



CASINO NIGHT GUIDELINES

A casino night provides an opportunity for nonprofit organizations (nonprofits only) to offer limited gambling activities for fundraising purposes. Casino nights are unique in the fact that no real money can be used to play any of the four authorized gambling activities (poker, bingo, keno, and raffles).

HOW DOES A CASINO NIGHT OPERATE?

Imagine a casino night location with one main entrance. At that doorway, attendees pay an entry fee (pre-set by the nonprofit) with cash, check, or a debit card, (no credit cards). After paying the entry fee, the nonprofit gives participants “imitation money” such as play money found in board games, chips, tokens, etc., with each having an assigned value **greater** than the real money paid for the entry fee.

After receiving the imitation money, participants enter the casino night room and use their play money (no real money) to enjoy the gambling activities. The nonprofit is required to assign how much imitation money it will cost to play each of the offered gambling activities.

If a participant runs out of imitation money inside the casino night, they can go back to the entrance door and pay another entry fee to receive more imitation money. Winners in each game can receive prizes such as cash, merchandise, or more imitation money. The nonprofit must establish rules for the casino night and submit them with their permit application.

For example:

In exchange for a \$20 USD entry fee, the nonprofit provides the participant with 20 slips of imitation money totaling \$200 (each slip has been assigned a value of \$10).

Once inside the event, the participant pays the required amount of imitation money to the person running each gambling activity in order to participate (i.e. \$10 in imitation money for each bingo game, \$10 in imitation money for each keno game, \$20 in imitation money for each raffle ticket, and \$50 in imitation money for each poker game and so on).

During the night, the participant plays 3 games of poker and 5 games of bingo with their \$200 in imitation money and wins \$100 in additional imitation money. The participant uses their winnings to buy 5 raffle tickets and wins a TV in the raffle drawing.

CASINO NIGHTS CAN INCLUDE:

- ✓ Live Poker Games (authorized games)
- ✓ Live Bingo
- ✓ Keno Games
- ✓ Raffles

CASINO NIGHTS CANNOT INCLUDE:

- Craps
- Blackjack
- Roulette
- Poker Tournaments
- Dice Games

HOW TO APPLY:

Submit [Form 11](#), a \$25 application fee, rules used to conduct the casino night, and evidence of nonprofit status (*charter, certificate of incorporation, etc. from Secretary of State*) at least 10 days before the event.

Submit [Form 12](#) within 30 days after the event, this includes:

- Total receipts collected, administrative expenses, total value of prizes awarded (bought and donated), and description of the civic, charitable, or educational purpose for which the proceeds were used.

Note: Please do not include income or expenses for anything other than those related to the gambling activities.

See page 2 for General Casino Night Requirements

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Only volunteer members of the permitted nonprofit, who are 18 years of age or older, can operate a casino night. A person under age 18 may not assist in operating or managing a casino night or participate as a player in any casino night activity, except for a raffle. If a raffle prize contains alcohol, only participants who are 21 or older may enter to win it. Nonprofit members cannot be compensated for their services related to the casino night.
2. A nonprofit is allowed to apply for (1) one permit per year (*non-transferable*).
 - The casino night can be a single event (which may not exceed 12 hours total) or it can be split into two individual six-hour events on two separate days within the same calendar year, but if split, both dates must be listed on the application form.
3. Prizes may be merchandise or cash, however, some restrictions apply:

Activity	Merchandise Prize Limit	Cash Prize Limit
Poker	No limit	Cannot exceed \$800/game
Bingo	No limit	Cannot exceed \$800/game
Keno	No limit	Cannot exceed \$100/game
Raffles	No limit	No limit

4. Proceeds after administrative expenses can only be used for civic, charitable, or educational purposes.
5. Administrative expenses may not exceed 50% of the proceeds.
6. Permit and rules must be posted at the event.
7. Rules must include the following:
 - 1) Amount of the entry fee.
 - 2) List of permitted gambling activities to be played (poker, bingo, keno, raffle).
 - 3) Rules to explain each activity.
 - 4) Value assigned to imitation money (e.g. \$1 = \$1,000 imitation money).
 - 5) Cost per game in imitation money.
 - 6) How and when prizes are to be awarded.
8. Except for payment of an entry fee, NO CASH, currency, or other forms of consideration may be used during the casino night. Only imitation money provided by the nonprofit may be used.
9. Imitation money is only valuable inside the casino night and cannot be redeemed for cash at the end of the night.
10. Participants must have personally attended the event to win a prize.
11. Permitted casino nights can be held in any public location (community center, bar, casino, brewery, etc).

*Questions? Contact the Gambling Control Division at (406) 444-1971 or email gcd@mt.gov.
Forms are available on our website: <https://dojmt.gov/gaming/>*

*Reference [23-5-701](#), [23-5-702](#), [23-5-705](#), [23-5-706](#), [23-5-710](#), [23-5-711](#), [23-5-715](#), MCA;
[23.16.3101](#), [23.16.3102](#), [23.16.3103](#), [23.16.3104](#), ARM*