

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION**

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**DIVISION OF GAMING**

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To: Licensed Bingo Organizations

The Office of Charitable Gaming continues to receive complaints regarding bingo game conduct that does not adhere to Wisconsin law. Following are some of the most common complaints received by this office.

**NOTE: These are not new rules; they are simply listed to draw your attention to some of the most common violations.**

**Age of Bingo Players.** No person under the age of 18 may play bingo unless a legal guardian or an adult who is a relative of the minor by blood, marriage or adoption is present in the building or on the premises while the child is playing. As always, licensees have the right to create house rules to exclude minors or young children. They may also require that only **players** occupy seats in the bingo facility.

**Bingo Workers.** All bingo workers must be 18 years of age or older. Persons selling bingo cards and sheets are considered workers under the legal definition. No workers, including those who sell cards, may play bingo during an occasion at which they work, even if they have stopped selling cards. However, persons working one occasion may play at a previous or subsequent occasion the same night, provided they do not work *any* portion of that occasion. An occasion that is broken up by an intermission is still one occasion, and anyone who has worked one half of the occasion may **not** play bingo the other half. This rule applies to every bingo worker, including callers.

**Calling a Number/Monitors.** Monitors are helpful because they bring the caller up close to players in all rooms. However, the caller **must** call the number and letter before showing it on the monitor or to the players. Do not place the ball in front of the camera before it has been called and shown to the players.

**Who Must Hear a Winners Call.** A player may alert either the caller or a floor worker that he or she has a winning arrangement. The caller cannot possibly hear everyone in the room(s) and must have help from the floor workers. If a worker hears a call of bingo before the next number is called but cannot stop the caller from proceeding, that player's call is not an overlooked bingo and he or she should be awarded the prize if it is verified as being legal. The call must be heard by a worker, not just other players. It is the players' responsibility to make themselves heard by the caller or floor workers.

**Playing Select Games.** An organization offering bingo games played on disposable sheets must allow a player to participate in only the games of his or her choosing. An organization cannot require play in every game of an occasion. Therefore, patrons must be allowed to play in only high payout games if they wish, including progressive jackpot bingo, without penalty. Reminder: Single face cards must be available for every game at a maximum price of \$1.00.

**Progressive Jackpot Games.** If you wish to conduct a progressive jackpot game and sell the cards at a different price than all other games in an occasion, you must license it as a separate occasion. All other rules for the conduct of bingo games apply to the progressive jackpot game. **Children under 18 may play and win the progressive jackpot game if an adult relative or legal guardian is present in the building or on the premises.** The prize must be paid by check to the winner(s) in the full amount. Multiple checks in smaller amounts may not be written in an attempt to avoid taxes, nor can payment be made to anyone other than the holder(s) of the winning card(s).