

99B.7 Games conducted by qualified organizations — penalties.

1. Except as otherwise provided in section 99B.8, games of skill, games of chance and raffles lawfully may be conducted at a specified location meeting the requirements of subsection 2 of this section, but only if all of the following are complied with:

a. The person conducting the game or raffle has been issued a license pursuant to subsection 3 of this section and prominently displays that license in the playing area of the games.

b. No person receives or has any fixed or contingent right to receive, directly or indirectly, any profit, remuneration, or compensation from or related to a game of skill, game of chance, or raffle, except any amount which the person may win as a participant on the same basis as the other participants. A person conducting a game or raffle shall not be a participant in the game or raffle.

c. (1) Cash or merchandise prizes may be awarded in the game of bingo and, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph, shall not exceed one hundred dollars. Merchandise prizes may be awarded in the game of bingo, but the actual retail value of the prize, or if the prize consists of more than one item, unit or part, the aggregate retail value of all items, units or parts, shall not exceed the maximum provided by this paragraph. Bingo games allowing for a trade-in of a bingo card during a bingo game for not more than fifty cents a trade-in may be conducted. A jackpot bingo game may be conducted twice during any twenty-four-hour period in which the prize may begin at not more than three hundred dollars in cash or actual retail value of merchandise prizes and may be increased by not more than two hundred dollars after each bingo occasion to a maximum prize of one thousand dollars for the first jackpot bingo game and two thousand five hundred dollars for the second jackpot bingo game. However, the cost of play in a jackpot bingo game shall not be increased. A jackpot bingo game is not prohibited by paragraph “h”. A bingo occasion shall not last for longer than four consecutive hours. A qualified organization shall not hold more than fourteen bingo occasions per month. Bingo occasions held under a limited license shall not be counted in determining whether a qualified organization has conducted more than fourteen bingo occasions per month, nor shall bingo occasions held under a limited license be limited to four consecutive hours. With the exception of a limited license bingo, no more than three bingo occasions per week shall be held within a structure or building and only one person licensed to conduct games under this section may hold bingo occasions within a structure or building. A licensed qualified organization shall not conduct free games.

(2) However, a qualified organization, which is a senior citizens’ center or a residents’ council at a senior citizen housing project or a group home, may hold more than fourteen bingo occasions per month and more than three bingo occasions per week within the same structure or building, and bingo occasions conducted by such a qualified organization may last for longer than four consecutive hours, if the majority of the patrons of the qualified organization’s bingo occasions also participate in other activities of the senior citizens’ center or are residents of the housing project. At the conclusion of each bingo occasion, the person conducting the game shall announce both the gross receipts received from the bingo occasion and the use permitted under subsection 3, paragraph “b”, to which the net receipts of the bingo occasion will be dedicated and distributed.

d. (1) Cash prizes shall not be awarded in games other than bingo and raffles. The value of a prize shall not exceed ten thousand dollars and merchandise prizes shall not be repurchased. If a prize consists of more than one item, unit, or part, the aggregate value of all items, units, or parts shall not exceed ten thousand dollars. However, one raffle may be conducted per calendar year at which real property or one or more merchandise prizes having a combined value of more than ten thousand dollars may be awarded or cash prizes of up to a total of two hundred thousand dollars may be awarded.

(2) If a raffle licensee holds a statewide raffle license, the licensee may hold not more than eight raffles per calendar year at which real property or one or more merchandise prizes having a combined value of more than ten thousand dollars may be awarded or cash prizes of up to a total of two hundred thousand dollars may be awarded. Each such raffle held under a statewide license shall be held in a separate county.

(3) If a prize is merchandise, its value shall be determined by the purchase price paid by

the organization or donor. If a prize is real property or is cash and the combined value of the prize or the cash prize exceeds one hundred thousand dollars, the department shall conduct a special audit to verify compliance with the appropriate requirements of this chapter including all of the following applicable requirements:

(a) The licensee has submitted a real property or cash raffle license application and a fee of one hundred dollars to the department, has been issued a license, and prominently displays the license at the drawing area of the raffle.

(b) The real property was acquired by gift or donation or has been owned by the licensee for a period of at least five years.

(c) All other requirements of this section and section 99B.2 are met.

(d) Receipts from the raffle are kept in a separate financial account.

(e) A cumulative report for the raffle on a form determined by the department and one percent of gross receipts are submitted to the department within sixty days of the raffle drawing. The one percent of the gross receipts shall be retained by the department to pay for the cost of the special audit.

e. The ticket price including any discounts for each game or raffle shall be the same for each participant.

f. No prize is displayed which cannot be won.

g. Merchandise prizes are not repurchased.

h. A game or raffle shall not be operated on a build-up or pyramid basis.

i. Concealed numbers or conversion charts shall not be used to play any game and a game or raffle shall not be adapted with any control device to permit manipulation of the game by the operator in order to prevent a player from winning or to predetermine who the winner will be, and the object of the game must be attainable and possible to perform under the rules stated from the playing position of the player.

j. The game must be conducted in a fair and honest manner.

k. Each game or raffle shall be posted.

l. During the entire time that games permitted by this section are being engaged in, both of the following are observed:

(1) No other gambling is engaged in at the same location, except that lottery tickets or shares issued by the Iowa lottery authority may be sold pursuant to chapter 99G.

