

# WASHINGTON STATE GAMBLING COMMISSION

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OUTLINE

### NONHOUSE-BANKED CARD ROOM

Revised 05-01-18

This outline is a brief overview of the primary administrative rules governing your activity. It does not cover all rules and therefore should be considered an aid to and not a substitution for your rules manual. If in doubt on any point covered, consult your rules manual or call your local special agent.

#### 1. PRIOR TO OPERATION

- WAC 230-06-055     NOTIFY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT – Prior to conducting the licensed card room activity, the licensee shall notify the local law enforcement agency, in writing, of the name and address of the business where the activity is being conducted, the date the gambling activity starts, the type of gambling activity and the dates the gambling activity will be conducted.
- WAC 230-06-065     DISPLAY OF LICENSES – All licenses granted by the Commission shall be prominently displayed at all times upon the licensed premises in such position as they may be observed by persons participating in gambling activities on the licensed premises.

#### 2. RULES OF OPERATION

- WAC 230-15-030     AUTHORIZED GAMES – Poker games as described in "The New Complete Hoyle, Revised, Hoyle's Modern Encyclopedia of Card Games," or a similar authoritative book on card games approved by the director. Also, Hearts, Pinochle, Cribbage, Rummy, Pan, Pitch, and Bid Whist.
- WAC 230-15-030     CARD GAME RULES – The licensee may make immaterial modifications to the rules of each authorized game set out in the Hoyle Publication. Example:
- a. Limit betting rounds
  - b. Minimum number of players to start game
  - c. Change game name but use same rules
- Each such immaterial modification, or rule of conduct, shall be conspicuously posted on the premises where it can be clearly seen by the players in the card game.
- WAC 230-15-055     LIMITED NUMBER OF TABLES & PLAYERS – A card room may allow card playing at up to 15 tables in the establishment. The number of players per table shall not exceed ten.
- WAC 230-15-080     FEES TO BE COLLECTED –
- WAC 230-15-120     FEES FOR DECK OF CARDS – A nonhouse-banked card room may charge a fee to a player asking for a new deck of cards and may also charge a fee for every deck supplied to a table.

- WAC 230-15-135 WAGERING LIMITS
- Poker – No more than 5 betting rounds
- Maximum of 4 wagers per round ( bet plus three raises)
  - Maximum single wager shall not exceed \$40.00
- Games based on achieving a specific number of points – each point shall not exceed five cents in value.
- An ante (except for panguingue (pan), shall not be more than the maximum wager allowed for the first betting round for any game. The ante may, by house rule, be made by one or more players, but the total ante may not exceed the maximum wager allowed for the first betting round. An ante, by house rule, may be used as part of a player's wager.
- In panguingue (pan), the maximum value of a chip for a payoff shall not exceed ten dollars. An ante will not exceed one chip. Doubling of conditions is prohibited. Players going out may collect not more than two chips from each participating player.
- WAC 230-15-145 WAGERS – All wagers shall be made with chips only.
- WAC 230-15-035 SIDE BETS PROHIBITED – No side bets among participants.
- WAC 230-15-035 WAGERS BY NONPARTICIPANTS – Only persons actually playing cards may wager on the outcome.
- WAC 230-15-125 CUTTING CARDS – After the initial shuffle and offer of a cut, the licensee may require that a player pay not more than \$1.00 for the privilege of cutting the cards, provided that the cards may not be cut more than twice during each hand or game and that all fees go into the pot.
- WAC 230-15-160 PROVIDING DEALERS – A licensee may furnish a dealer or "mucker" in any pan or poker game. Dealers shall have no financial interest, directly or indirectly, in the outcome of such games.
- WAC 230-15-130 ROTATING THE DEAL – Participants in card games shall compete on equal terms with all other participants in the game, and solely as a participant. The deal in any series of card games shall be passed from player to player, unless the table incorporates a house dealer, per house rule. No player who deals a game shall deal another game until each other player at the table has dealt a game in their turn unless a player voluntarily waives their right to deal any particular game.
- WAC 230-15-180 PLAYER SHALL PLAY THEIR OWN HAND – Participants shall not be allowed to have representatives play on their behalf or assist in the game in a manner which gives that participant an advantage over other participants.
- WAC 230-15-185 LICENSEE RESPONSIBILITY TO PREVENT CHEATING – It is the responsibility of the licensed owner and his employees to prevent cheating and to take the necessary steps to prevent unauthorized or illegal play by participants.
- WAC 230-06-010 AGE RESTRICTION FOR PLAYERS. – No person must allow anyone under the age of eighteen to participate in a gambling activity.
- WAC 230-06-015 PREVENT INTOXICATED PERSONS FROM OPERATING OR PLAYING GAMBLING ACTIVITIES. – Licensees must not allow any person who appears to be intoxicated or under the influence of any narcotic or other substance to operate or play any gambling activity.
- WAC 230-15-025 HOURS OF OPERATION – Licensees shall not allow the use of their premises for card playing between the hours of 2:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m. unless the Gambling Commission has allowed closing hours to be adjusted beyond 2:00 a.m. A licensee must observe a four-hour period of closure at the end of each business day before beginning the next period of operation.

