



Washington State Gambling Commission

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 42400, Olympia, WA 98504-2400

Headquarters: 4565 7th Avenue SE, Lacey, WA 98503

(360) 486-3440 ▲ (800) 345-2529

FAX (360) 486-3631

Website: www.wsgc.wa.gov ▲  [WAGambling](https://twitter.com/WAGambling) ▲ E-mail: AskUs@wsgc.wa.gov

Unlicensed Gambling Activities for Charitable/Nonprofit Organizations

Social Card and Dice Games, Golfing Sweepstakes, Turkey Shoots, Raffles, Bingo, Amusement Games

Charitable and nonprofit organizations may offer several activities without getting a gambling license. See back page to determine if your organization qualifies to offer these unlicensed gambling activities.

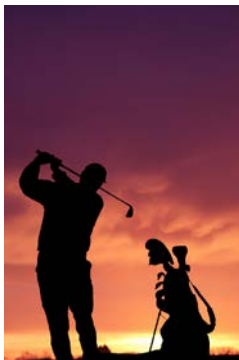
Social Card and Dice Games (RCW 9.46.0351)

If you have a *Restaurant – Spirits, Beer, and Wine* liquor license (RCW 66.24.400) you may allow your members to use your premises to play Poker, Hearts, Pinochle, Cribbage, Rummy, Panguingue, Pitch, Bridge, Bid Whist and social dice games if:

- Only members of your club or bona fide auxiliary play (no guests).
- All winnings are returned to players.
- You do not charge a fee, collect anything from players or collect a percentage of the wagers (no house-banked games).
- All players play on an equal basis.

Golfing Sweepstakes (RCW 9.46.0341)

- You may conduct golfing sweepstakes based on the score(s) or the playing ability of a golfing contest between individual players or teams of players.
- Only members of your organization and their guests may participate.



Three types of sweepstakes are allowed.

Golfing Sweepstakes #1

- Outcome is dependent on score.
- May be individual or team.
- Tickets sold for “win,” “place,” or “show.”
- Pay-off using a pari-mutuel system.
- All money returned to winner, minus expenses of the sweepstakes, **OR** to carry out the organization’s purpose.

Golfing Sweepstakes #2

- Contestants pay the same fee amount into a prize fund.
- Scheme to earn points is determined (eagle, birdie, etc.).
- All contestants that reach a predetermined number of points will share in the prize fund.
- Nothing goes back to the organization.

Golfing Sweepstakes #3

- Contestants bid on a team or player in an auction.
- Contestant with the highest bid is awarded the auction proceeds, minus expenses of the sweepstakes, **OR** to carry out the organization’s purpose.

Turkey Shoots (RCW 9.46.0361)

- Only members of your organization and their guests may participate.
- Target must be no more than 100 equal squares.
- Squares are sold for no more than \$1 each.
- Squares must be sold for the same price.
- Contestants sign their name on square purchased.
- Target must state:
 - Distance from shooting position;
 - Shotgun gauge;
 - Type of choke;
 - Size of shot; and
 - Prizes to be awarded.
- Shooter must be a member of the organization, but not a contestant (shooter cannot purchase a square).
- Target, shotgun, and ammunition must be available for inspection before the prize is awarded.
- Winning square = most shots that strike the square.
- Prize may not be advancement to another turkey shoot.
- Gross revenue must not exceed \$5,000 per year.
- All income, less prizes and expenses, must go to support the organization’s stated purpose and goals.

Unlicensed Members-Only Raffles (RCW 9.46.0315)

(WAC 230-11-070 thru 230-11-090)

- Tickets must be sold, and prizes awarded, only to members of your organization or their guests.
- Guests cannot exceed 25% of members present at the meeting.
- Tickets must be purchased and prizes awarded during a single event or meeting.
- Liquor may be awarded as a prize if you have a permit from the Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB). Contact the LCB at (360) 664-1600 or <http://www.lcb.wa.gov/>. Members-only raffles are the only raffles where liquor can be awarded as a prize.
- You may hold an unlimited number of unlicensed members-only raffles if the combined gross revenue (money taken in) does not exceed \$5,000 in a calendar year. If you exceed \$5,000, you need to get a license.



