



WASHINGTON STATE GAMBLING COMMISSION



UNLICENSED NONPROFIT GAMBLING ACTIVITIES

Charitable and nonprofit organizations may offer several activities without getting a gambling license; however, they must meet the requirements of Gambling Commission laws and rules:

The organization must have received:

- An **Internal Revenue Service (IRS)** exemption from paying federal taxes.
- Contributions must be tax deductible to the donor.
- 501(c)(3) organizations qualify.
- 501(C)(4) organizations may not meet this requirement.
- 501(C)(5), 501(C) (6), 501(C) (7) organizations are not qualified.

Please refer to the IRS if you have questions about whether your organization meets this requirement.

Your organization’s bylaws or articles of incorporation must show a stated purpose as, or organized for one or more of the following:

- Agricultural
- Athletic
- Charitable
- Civic
- Educational
- Eleemosynary
- Fraternal
- Patriotic
- Political
- Social
- Benevolent
- Scientific
- Agricultural Fair
- Fraternal Society
- Religious Society
- Church
- Grange

Any other stated purpose(s) would disqualify the organization from conducting any gambling activities (licensed or unlicensed).

The organization must register as a nonprofit or charity with the **Washington Secretary of State (SOS)**. Please refer to SOS if you have questions about whether your organization is exempt from this requirement.

The organization must be formed and operating for at least 12 months prior to the operation of any gambling activity.

RAFFLES

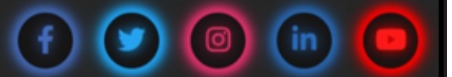
UNLICENSED MEMBERS-ONLY RAFFLES

- Tickets must be sold and prizes awarded only to members of your organization.
- If you have a permit from the **Liquor and Cannabis Board (LCB)**, liquor may 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 must get a license.

UNLICENSED PUBLIC RAFFLES, BINGO, AND AMUSEMENT GAMES

In addition to members-only raffles, you may offer two unlicensed raffles, 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 at least one year. Records must show, at a minimum, the gross revenue, details of the expenses of conducting the activities, and documentation of how the proceeds were used. For raffles, your records must also include details of the prizes paid and net receipts.
- Recordkeeping documents are available on our website under the respective gambling activity.
- 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.



REQUIREMENTS FOR SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS

- Tickets must be sold for the same price, up to \$100 each (no discounts and no free tickets).
- Only members of your organization may sell tickets.
- Tickets must be consecutively numbered or printed with letters or symbols that don't repeat.
- Members cannot be paid to sell tickets or manage the raffle, unless they are an employee and have other duties.
- Tickets must be paid for in full by cash, check or credit card. No IOU's.
- Tickets cannot be sold over the Internet or telephone.
- Tickets and/or payments for tickets cannot be sent through the US mail.
- Individuals under 18 years of age may sell tickets, only if:
 - Your organization's primary purpose is the development of youth; and
 - At least three members of your organization, age 18 or older, supervise the raffle; and
 - A member, 18 years or older, manages the raffle.

DRAWING WINNING TICKETS

- Ticket stubs from all ticket sales must be placed into a receptacle.
- Ticket stubs must be selected randomly to allow an equal chance of winning.

WHEN A RAFFLE LICENSE IS REQUIRED

- Tickets are sold by someone other than a member of your organization.
- Tickets are bundled/sold at a discount.
- Winners are chosen using an alternative drawing format.
- Prizes include a certificate for a firearm.

OTHER GAMBLING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

- 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 public and your organization has a bingo or amusement game license.

RAFFLE REQUIREMENTS

The maximum price per ticket is \$100. Some cities and counties may have ordinances limiting the maximum ticket sale price. Refer to your city clerk to find out if there are any restrictions.

- No free tickets or tickets as gifts.
- Tickets must be paid for at the time of sale by cash, check, gift certificate, gift card, debit card, or credit card.
- Tickets must be consecutively numbered or printed with letters or symbols which do not repeat.
- Organizations must own the prizes before the drawing.

INFORMATION CLEARLY PRINTED ON TICKETS OR PROVIDED IN WRITING

- Cost per chance (\$100 maximum per ticket).
- Date, time, and location of the drawing.
- Name of the organization conducting the raffle.
- 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 and guaranteed.

For more information on raffles see our raffle brochure.

SOCIAL CARD / 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 money is 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.

GOLF 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.
- Tickets sold for “win,” “place,” or “show.”
- Payoff using a parimutuel 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)
- 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 on the player or team that wins the golfing contest 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.
- 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 an 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.

Target must state:

- Distance from shooting position.
- Shotgun gauge.
- Type of choke on the barrel.
- Size of shot.
- Prize(s) to be awarded.

PLAYER LIMITS

- You must be 18 years or older to participate in any gambling activity, except:
- Play in licensed bingo games when accompanied by an adult (18+) member of their immediate family or a guardian.
- Play bingo at agricultural fairs or school carnivals.
- To play amusement games.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to refer to the Gambling Commission laws, see RCW 9.46.

For rules: WAC 230, or via web: wsgc.wa.gov.