(2) A ticket, coupon, or card shall not be used as a door prize or given to a participant of a raffle, game of bingo, or game of chance if the use of the ticket, coupon, or card would change the odds of winning for participants of the raffle, game of bingo, or game of chance.

m. (1) The organization conducting the game can show to the satisfaction of the department that all of the following requirements are met:

(a) The organization is exempt from federal income taxes under section 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(5), 501(c)(6), 501(c)(7), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), or 501(c)(19) of the Internal Revenue Code as defined in section 422.3, the organization is an agency or instrumentality of the United States government, this state, or a political subdivision of this state, or, in lieu of an exemption from federal income taxes, the organization is a parent-teacher organization or booster club that is recognized as a fund-raiser and supporter for a school district organized pursuant to chapter 274 or for a school within the school district, in a notarized letter signed by the president of the board of directors, the superintendent of the school district, or a principal of a school within that school district.

(b) The organization has an active membership of not less than twelve persons.

(c) The organization does not have a self-perpetuating governing body and officers.

(2) This lettered paragraph “m” does not apply to a political party, as defined in section 43.2, to a nonparty political organization that has qualified to place a candidate as its nominee for statewide office pursuant to chapter 44, or to a candidate’s committee as defined in section 68A.102.

n. The person conducting the game does none of the following:

(1) Hold, currently, another license issued under this section.

(2) Own or control, directly or indirectly, any class of stock of another person who has been issued a license to conduct games under this section.

(3) Have, directly or indirectly, an interest in the ownership or profits of another person who has been issued a license to conduct games under this section.

o. A person shall not conduct, promote, administer, or assist in the conducting, promoting, or administering of a bingo occasion, unless the person regularly participates in activities of the qualified organization other than conducting bingo occasions or participates in an educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, or religious organization to which the net receipts are dedicated by the qualified organization.

p. A licensee shall keep records of all persons who serve as manager or cashier, or who are responsible for carrying out duties with respect to a bingo account. A licensee is subject to license revocation if it knowingly permits a person to serve in one of these capacities if the person was a manager, cashier, or responsible for carrying out duties with respect to a bingo account for another licensee at the time of one or more violations leading to revocation of the other licensee's license, and if the license is still revoked at the time of the subsequent service.

2. a. Games of skill, games of chance, and raffles may be conducted on premises owned or leased by the licensee, but shall not be conducted on rented premises unless the premises are rented from a person licensed under this section, and unless the net rent received is dedicated to one or more of the uses permitted under subsection 3 for dedication of net receipts. This subsection shall not apply where the rented premises are those upon which a qualified organization usually carries out a lawful business other than operating games of skill, games of chance or raffles. However, a qualified organization may rent premises other than from a licensed qualified organization to be used for the conduct of games of skill, games of chance and raffles, and the person from whom the premises are rented may impose and collect rent for such use of those premises, but only if all of the following are complied with:

(1) The rent imposed and collected shall not be a percentage of or otherwise related to the amount of the receipts of the game or raffle.

(2) The qualified organization shall have the right to terminate any rental agreement at any time without penalty and without forfeiture of any sum.

(3) Except for purposes of bingo, the person from whom the premises are rented shall not be a liquor control licensee or beer permittee with respect to those premises or with respect to adjacent premises.

b. The board of directors of a school district may authorize that public schools within that district, and the policymaking body of a nonpublic school, may authorize that games of skill, games of chance, bingo and raffles may be held at bona fide school functions, such as carnivals, fall festivals, bazaars and similar events. Each school shall obtain a license pursuant to this section prior to permitting the games or activities on the premises. However, the board of directors of a public school district may also be issued a license under this section. However, a board of directors of a public school shall not spend or authorize the expenditure of public funds for the purpose of purchasing a license. The department of inspections and appeals shall provide by rule a short form application for a license issued to a board of directors. Upon written approval by the board of directors, the license may be used by any school group or parent support group in the district to conduct activities authorized by this section. The board of directors shall not authorize a school group or parent support group to use the license more than twice in twelve months.

3. a. A person wishing to conduct games and raffles pursuant to this section as a qualified organization shall submit an application and a license fee of one hundred fifty dollars. The annual license fee for a statewide raffle license shall be one hundred fifty dollars. However, upon submission of an application accompanied by a license fee of fifteen dollars, a person may be issued a limited license to conduct all games and raffles pursuant to this section at a specified location and during a specified period of fourteen consecutive calendar days, except that a bingo occasion may only be conducted once per each seven consecutive calendar days of the specified period. In addition, a qualified organization may be issued a limited license to conduct raffles pursuant to this section for a period of ninety days for a license fee of forty dollars or for a period of one hundred eighty days for a license fee of seventy-five dollars. For the purposes of this paragraph, a limited license is deemed to be issued on the first day of the period for which the license is issued.

b. (1) A person or the agent of a person submitting application to conduct games pursuant to this section as a qualified organization shall certify that the receipts of all games, less reasonable expenses, charges, fees, taxes, and deductions allowed by this chapter, either will be distributed as prizes to participants or will be dedicated and distributed to educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, or religious uses in this state and that the amount dedicated and distributed will equal at least seventy-five percent of the net receipts.