Unlicensed Public Raffles, Bingo, and Amusement Games (RCW 9.46.0321)

In addition to members-only raffles, you may offer two unlicensed raffle, bingo, or amusement game events to the public each year.

- You may allow the public to participate in the activity, as well as members of your organization.
- Liquor and firearms must not be awarded as prizes.
- Records must be kept for one year.
- Notify local police at least five days in advance.
- Bingo and amusement games can be offered up to 12 consecutive days; however, raffles can go longer.
- The combined gross revenue (money taken in) from the two unlicensed bingo, raffle and amusement game events must not exceed \$5,000 in a calendar year.
- Raffle tickets must be sold:
 - For the same price (no discounts).
 - Only by members of your organization.
- Drawing winners for raffles: Ticket stubs from all ticket sales must be placed into a receptacle and selected randomly to allow an equal chance of winning.

You must have a gambling license if:

- Raffle:
 - Tickets are sold by someone other than a member of your organization.
 - Tickets are bundled/sold at a discount ([WAC 230-11-025](#)).
 - Winners are chosen using an alternative drawing format.
 - Prizes are firearms ([WAC 230-06-025](#)).
- You want to offer more than two public raffles, bingo or amusement game events in a calendar year.
- The combined gross revenue from your two unlicensed public raffles, bingo or amusement game events will exceed \$5,000 in a calendar year.
- The gross revenue from your unlicensed members-only raffles will exceed \$5,000 in a calendar year.
- You want to conduct a raffle that is open to the general public and your organization has a bingo or amusement game license.

Requirements for all raffles

- Maximum price per ticket is \$100.
- No free tickets or tickets as gifts.
- Tickets must not be sold on credit.
- Tickets must be consecutively numbered or printed with letters or symbols which do not repeat.
- The following information must be clearly printed on each ticket or available in writing:
 - Cost per chance (\$100 maximum per ticket).
 - Date, time, and location of the drawing.
 - Name of your charitable/nonprofit organization.
 - Whether winners must be present for the drawing.
 - Description of all prizes to be awarded. If the prize is a percentage of the gross receipts of the raffle, a minimum prize must be disclosed.
- Tickets cannot be sold over the Internet or telephone.
- Tickets and/or payment for tickets cannot be mailed (PS-307).
- You can advertise via the Internet, telephone, or by mail ([RCW 9.46.240](#)) (USPS 601.13.3.3(d)).
- Your organization must own prizes before the drawing.

Age limit: ([RCW 9.46.228](#))

- You must be 18 years or older to participate in any gambling activity; this includes buying raffle tickets.
- However, individuals under 18 years of age may *sell* raffle tickets, and play bingo and amusement games, under specific restrictions listed in [WAC 230-06-010](#).

Does your charitable/nonprofit organization qualify to offer gambling activities? ([RCW 9.46.0209](#))

Washington State law requires that your charitable or nonprofit organization's by-laws or articles of incorporation state the organization is organized and operating **only** for one or more of the following purposes:

- Agricultural
- Civic
- Patriotic
- Athletic
- Educational
- Political
- Charitable
- Fraternal
- Social

Or be one of the following:

- Agricultural Fair
- Church
- Fraternal Society
- Grange
- Religious Society

If your organization's by-laws or articles of incorporation include any stated purpose(s) other than those listed above, you are not eligible to offer a raffle.

If you meet the "stated purpose" requirement above, your organization *must also* have been organized and operating for at least 12 months *before* offering the raffle.

If you apply for gambling license, you will also need to prove your organization has:

- Made significant progress towards accomplishing its stated purpose(s) during the 12 consecutive months before applying for, or renewing, a license; and

If your organization does not meet these qualifications, you are not eligible to offer gambling activities. Normally, trade unions or associations that primarily lobby are not eligible to offer a raffle.

To learn more about who we are and what we do, read our Agency Overview Brochure:

For more information:

- Gambling Laws: [RCW 9.46](#)
- Gambling Rules: [WAC 230](#)
- See our "Raffles" brochure for details.

♦ **For questions**, contact your Field Agent, or our Lacey Headquarters office at 1-800-345-2529.

If you or someone you know have a gambling problem, call (800) 547-6133

To inquire about the availability of this document in an alternate format, please call (360) 486-3440 or (800) 345-2529. Teletype (TTY) users, please call (360) 486-3637