WAC 230-15-260 BONA FIDE CHARITABLE OR NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS – WHO CAN PLAY – With a nonhouse-banked card room license, the organization may permit guests accompanied by full and regular members to play, as long as the guests comprise twenty-five percent or fewer of the persons playing at any one time.

WAC 230-06-035 CREDIT: No licensee or employee shall extend credit, make a loan, or grant a gift to any person playing in an authorized activity or which enables a person to play in an authorized activity. Any consideration required to participate in the activity shall be collected in full by cash, check, electronic point-of-sale bank transfer, gift certificate, or gift card.

EXCEPTION: If a bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization has a regular billing system for all the activities of its members, such billing system may be utilized in connection with the playing of the authorized gambling activities, provided that (1) the playing of such activity is limited to full and active members of such organizations.

WAC 230-06-005 ACCEPTANCE OF CHECKS

- a. Checks shall be dated the same day it is offered and fully negotiable upon acceptance by the licensee.
- b. Checks shall not be:
  - i. A third party check drawn on an individual's personal account.
  - ii. A counter check offered by the licensee.
  - iii. From a player who has a balance owed to the licensee from a previous returned personal check. However, this shall not apply to a licensee who utilizes a check guarantee and collection service.

### 3. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND REQUIREMENTS

WAC 230-06-074 ASSISTANCE REQUIRED FOR COMMISSION INSPECTIONS – At any time during which a licensed gambling activity is being operated upon a premise, the Commission and any representative of the Commission may enter a premise without advance notice and conduct an inspection of the premise.

WAC 230-06-060 COMMISSION RULES ON PREMISES – Licensees shall keep a current copy of the rules of the Commission of the premises used to conduct the gambling activity.

WAC 230-06-085 REPORT CRIMINAL ACTIONS FILED – Licensees must report to us in writing within thirty days all criminal actions filed against the licensee, any manager of the licensed gambling activity, the business organization, or any person holding a substantial interest in the business organization. We must receive a copy of the final written decision or settlement within thirty days after the case is resolved.

WAC 230-06-090 REPORT ADMINISTRATIVE AND CIVIL ACTIONS FILED – Licensees must report to us in writing within thirty days all civil and administrative actions that are filed by or against any manager of the licensed gambling activity, the business organization, or any person holding a substantial interest in the business organization. Actions include, but are not limited to:

Divorces; and  
Bankruptcy; and  
Tax liens; and  
Business dissolutions.

We must receive a copy of the final written decision or settlement within thirty days after the case is resolved.

