



# Washington State Gambling Commission

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

Headquarters: 4565 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Lacey, WA 98503

(360) 486-3440 ♠ (800) 345-2529

FAX (360) 486-3631

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

## Unlicensed Gambling Activities for Commercial Businesses

Dice and Coin Contests, Card Games, Bowling Sweepstakes, Sports Wagering, Trivia Games, Promotions, Raffles, Illegal Gambling, Antique Slot Machines

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

### Dice and Coin Contests (RCW 9.46.0305)

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 (RCW 9.46.0325)

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

### Bowling Sweepstakes (RCW 9.46.0345)

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 (RCW 9.46.0335)

Sports wagering is illegal, except for 100 square sports pool boards under restricted conditions. See our "Sports Wagering" brochure for details.



### 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 (RCW 9.46.0356)

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. See our "Promotions" brochure for details. Promotions are not a gambling activity.

### Raffles (RCW 9.46.0227)

Commercial businesses *cannot* offer raffles, even if the money is given to charity. See our "Raffles" brochure for details.

### Illegal Gambling Devices (RCW 9.46.0241)

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 (RCW 9.46.235)

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.

**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](#)

**For questions**, contact our Field Office closest to you.

Everett..... (425) 304-6300..... [EverettFO@wsgc.wa.gov](mailto:EverettFO@wsgc.wa.gov)

Spokane.... (509) 325-7900.. [SpokaneFO@wsgc.wa.gov](mailto:SpokaneFO@wsgc.wa.gov)

Tacoma..... (253) 671-6280.... [TacomaFO@wsgc.wa.gov](mailto:TacomaFO@wsgc.wa.gov)

**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) 486-3466 or (800) 345-2529, ext. 3466. Teletype (TTY) users please call (360) 486-3637