

# Washington State Gambling Commission

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## Summary

Our mission is to protect the public by ensuring that gambling is legal and honest, and to foster full cooperation between Tribes and the state, based upon equality and a shared concern for the welfare of all the citizens of the state and Tribes.

Of the 29 federally recognized Tribes in Washington, 29 have compacts for Class III gaming and 22 of the Tribes operate 28 casinos. 15 Tribes offer sports wagering with three offering on-premises mobile.

## Highlights

We worked with our Tribal regulatory partners to address sports wagering issues. This includes integrity concerns with the International Tennis League and website applications illegally re-selling sports wagering tickets online.

We continue to work with our regulatory partners to license sports wagering vendors so that each Tribe's sports wagering operation can open on schedule. We added four new major vendors for a total of 13; eight new mid-level vendors for a total of 21; and 15 new ancillary sport wagering vendors for a total of 23.

In September 2022, we met with 40 co-regulatory licensing staff representing 17 Tribes. This all-day meeting was our first since 2019 and covered topics such as:

- Sports wagering vendor licensing.

- Differences between certification, eligibility, and registration.

- Roundtable discussions.

Our Electronic Gambling Lab sent out a monthly newsletter to our Tribal regulatory and gaming operational partners. This newsletter gave status updates for new and ongoing equipment submissions we received, information on active investigations of equipment malfunctions at Tribal casinos, news or updates related to the agency, and answers to commonly asked questions from Tribal representatives. This newsletter provided our Tribal partners with a more convenient way to stay current on information related to electronic gambling equipment, our lab, and the agency.

Our Intelligence Unit sent 10 information bulletins to inform and share information with our Tribal partners on various crimes and suspicious activity. We sent 14 requests for information to ask for assistance on pending investigations, which was beneficial to fighting crime. Additionally, a monthly intelligence summary was sent out to each Tribe's gambling regulatory director. We also invited our regulatory partners to participate in the annual bank outreach training from the U.S. Attorney General's Office.

As part of our co-regulatory relationship with the Tribes, and to improve operational efficiency and technology use, we jointly agreed to 13 clarifications of compact appendices, and we concurred with 277 internal control and game rule submissions.

We worked with the Spokane Tribe of Indians to update and change their memorandum of understanding with us regarding the how to submit eligibility determinations; the changes make the process more effective and build on our positive working relationship.

Our New Agent Training was held in partnership with the Kalispel Tribal Gaming Agency. We conducted a new online class along with our weeklong, new agent training course for over 30 students from our agency and 12 Tribes. The students were regulatory staff who work at the Tribal casinos. The feedback we received was very encouraging, with an average rating of 4.74 out of 5. Topics included history, licensing, mock casino, and regulation of class III gaming in Washington. We also provided technical gaming equipment or vendor licensing training for individual Tribal regulators at their request.

We provided training to the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community and Suquamish Tribe for submitting their gaming employee applications online. We now have 18 Tribes using online processes to submit their new, renewal, add/change and name change applications.

### **Staff contact**

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