- WAC 230-15-205 CARD TOURNAMENTS – Licensees must obtain a nonhouse-banked card room license if a tournament is going to be conducted in which the players are charged an entry fee.
- WAC 230-15-210 ENTRY FEES AND BUY-INS FOR CARD TOURNAMENTS – Card game licensees must not charge more than one hundred dollars per player for an entry fee and these fees must be collected before the start of play. This fee must include all separate fees for various phases and events of the tournament, for food and drink, and for promotional material. Card game licensees may award prizes in excess of entry fees collected. Card game licensees may require a minimum buy-in of chips. The total of all buy-ins per player may not exceed four hundred dollars per tournament. The card game licensee must keep a record of buy-ins for each player and return all buy-ins to the players in cash or merchandise prizes. We do not consider buy-ins gross gambling receipts.
- WAC 230-15-215 GETTING CARD TOURNAMENTS APPROVED – Card game licensees must notify us ten days before any card tournament where the single or multiple buy-ins are more than fifty dollars. Card game licensees must submit rules for the tournament for approval in advance.
- WAC 230-15-220 RESTRICTING LENGTH OF CARD TOURNAMENTS – card game licensees must not conduct a tournament for longer than thirty consecutive calendar days.
- WAC 230-15-225 TOURNAMENT RULES AND PRIZES – Card game licensees must prominently post on the premises and keep posted until the tournament is complete all rules, prizes, and conditions of the tournament, any entry fees, buy-in requirements, and a description of all goods and services they will provide. Licensees must initially provide all players with the same number of chips or points and the same opportunity for re-buys. If there are more players than spots available in the tournament, card game licensees may conduct a drawing to determine who will participate. After the tournament has begun, card game licensees must not conduct a drawing to decide who will fill an extra seat.
- WAC 230-15-230 OFFERING DISCOUNTED TOURNAMENT FEES AS CUSTOMER APPRECIATION – Card game licensees may offer discounted fees to card tournaments to specific groups of players as customer appreciation.
- WAC 230-15-235 EXCLUSIVE TOURNAMENT ENTRY AS CUSTOMER APPRECIATION – Card game licensees may offer exclusive tournament entry to specific groups as customer appreciation. Card game licensees must include all requirements or restrictions in their tournament rules.
- WAC 230-15-240 VALUE OF TOURNAMENT CHIPS – Card game licensees must chips that have no monetary value and can only be redeemed for prizes posted by the licensee.
- WAC 230-15-245 REPORTING ENTRY FEES AS GAMBLING RECEIPTS – Card game licensees must report all entry fees as gross gambling receipts. Food and drink provided as part of the entry fee can be considered commercial stimulant sales and not included as gross receipts. The fair market value of the food and drink cannot exceed twenty-five dollars per player or fifty percent of the entry fee, whichever is more. When determining adjusted net gambling receipts from the entry fees, card game licensees may deduct cost of promotional items, cost of merchandise prizes awarded, cost of merchandise prizes and cash prizes awarded in customer appreciation tournaments, cash prizes awarded, excluding buy-ins.
- WAC 230-15-250 RECORDKEEPING FOR CARD TOURNAMENTS – Card game licensees must keep tournaments records in the format we require.

**CRIMINAL VIOLATIONS BASED ON THE REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON (RCW)**

RCW 9.46.153(3) Card room operators must notify the Gambling Commission if they suspect illegal gambling activity may be occurring on or off the premises. If a card room operator or employee knows about an illegal, after-hours card game and fails to notify the Commission, the person risks losing his or her gambling license.

9.46.0269(1)(a), (2) and 9.46.222 The solicitation of players for after-hours, illegal card games is professional gambling in accordance with RCW 9.46.222. Card room operators who allow this activity to occur on their premises are aiding and abetting professional gambling. Operators, managers and employees have an affirmative duty to ensure that their card rooms are not used to solicit for illegal games.

**In addition to the responsibilities cited above concerning information and/or involvement in illegal gambling activities, operators are reminded that involvement in or knowledge of other types of illegal activity can also be grounds for suspension or revocation of a gambling license.**