Summary Suspension, and a default order was entered revoking his license.
Ryan S. Daniels, CRE, (formerly employed by Freddie's Club of Fife), Fife	Criminal History.	The ALJ issued an Order revoking Mr. Daniels' license. The licensee filed a Petition for Review. The Commission upheld the Order.
Jason Gonzales, CRE, (employed by Royal Casino), Everett	Failed to disclose a material fact.	Mr. Gonzales agreed to a 30-day suspension, with ten days deferred for one year, and 20 days served.
Sokthea Phoun, Class III employee/CRE, (formerly employed by Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, and formerly employed by Point Defiance Café), Tacoma	Alleged theft of gambling chips.	Mr. Phoun agreed to surrender his Class III certification and license.

## Special Agent Identification

*“Who are you?” I am a Special Agent with the Washington State Gambling Commission. “Well, I’m going to need to see some identification please...”*

At some point, you may run into a Special Agent. How do you know if someone who claims to be a Special Agent is really a Special Agent? Unlike other law enforcement personnel, such as police officers, Special Agents do not wear uniforms.

All Special Agents are required to carry identification provided by the Washington State Gambling Commission. Identification includes a badge and an identification card. Special Agents carry a gold plated police badge with an emblem of George Washington in the middle of the badge. It should also have the following inscription written on the badge itself: Special Agent Gambling Commission.” In addition to a badge, Special Agents are required to carry an identification card. All identification cards have a photo of the agent and signatures of the Special Agent and the Director of the Washington State Gambling Commission on the card.



So, the next time you ask “Who are you?” and the person tells you they are a Special Agent, you can ask to see their proper credentials because you now know what to look for.

## 2008 Legislative Update

The Commission has two agency request bills carried over from the 2007 session:

**HB 1345/SB 5375** creates a penalty for underage gamblers (\$257 fine) and states the age to gamble, which is normally 18 with some limited exceptions.

**HB 1346/SB 5374** allows the Commission to create a barring list for persons with serious gambling convictions or those who have been barred in other states. Over ten other states have these types of barring lists, including Nevada and New Jersey.

We also have two new budget related proposals.

**Our first proposal** is for the Commission to retain the interest on the gambling revolving fund. Thirty-eight other funds retain their interest. The Governor’s office has approved this request.

**Our second proposal** is budget related and would allow us to:

- Restructure some of our fees where we are not currently recovering our actual costs.
- Increase some small fees that we have been unable to increase for over ten years due to the usually low percentage of the fiscal growth factor.
- Restructure house-banked card room fees to have them based on gross gambling receipts, rather than on the number of tables a house-banked card room operates. We anticipate this would decrease fees for some smaller house-banked card rooms and increase fees for some larger ones. All of the Commission’s other fees for operators are based on gross receipts.

With the passage of Initiative 960, our second proposal will also include general fee increases and new fees that the Commission planned to implement during this biennium using the rule making process.



**Washington State Gambling Commission**

**Our Mission**  
Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest.

**Our Vision**  
Anticipate, Innovate and Excel.

**Our Values**  
Integrity, Professionalism, Respect and Diversity

## OUR MISSION:

**PROTECT THE PUBLIC BY ENSURING THAT GAMBLING IS LEGAL AND HONEST.**

CALL OUR FIELD OFFICE CLOSEST TO YOU FOR REGULATORY OR OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS:	
<b>BELLINGHAM</b>	<b>360.676.2012</b>
<b>EVERETT</b>	<b>425.304.6300</b>
<b>KENNEWICK</b>	<b>509.734.7412</b> <b>509.734.7465</b>
<b>PORT ORCHARD</b>	<b>360.769.9113</b>
<b>RENTON</b>	<b>425.277.7014</b>
<b>SPOKANE</b>	<b>509.325.7900</b>
<b>TACOMA</b>	<b>253.671.6280</b>
<b>TOLEDO</b>	<b>360.864.4240</b>
<b>VANCOUVER</b>	<b>360.576.6012</b> <b>360.833.0587</b>
<b>WENATCHEE</b>	<b>509.886.6230</b>
<b>YAKIMA</b>	<b>509.575.2820</b>

### Card Room Barring List Continued

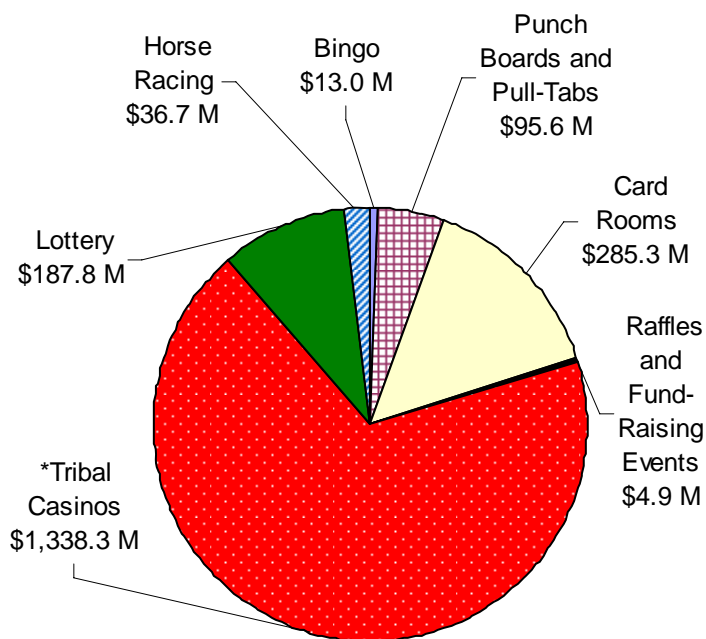
*(Continued from page 1)*

Suggested information on a barring list includes the name of the customer, their date of birth, the reason barred, the date added to the list, and the duration of the bar. If a patron is barred because of suspicious activity, you should complete an incident report and, depending on the situation, notify your local gambling agent.

If you are maintaining a barring list, let your staff know about it and the procedures they need to follow to prohibit customers on the list from gambling.

If a person requests to be barred for problem gambling reasons, you should also refer them to the Washington State Council on Problem Gambling at 800.547.6133.

### Fiscal Year 2007 Gambling Net Receipts



Fiscal Year 2007 = 7/1/06 to 6/30/07  
 Net Receipts = wagers minus prizes paid  
 \* = estimated

**Total: \$1.962 Billion**

**FOR HELP  
WITH  
PROBLEM GAMBLING  
CALL: 800.547.6133**

#### Washington State Gambling Commission

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Do you have questions or comments about our newsletter: Please E-mail us at [SusanA@wsgc.wa.gov](mailto:SusanA@wsgc.wa.gov)