



Washington State **GAMBLING** COMMISSION

ILLEGAL GAMBLING ACTIVITIES



Gambling in Washington is illegal unless the activity is specifically authorized by state law.

Gambling involves three elements:

1. Prize
2. Chance
3. Consideration (entry fee, wager, donation, or anything of value)

Conducting illegal gambling activities may result in criminal charges being filed against you, your organization, and/or its officers, and forfeiture of all property or money associated with the illegal gambling.

Bookmaking

Bookmaking means taking bets or wagers on the outcome of a future event, typically sporting events, when you: Conduct the activity as a business. Accept a fee or “vigorous” from the bettor for the chance to place a bet.

Animal Fighting

Professional gambling is illegal and is usually involved with animal fights. State law prohibits anyone from training animals to fight, fighting animals, or being present at fights, whether or not professional gambling is taking place.

Gambling Devices

The following gambling devices are illegal: Slot machines Video poker and video pull-tabs Pachinko and pachislo machines Other electronic games of chance

Antique Slot Machines

An antique slot machine is ok to have if it is: At least 25 years old (antique); Played at no cost; and Not operated for gambling purposes.

Sports Wagering

Sports wagering is illegal, except for 100-square sports pool boards under restricted conditions.

Card and Dice Games

It is illegal for individuals to offer card or dice games, or any gambling activity, for profit. No one, except a licensed card room, can collect a fee or percentage of wagers from card games.

Commercial businesses that sell food or drink for on premises consumption can apply for a license to offer card games for profit. These licensees may allow patrons to roll dice or flip coins for food, drink, or coin-operated music purchases only. Patrons must never be allowed to roll dice for money.

Charitable and non-profit organizations may let their members play unlicensed card and dice games under restricted conditions. The organization must have a liquor license. In order to allow non-members to play card games or to collect a fee from card players, organizations must apply for a card room license.

Professional Gambling

If you have a substantial interest in or other control over any premises, you will be held responsible and could be charged with professional gambling if you knowingly allow unauthorized gambling activity on your premises.

You are engaged in “professional gambling” if, acting other than as a player, you knowingly:

- Engage in conduct which materially aids any form of gambling activity;
- Pay a fee to participate in a card game, contest of chance, lottery, or other gambling activity; or

- Accept or receive money or other property from participation in a gambling activity

Conduct may include activity directed toward:

- Creating or establishing the particular game, contest, scheme, device;
- Acquiring or maintaining the premises, paraphernalia, equipment or apparatus;
- Soliciting or inducing persons to participate in the activities;
- Actually conducting the playing phases; or
- Arranging any of its financial or recording phases or any other phase of its operation

Player

“Player,” as used in gambling laws, means:

- A natural person who engages, on equal terms with the other participants, solely as a contestant or bettor;
- No person will profit from the activity other than personal gambling winnings; and
- Not offering material assistance to the establishment, conduct or operation of the social game merely by performing, without fee or remuneration, acts directed toward the arrangement or facilitation of the game, such as inviting persons to play, permitting the use of premises for the game, or supplying cards or other equipment to be used in the games.

A person who engages in “bookmaking” is not a “player.”

Criminal Penalties

First Degree Professional Gambling

Class B felony

Maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, or a \$20,000 fine, or both

You are engaged in professional gambling in the first degree if you:

- Act in concert or conspire with five or more people;
- Accept wagers exceeding \$5,000 during any calendar month; or
- Operate, manage, or profit from the operation of a premises or location where persons are charged a fee to participate in card games, lotteries or other gambling activities not authorized or licensed by us

Second Degree Professional Gambling

Class C felony

Maximum penalty of 5 years in prison or a \$10,000 fine, or both

You are engaged in professional gambling in the second degree if you:

- Act in concert or conspires with less than five people;
- Accept wagers exceeding \$2,000 during any calendar month; or
- Maintain a gambling premises or gambling records as defined in RCW 9.46.020

Third Degree Professional Gambling

Gross misdemeanor

Maximum penalty of 1 year in prison, or a \$5,000 fine, or both

You are engaged in professional gambling in the third degree if:

- The activity does not constitute first or second degree;
- You operate unlicensed activities in an illegal way; or
- Directly participating in, but not managing or directing any gambling activity