

PLANNING A CHARITABLE GAMING ACTIVITY: WHAT TO THINK ABOUT

If your group or organization is looking to raise money through a charitable gaming event such as a raffle, bingo, 50-50, chase the ace or Texas hold 'em poker night, a charitable gaming licence is required from the Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming Authority (SLGA). Having a licence also ensures your group or organization is eligible for a charitable gaming grant valued at 25 per cent of your net proceeds.

Before you begin the application process to obtain a licence, here are a number of considerations to help you plan your charitable gaming fundraiser. Getting everything organized prior to beginning the application process will help expediate the process.

TYPES OF CHARITABLE GAMING

Charitable gaming is an event or activity that requires entrants to purchase a random chance to win a prize. In Saskatchewan, licensed forms of charitable gaming include bingo, breakopen tickets, raffles, Texas Hold'em Poker and Monte Carlo (mock casino) events. Raffles are typically the most popular charitable gaming activity. Raffle types can include regular draws, calendar draws, 50-50 draws, chase the ace, sports drafts and pools, derbies and more.

LICENSING REQUIREMENT

SLGA licenses all charitable gaming in the province with the exception of activities that take place on-reserve which are licensed by Indigenous Gaming Regulators. *The Criminal Code of Canada* requires that provinces may only license charitable or religious organizations to raise funds through lottery schemes.

ELIGIBILITY

There are four classifications considered in determining whether a group or organization has a charitable or religious purpose:

- **Relief of poverty:** Examples include programs which provide relief of poverty or social services and educational programs for the emotionally or physically distressed.
- **Advancement of education:** Examples include student scholarships, or aid to schools, libraries, museums, the arts or the preservation of cultural heritage.
- **Advancement of religion:** Organizations such as places of worship and lay groups involved in furthering religious principles or objectives.
- **General benefit to the broad community:** Examples include improvements to the quality of health, support of medical research, aid to medical treatment programs, community facilities or support of eligible amateur athletics.

There are a number of activities that are not considered charitable for licensing purposes, including senior or adult sports teams, fundraising for individuals for personal benefit, social clubs, etc.

DOCUMENTS TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY

In order to determine whether a group or organization is charitable or religious, SLGA often requires applicants to provide supporting documents describing the nature, purpose and structure of their organization. You may need to submit a combination of documents in order for SLGA to adequately assess your qualifications. This may include but is not limited to:

- Charter or bylaws.
- Articles of incorporation and/or minutes from a formation meeting.
- Constitution/Governance document (e.g. how your organization is set up and structured, date you were established, current number of members, etc.).
- Financial statement.
- Documented proof of existing delivery of your charitable object or purpose for the last six months (eg. minutes of annual general meetings, a membership list, etc.).
- If you are a sports team/club, a copy of your official team roster that is submitted to your governing body that includes the date of birth for each individual.
- Other legal documents that may assist SLGA in evaluating qualifications as a charitable or religious organization.

APPLICATION COSTS

Licensing fees may apply at the time of application depending on the type of licence required. Typically, there is no fee for small raffle or small bingo events. Current fees can be found on [SLGA.com](https://www.slgasask.ca). (Payments can be made by credit card near the end of the online application process).

TIMELY APPROVAL

To ensure timely approval it's important to provide adequate time for SLGA to review and process applications. Please allow a minimum of 7 - 10 business days to process:

- Most small raffles with a prize value of \$2,500 or less;
- Small Bingo;
- Class CR Bingo.

Please allow a minimum of 30 business days to process applications for:

- Large raffles with a prize value over \$2,500;
- Class C Bingo;
- Class MB Bingo;
- Breakopen;
- Texas Hold'em;
- Monte Carlo.

As well, applicants must provide a draft copy of the raffle ticket and any raffle advertising and raffle rules of play as outlined in the *Raffle Terms & Conditions*.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

Each organization is required to have a separate chequing account that is for gaming revenue only. Organizations must deposit all gaming proceeds into this account.

At the end of the gaming activity or event, the licence holder is required to complete an online financial report outlining the activity or event. In the case of a raffle, you will be required to provide information about the prize description and value, ticket sales dates and prices, any event expenses, draw date and location and how the winner or winners were determined. SLGA may contact your organization for additional information during the review of the financial report.

CHARITABLE GAMING GRANTS

All Saskatchewan groups and organizations that hold licensed bingo, raffles, breakopen ticket sales, Texas Hold 'em poker and Monte Carlo events receive a grant equal to 25 per cent of the net revenues raised from these activities, up to a maximum grant of \$100,000 annually. The financial report that you submit to SLGA at the end of your event also acts as your application for the grant.

SPENDING THE GRANT

It is expected that grant funds will be used to support delivery of the group or organization's core programs and services.

MORE INFORMATION

SLGA's Charitable Gaming Manual provides detailed information about SLGA's policies, eligibility and procedures for charitable gaming. You can view the manual on [SLGA.com](https://slga.com). SLGA's website also provides access to other useful documents including terms and conditions for different charitable gaming activities.

The information contained in this document is not intended to replace information contained in SLGA's terms and conditions for charitable gaming.

READY TO APPLY

Once you have your supporting documents and are ready to apply, there are a couple of different ways to move forward with an application. If you are applying for a raffle or breakopen licence it can be done online by [signing in](#) or [creating an account](#) on SLGA's website. For all other types of charitable gaming (bingo, Texas Hold 'em, Monte Carlo) you can find the related application forms on [SLGA.com](https://slga.com).