(2) (a) “*Educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, or religious uses*” means uses benefiting a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals or animal rescue league, or uses benefiting an indefinite number of persons either by bringing them under the influence of education or religion or relieving them from disease, suffering, or constraint, or by erecting or maintaining public buildings or works, or otherwise lessening the burden of government, or uses benefiting any bona fide nationally chartered fraternal or military veterans’ corporation or organization which operates in Iowa a clubroom, post, dining room, or dance hall, but does not include the erection, acquisition, improvement, maintenance, or repair of real, personal or mixed property unless it is used for one or more of the uses stated.

(b) “*Public uses*” specifically includes dedication of net receipts to political parties as defined in section 43.2.

(c) “*Charitable uses*” includes uses benefiting a definite number of persons who are the victims of loss of home or household possessions through explosion, fire, flood, or storm when the loss is uncompensated by insurance, and uses benefiting a definite number of persons suffering from a seriously disabling disease or injury, causing severe loss of income or incurring extraordinary medical expense when the loss is uncompensated by insurance.

(3) Proceeds given to another charitable organization to satisfy the seventy-five percent dedication requirement shall not be used by the donee to pay any expenses in connection with the conducting of bingo by the donor organization, or for any cause, deed, or activity that would not constitute a valid dedication under this section.

c. (1) A qualified organization shall distribute amounts awarded as prizes on the day they are won. A qualified organization shall dedicate and distribute the balance of the net receipts received within a quarter and remaining after deduction of reasonable expenses, charges, fees, taxes, and deductions allowed by this chapter, before the quarterly report required for that quarter under section 99B.2, subsection 4, is due. The amount dedicated and distributed must equal at least seventy-five percent of the net receipts. A person desiring to hold the net receipts for a period longer than permitted under this paragraph shall apply to the department for special permission and upon good cause shown the department may grant the request.

(2) If permission is granted to hold the net receipts, the person shall, as a part of the quarterly report required by section 99B.2, report the amount of money currently being held and all expenditures of the funds. This report shall be filed even if the person no longer holds a gambling license.

4. If a licensee derives ninety percent or more of its total income from conducting bingo, raffles, or small games of chance, at least seventy-five percent of the licensee’s net receipts shall be distributed to an unrelated entity for an educational, civic, public, charitable, patriotic, or religious use.

5. It is lawful for an individual other than a person conducting games or raffles to participate in games or raffles conducted by a qualified organization, whether or not there is compliance with subsections 2 and 3: However, it is unlawful for the individual to participate where the individual has knowledge of or reason to know facts which constitute a failure to comply with subsection 1.

6. A political party or a political party organization is a qualified organization within the meaning of this chapter. Political parties or party organizations may contract with other qualified organizations to conduct the games of skill, games of chance, and raffles which may lawfully be conducted by the political party or party organization. A licensed qualified organization may promote the games of skill, games of chance, and raffles which it may lawfully conduct.

7. a. Proceeds coming into the possession of a person under this section are deemed to be held in trust for payment of expenses and dedication to charitable purposes as required by this section.

b. A licensee or agent who willfully fails to dedicate the required amount of proceeds to charitable purposes as required by this section commits a fraudulent practice.

8. A qualified organization licensed under this section shall purchase bingo equipment and supplies only from a manufacturer or a distributor licensed by the department.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §99B.7; 81 Acts, ch 44, §8 – 12; 82 Acts, ch 1189, §2]

83 Acts, ch 85, §1; 83 Acts, ch 164, §1, 2; 84 Acts, ch 1220, §5 – 11; 84 Acts, ch 1305, §22; 85 Acts, ch 150, §1 – 3; 86 Acts, ch 1042, §2; 86 Acts, ch 1201, §7 – 9; 87 Acts, ch 184, §5, 6; 88 Acts, ch 1134, §21; 88 Acts, ch 1274, §33; 89 Acts, ch 231, §18 – 21; 91 Acts, ch 175, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1062, §3 – 5; 96 Acts, ch 1143, §3, 4; 98 Acts, ch 1198, §1, 2; 2000 Acts, ch 1130, §2, 3; 2002 Acts, ch 1068, §3 – 10; 2003 Acts, ch 44, §32; 2003 Acts, ch 178, §104, 121; 2003 Acts, ch 179, §142; 2003 Acts, 1st Ex, ch 2, §38, 209; 2004 Acts, ch 1058, §1 – 5; 2005 Acts, ch 19, §30; 2005 Acts, ch 106, §5, 11; 2008 Acts, ch 1032, §188, 201

Fraudulent practice, see §714.8