



Original Raffle License – Qualifications, General Class A, Class B, Calendar, and Duck Raffles

563.907 Qualified Organizations. (1) Any local religious, charitable, service, fraternal or veterans organization or any organization to which contributions are deductible for federal income tax purposes or state income or franchise tax purposes, which has been in existence for one (1) year immediately preceding its application for a license or which is chartered by a state or national organization which has been in existence for at least three (3) years, may conduct a raffle upon receiving a license for the raffle event from the department. No other person may conduct a raffle in this state.

563.907 (2) Local organizations that may conduct raffles include those organizations whose activities are limited to this state, to a specific geographical area within this state, or to a specific geographical area that is partly within this state and partly within another state. An example of partly within this state and partly within another state would be an organization in Beloit, WI that provides some support in South Beloit, IL or an organization in Superior, WI that provides some support in Duluth, MN or other Wisconsin municipalities that bridge across state lines.

In order to qualify for a raffle license, your organization must be classed into one of the following organization types:

- **Religious:** An established religious institution or group thereof. If not, additional background information is requested.
- **Veteran:** An established group of past participants in the United State Armed Forces. If not, additional information is requested.
- **Fraternal:** An organization with a representative form of government that (1) operates under the lodge system with a ritualistic form of work; (2) is organized to promote the payment of life, sickness, accident or other insurance benefits to its members; or (3) is organized to carry on some worthy civic or service purpose.
- **Service:** An organization which has, as a minimum, the benefit, the growth and the general welfare of the community as one of its principle purposes. This category includes a labor organization whose jurisdiction is limited to a specific geographical area within the state or political party, except a state committee registered under s. 11.05 and organized exclusively for political purposes under whose name candidates appear on a ballot at any election. This also excludes a trade association or a social club.
- **Charitable:** In order to qualify for a license under this organizational type, the dominant purpose of the organization's work is for the public good, and the work done for its members is the means adopted for this purpose. To qualify under this type, you will need to include the charitable registration certificate issued from the State of Wisconsin.

Note: All raffles in Wisconsin require a raffle license in order to be legal. It is not legal for an individual, business, or national/out-of-state organization to conduct raffles in Wisconsin. A silent auction is not a raffle and does not require a raffle license.

Raffle License Classes A and B (563.92 License)

A Class A raffle is when you sell some or all of the tickets in advance of the date of the drawing. The tickets are pre-printed and consecutively numbered with the required information under 563.93. A winner need not be present to win. You may conduct single-container raffles, a calendar raffle, and/or rubber duck races.

A Class B raffle is when tickets are only sold or delivered on the day of the raffle. Generic raffle tickets may be used. You may conduct multiple-container raffles, single container raffles, or plastic rubber duck races. These are generally used for bucket raffles and 50/50 raffles. All prizes must be awarded.

Other Important Information:

- Each license is \$25 and good for one year from the date the license is issued. Renewals are filed on an annual/yearly basis. Renewal information is sent with the license.
- If you wish to conduct both types of raffles, then both license types are required. Each license requires a separate application, documentation, and fee.
- All profits from raffles must be used in a manner consistent with the purpose of the organization, which is generally laid out in the Articles of Incorporation, Constitution, or By-Laws of the organization.
An example: a school may not raise and donate raffle funds to an individual with cancer or to the American Cancer Society, as a school's purpose is to promote learning and support the students, their education and activities within the school.
- All raffles must be conducted according to Chapter 563 of the Wisconsin Statutes.
- All calendar raffles require pre-approval from the Office of Charitable Gaming prior to selling tickets. Calendar raffles have a specific format and the pre-approval process is designed to ensure the format is correct prior to incurring printing expenses. Please allow five (5) business days for turnaround time.
- A duck race raffle operates the same as a traditional raffle except that winning tickets are determined by numbered rubber ducks crossing a pre-determined point in the water rather than drawing a numbered ticket stub from a container. Participants "adopt" a rubber duck by purchasing a raffle ticket numbered to correspond to a rubber duck. The ducks, all of equal size and shape, are dropped into a moving body of water and the first duck to cross the finish line wins (subsequent finishers may receive consolation prizes).

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For complete information on the Statutes, please visit our website.