



STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION

"Protect the Public by Ensuring that Gambling is Legal and Honest"

March 16, 2022

SIT N BULL SALOON
PO BOX 322
CONCONULLY, WA 98819

RE: ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION; CR 2021-01482

Dear Sit N Bull Saloon:

Enclosed is an Order of Default entered by the Commission on March 10, 2022, revoking your licenses to conduct gambling activities. This action occurred because you did not timely respond by requesting a hearing to the administrative charges mailed on December 13, 2021.

You have the right to move to vacate this Order. If you do so, we must receive your request by the 10th day after the Order was mailed. Your motion must include the specific grounds upon which relief is requested and must be submitted to:

Washington State Gambling Commission
Attention: Legal & Records Division
P.O. Box 42400
Olympia, WA 98504-2400

You also have the right to submit a Petition for Judicial Review. If you do this, you must submit it within 30 days of the date the Order was mailed. RCW 34.05.514 explains where you must file this petition and RCW 34.05.546 explains what information your Petition must include.

This is not meant to be a full explanation of all the statutes and regulations you would need to understand to move to vacate or Petition for Judicial Review. Please call me at (800) 345-2529, extension 3473, with any questions.

Sincerely,


Ashlie Laydon, Rules Coordinator
Legal & Records Division

Enclosure

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**STATE OF WASHINGTON
GAMBLING COMMISSION**

In the Matter of:	NO. CR 2021-01482
SIT N BULL SALOON, License Nos. 05-09792 & 65-02519,	FINAL ORDER OF THE GAMBLING COMMISSION
Licensee.	

This matter having come before the Washington State Gambling Commission (Commission) on March 10, 2022, the Commission makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and issues its Final Order:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Washington State Gambling Commission issued Sit N Bull Saloon (SNBS) License No. 05-09792 authorizing Punchboard/Pull-Tab activity and License No. 65-02519 authorizing Public Card Room activity at its Conconully, Washington location.

2. These licenses, which expire on June 30, 2022, were issued subject to SNBS's compliance with state gambling laws and Commission rules.

3. SNBS has been licensed since 1999.

4. On July 14, 2021, a WSGC Special Agent visited licensee Sit N Bull Saloon (SNBS) for a routine inspection. While there, the Agent met with Lisa Zinani, who identified herself as the current manager and future owner of the business.

5. Zinani explained that Sylvia Scott, a partner in the business had passed away earlier in the year. Scott's daughter, Christy Merritt, had inherited Scott's interest in the

FINAL ORDER OF THE
GAMBLING COMMISSION

IN RE: SIT N BULL SALOON
NO. 2021-01482

1 business. The other partner, Darlene Spears was a silent partner with little interest in operating
2 the business.

3 6. Zinani told the Agent that she was in the process of purchasing both partner's
4 interest in SNBS. Zinani indicated that she believed that Merritt was working with the WSGC
5 licensing department to update the change of ownership.

6 7. Later, the Agent reviewed the WSGC's internal licensing system to follow up on
7 Zinani's claim. That review showed that SNBS had filed for renewal of its licenses on June 18,
8 2021. Merritt had signed the renewal application, identifying herself as a partner.

9 8. Further review showed that Merritt's signing the renewal application had drawn
10 the attention of one of the WSGC's Licensing Specialists (LS). That LS had documented the
11 multiple attempts that she had made to retrieve change of ownership documents from Merritt.

12 a. On June 22, 2021, the LS left a message with Merritt asking about the
13 change in ownership.

14 b. On June 23, 2021, the LS spoke with Merritt who relayed that her mother,
15 Scott, had passed away about a month before. Merritt claimed that she
16 had sent the WSGC a copy of the death certificate along with a letter
17 explaining the change of ownership. The LS noted to Merritt that the
18 WSGC had not received anything from SNBS.

19 c. On June 24, 2021, the LS emailed Merritt requesting signed documents
20 and an explanation of the new ownership structure.

21 d. The LS emailed Merritt on July 23, 2021, August 2, 2021, and August 3,
22 2021 requesting an update.

23 9. Having not received the requested information, the LS both sent an email and left
24 a voicemail for Merritt. The LS gave Merritt until September 7, 2021 to provide her with: a
25 transfer application, identification, a personal/criminal history statement, a copy of Scott's will,
26 and an application fee.

1 10. On September 1, 2021, the Agent phoned Zinani to request that Merritt submit
2 the required materials and communicate with the LS to transfer the business.

3 11. On September 10, 2021, having not received any communication from Merritt,
4 the Agent recommended to the LS to offer Merritt an additional week to complete their requests.
5 When the LS attempted to call Merritt, her voicemail box was full.

6 12. On October 4 and 5, 2021, the LS made a final attempt to reach SNBS's
7 ownership. She left a voicemail for Merritt, and was able to speak to Zinani. Zinani reported
8 that the sale had not been completed due to a lack of communication between her and Merritt.

9 13. On October 11, 2021, the Agent spoke with Zinani, who indicated that she didn't
10 know what was going on with the sale of the business. Zinani reported that she had escrow
11 money on deposit to purchase the sale, but she has not heard back from Merritt. She indicated
12 that Merritt was having health issues.

