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Ministry of Finance - Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch

Licences

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First application for a gaming event licence?

Most gaming in B.C. requires a licence. Your community group or organization may be eligible to receive a licence to hold a gaming event that earns revenue to benefit important programs and services in your area.

A licence must be applied for in advance of the proposed gaming event. Licensees are responsible for, among other things, following the guidelines and standard procedures related to the gaming event and for using the proceeds to support the eligible programs stated in the licence.

Eligibility

If your group or organization is planning to hold a gaming event for the purpose of raising funds to benefit the broader community or a third party, you must apply for either a Class A, B or D gaming event licence. The class of licence you'll want depends on how your group or organization is structured, how much money you expect to raise, the value of your prizes and the price of your tickets. The following table will help you determine the correct licence for your event.

Determining the correct type of licence for your gaming event

The table below shows the classes of licence available and, for each class, the gaming events that can be offered and the total revenue that may be earned. Most gaming events are available in all licence classes, but there are a few restrictions.

Individual sports teams are invited to apply for a Class D Licence. They are not eligible for a Class B Licence unless they meet the organizational eligibility criteria outlined in Section 8 of the [Class A and B Licence - Guidelines](#) [PDF].

If the game you would like to offer is not included in the table below, the game probably is not permitted in B.C., and therefore no licence is available.

Promotional contests are not considered 'gaming' — the difference being in gaming you 'pay to play' whereas contests are free.

NOTES:

- The Class C Licence, excluded from the table, allows approved community fairs and exhibitions to operate ticket raffles, bingos, wheels of fortune and limited casinos.
- Liquor, prohibited or restricted firearms as defined in the Firearms Act (Canada), and live animals cannot be offered as prizes.

| Gaming category | Specific games and location | Class A | Class B | Class D |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| | | More than \$20,000 in gross revenue | \$20,000 or less in gross revenue | \$5,000 or less in gross revenue. |
| Ticket Raffles | Regular raffles, 50/50 draws, meat draws, sports pools, sports player drafts, calendar raffles, payroll raffles, cow pie bingo, New Year's baby, rubber duck races, poker rides, cake walks and other such schemes. | Yes | Yes | Yes, except for payroll raffles. Maximum \$2 per single ticket, maximum \$500 per single prize. |
| | Conducted and managed by the licensee in various locations in the community. Limited Texas Hold'em poker events. | | | |
| Poker | Conducted and managed by licensee in various locations in the community. | No | Yes | No |
| Independent Bingos | Regular bingos, combination games, pre-called and odd-even games, progressive prize games and bonus games. | Yes | Yes | Yes, but no progressive prize or bonus bingos. |
| | Conducted and managed by the licensee in various locations in the | | | Maximum \$2 per single |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|-----|-----|----|--|
| | community. | | | | ticket, maximum \$500 per single prize. |
| | Typical wheel of fortune games: Money Wheel, Crown and Anchor, 7 Under/Over, and Colour Wheel. | | | | |
| Wheels of Fortune | Not permitted: Roulette and Sic Bo. | Yes | Yes | No | |
| | Conducted and managed by licensees of social occasion casinos and approved community fairs or exhibitions. Up to 15 games. | | | | |
| | Three types of games permitted: Blackjack, Red Dog and Wheel of Fortune. | | | | |
| Social Occasion Casinos | Typical wheel of fortune games: Money Wheel, Crown and Anchor, 7 Under/Over, and Colour Wheel. | Yes | Yes | No | |
| | Not permitted: Roulette and Sic Bo. | | | | |
| | Small casino-type events conducted and managed in conjunction with a social event (such as a dinner, dance or benefit) and where attendance is restricted to members of the gaming event licensee and their guests. | | | | |

Minors in Liquor Primary establishments

Effective June 18, 2014 Liquor Primary establishments in B.C., including those with gaming equipment, are allowed to apply to the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch (LCLB) for the Family Foodservice term and condition to permit minors in their establishments until 10 p.m., if they are accompanied by a parent or guardian. If approved by the LCLB, appropriate signage from the B.C. Lottery Corporation (BCLC) must be placed in the establishment and on gaming machines to inform patrons that minors are not allowed to participate in gambling. BCLC is developing this signage, which is expected to be in all bars and pubs that offer lottery products by the end of August, 2014.

In addition to lottery products, liquor primary establishments are permitted to host gaming events operated by a community group or organization licenced by Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) to earn revenue to benefit its programs or services. Such events include ticket raffles, poker events, and independent bingos. Under s. 38 of the Gaming Control Regulation, minors are permitted at licensed bingo events or licensed ticket raffles if they are under the supervision of their parent or guardian or they are an employee carrying out the duties of their employment. Minors are not permitted to be present at licenced charitable poker events.

Establishments that have occasional licensed poker events may qualify for the Family Foodservice term and condition, but they may only hold the event:

- After 10 p.m.; OR
- Before 10 p.m. as long as appropriate signage is posted prohibiting minors for the duration of the event.

For more information on the Liquor Control and Licensing Branch policy directive allowing minors, see: [Liquor Control and Licensing Branch Policy Directive No: 14 - 13](#)

Licence applications, guidelines and standard procedures (Classes A, B and D)

Once you've decided on the types of games you want to offer and their expected gross revenue, please proceed to the application form and important supporting documents by clicking on the appropriate link below.

- [Class A Licence - More than \\$20,000 in gross revenue](#)
(No limits on ticket prices or prize values.)
- [Class B Licence - \\$20,000 or less in gross revenue](#)
(No limits on ticket prices or prize values for all types of gaming events, except poker.)
- [Class D Licence - \\$5,000 or less in gross revenue](#)
(For Class D events the maximum permitted price of tickets/bingo cards is \$2 each, and the maximum permitted value per prize is \$500.)
- [November 25, 2013 - Letter to all Gaming Event Licensees and Grant Recipients \(Requirements for Reporting Wrongdoing for Licensees and Grant Recipients\)](#) [PDF]

Licence application, guidelines and standard procedures (Class C)

- [Class C Licence - Fairs and Exhibitions](#)
 - [November 25, 2013 - Letter to all Gaming Event Licensees and Grant Recipients \(Requirements for Reporting Wrongdoing for Licensees and Grant Recipients\)](#) [PDF]
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Forms

Please see the [Forms and Guidelines - Licences](#) page to download forms for all types of licences.

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