



Washington State
GAMBLING
COMMISSION

UNLICENSED GAMBLING ACTIVITIES



COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES

Commercial businesses may offer several activities without getting a gambling license.

Dice and Coin Contests

A commercial food or drink establishment 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.

Social Card Games

A commercial food or drink establishment must get a license from us before allowing card games where wagers are placed.

Bowling Sweepstakes

Two types of sweepstakes are allowed for bowling establishments without a license:

Bowling Sweepstakes #1:

- Players contribute to a pool.
- Rules must be posted.
- Players knock down marked pins in specified positions.
- Owner does not participate in proceeds from prize fund.
- Records are open to public inspection

Bowling Sweepstakes #2:

- Players purchase tickets at no more than \$1 each.
- Rules are posted.
- A drawing is held from the tickets purchased.
- Winner of drawing must bowl a strike.
- All money goes to the winner or to charity.
- Records are available for inspection by participants, gambling Commission agents or other law enforcement representatives.

Sports Wagering

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

Trivia/Skill Games

Commercial businesses may award a prize for high score only if an electronic amusement or video game requires skill instead of a chance to win. Skill games are not a gambling activity.

Promotions

Commercial businesses may offer promotional contests of chance to promote their products and services. There must always be a way for anyone to enter the contest for free.

Raffles

Commercial businesses cannot offer raffles, even if the money is given to charity.

Illegal 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); and
- Played at no cost; and
- Not operated for gambling purposes.

CHARITABLE/NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

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

If you have a "Restaurant – Spirits, Beer, and Wine liquor license," 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 housebanked games).
- All players play on an equal basis.

Golfing Sweepstakes

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

- 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

- 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). 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

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.

Some Activities Require a Gambling License

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

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 my Charitable/Nonprofit Organization Qualify to Offer Gambling Activities?

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	Athletic	Charitable
Civic	Educational	Fraternal
Patriotic	Political	Social

Or be one of the following:

Agricultural Fair	Fraternal Society	Religious Society
Church	Grange	

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. 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.