13 14. The Agent explained to Zinani that because Scott was listed as, and was approved
14 to be, a licensed owner, the current license does not reflect the true ownership of the business.
15 As this was the case, the Agent suggested that SNBS voluntarily stop their gambling activities
16 until they are able to apply for a new license.

17 15. At the conclusion of their conversation, the Agent called and left a voicemail for
18 Merritt. The Agent relayed the same information that he had provided Zinani, and requested
19 that Merritt call either the LS or himself if she had any questions.

20 16. Later that day, Merritt called and spoke with the LS. The LS told Merritt that she
21 had until the end of the week (October 15, 2021) to provide her with the required documents.

22 17. On October 15, 2021, the LS notified the Agent that Merritt had not provided her
23 with the requested documents. The LS had spoken with Zinani, however, who informed her that
24 Merritt was not going to submit the documents, and that she was going to let the gambling license
25 lapse. The LS called to confirm this with Merritt, but Merritt did not answer.
26

1 18. To date, the only document that the WSGC has received of those repeatedly
2 requested of Merritt was Scott's death certificate. That document shows that Scott had passed
3 away in February of 2021. This information shows that the issues with SNBS's gambling
4 licenses had existed since that time, and not a month prior to June 23 as Merritt had previously
5 stated.

6 19. Interim Director Tina Griffin issued administrative charges on December 10,
7 2021 alleging that SNBS's actions constituted a violation of RCW 9.46.075 (1), and WAC 230-
8 03-085(8), 230-06-080, 230-06-106, and 230-06-108. Further, that SNBS could not show by
9 clear and convincing evidence that it was qualified for licensure as required by RCW
10 9.46.153(1), and that its actions warranted revocation of its licenses pursuant to RCW
11 9.46.075(1), (5) and (8) and WAC 230-03-085(1), (3) and (8).

12 20. SNBS was sent the charges by regular and certified mail on December 13, 2021
13 to the last address the Gambling Commission had on file.

14 21. Pursuant to WAC 230-17-010, a response was required to be received by the
15 Commission by January 5, 2022. To date, the Commission has received no communication from
16 SNBS.

17 **II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

18 1. Sit N Bull Saloon received proper notice of the charges within three days of
19 December 13, 2021 via regular and certified mail, pursuant to RCW 34.05.413 RCW 34.05.434,
20 WAC 230-17-005, WAC 230-17-010, and WAC 10-08-130.

21 2. The Commission can take final action against Sit N Bull Saloon's gambling
22 licenses under Case Number CR 2021-01482 pursuant to RCW 9.46.075, RCW 34.05.440(1),
23 RCW 34.05.461, and WAC 230-03-085.

24 3. Sit N Bull Saloon's licenses should be revoked under Case Number CR 2021-
25 01482 pursuant to RCW 9.46.075, RCW 9.46.153(1), RCW 34.05.440(1), RCW 34.05.461, and
26 WAC 230-03-085.

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III. ORDER

This matter having come before the Commission at its March 10, 2022, Commission meeting, the Commissioners having heard arguments, been given the chance to review the administrative record, and being fully advised in this matter, now therefore:

It is hereby **ORDERED** that Sit N Bull Saloon's gambling licenses, Numbers 05-09792 and 65-02519, are **REVOKED**.

DATED this 10th day of March, 2022.

Bud Sizemore

BUD SIZEMORE, Chair

Julia Patterson

JULIA PATTERSON, Vice Chair

DocuSigned by:
Alicia Levy
C5F42EB0230844E...

ALICIA LEVY

DocuSigned by:
Kristine Reeves
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KRISTINE REEVES

DocuSigned by:
Sarah Lawson
268FC8B2E8E94EA...

SARAH LAWSON

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NOTICE

Reconsideration: RCW 34.05.470 and WAC 230-17-140 provide that a party may file a petition for reconsideration of a final order. A petition for reconsideration must be received no later than thirteen (13) days after the date this final order is mailed. Any motion for reconsideration must state the specific grounds supporting the party’s request for reconsideration.

Stay of Final Order: Filing for reconsideration does not stay the effectiveness of this Order. WAC 230-17-145 provides that a party may petition the Commission for a stay of a final order. Any petition for a stay should be received by the Commission within thirteen (13) days after the date this final order is mailed.

Judicial Review: RCW 34.05.542 provides that a party may appeal this final order by filing a petition for judicial review within thirty (30) days after service of this order. A petition for judicial review must be filed with the appropriate superior court and served upon both the Commission and the Office of the Attorney General.

Service: This Order was served on you three days after it was deposited in the United States Postal Service regular mail, excluding the date of mailing. WAC 230-17-035.

Any motions or petitions for judicial review should be served on or mailed to:

Washington State Gambling Commission
Legal and Records Division
4565 7th Avenue S.E., Lacey, WA
P.O. Box 42400
Olympia, WA 98504-2400

Doug Van de Brake
Attorney General’s Office
1135 Washington St. SE
P.O. Box 40100
Olympia, WA 98504-0100


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that on the date below I served a copy of the foregoing document on all parties and/or their counsel by United States Postal Service regular mail to the following:

SIT N BULL SALOON
PO BOX 322
CONCONULLY WA 98819

EXECUTED this 10 day of March, 2022, at Lacey, Washington.



Ashlie Layton
Rules Coordinator