

Introduction

Many PACs engage in fundraising activities throughout the year to enhance the extracurricular opportunities of students attending the school. One form of fundraising is conducting a ticket raffle, such as 50/50 percentage draws, and draws where prizes such as movie tickets, holiday gift baskets, Canuck tickets and other are awarded. Typically, prize winners are determined through the drawing of ticket stubs placed in a draw container.

The Compliance Division of Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) has put together this information bulletin to provide PACs with a quick checklist of the key controls that must be adhered to when conducting a ticket raffle.

What is Considered a Gaming Event?



When thinking of fundraising, PACs often engage in contests or ticket raffles. Although both words are used by parents in describing an event where a prize is given away, there is a big difference. A gaming event licence is not required for a contest. Reason being, a contest is based on skill or predefined criteria (i.e., best Halloween costume) and the winner is determined, for example by someone or by votes.

A ticket raffle is a form of gambling because participants must pay something (**consideration**) for a **chance** (outcome is not pre-determined or determined solely by skill) to win a **prize** (includes awarding money or anything of value). As a result, a gaming event licence is required. Gaming events conducted in BC must be licensed by GPEB. To conduct a gaming event in BC without a licence is unlawful.

Requirements and Best Practices for Ticket Raffles

All applicants are strongly encouraged to review the [Licensed Charitable Gaming Rules](#) in their entirety to ensure they understand all eligibility and application criteria.

Gaming Event Licence

- A separate licence is required for each type of gaming event conducted.
- A licence is not assignable or transferable.
- Draws may only be held at the locations, and on the dates and times specified on the gaming event licence.
- The gaming event must be held in public places and may not be held at a private residence.
- An amended licence must be obtained for any changes made to a draw (e.g., location, dates and times, changes to ticket pricing etc.). To amend a licence, ensure to submit a written request to gaming.licensing@gov.bc.ca
- Copies of the approved gaming event licence, amendments and house rules should be posted or available at all locations where tickets are sold or where a gaming event takes place.

Advertising

To ensure gambling is represented in a responsible manner all licensees must comply with the [Advertising and Marketing Standards for Gambling in BC](#) and the [Responsible Gambling Standards for the BC Gambling Industry](#). This includes ensuring promotional materials:



- Do not use minors to promote gambling, except as permitted.
- Are not directed primarily to minors.
- Factually report the chances or odds of winning.
- Include the gaming event licence number (e.g., BC Gaming Event Licence #123456).

Discounted Tickets (e.g., 1 for \$2, 3 for \$5, 10 for \$10)

- Tickets must be a different colour or have a separate series of sequential numbers for each price category.
- Tickets cannot be split and sold separately.

Restrictions for Minors at the Event

- Purchasers must be 19 years of age or older for gaming events authorized by a Class A or Class D gaming event licence.

If an organization has a Class B gaming event licence:

- Minors may buy raffle tickets if the minor is 13 years of age or older or is accompanied by an adult who is the minor's parent or guardian and consents to the sale.
- Minors may sell raffle tickets if they are not more than \$5 per ticket, and if the minor does so only as a volunteer.
- Minors must not participate in any events where a licensee plans to award non-restricted firearms, liquor and/or cannabis gift cards as a prize.
- If a winning ticket bears a minor's name, the prize will be lawfully delivered to the minor's parent, legal guardian, or trustee.

Selling Raffle Tickets

- Raffle tickets may not be advertised or sold until a gaming event licence has been issued and may only be advertised or sold during the approved licence period.
- Raffle tickets may only be distributed to persons who purchase a ticket for a raffle, or to those who are selling raffle tickets on behalf of the licensee.
- Raffle tickets must be sold for the price indicated on the ticket and adhere to the pricing and quantities available for sale as approved on the gaming event licence.
- Tickets must be paid for using point of sale, EFT, cash, certified cheque, or money order. Ticket stubs or counterfoils cannot be included in any draw until the payment clears.



Drawing Winners and Awarding Prizes

- Draws must be open to all ticket holders without additional charge.
- Prizes must be awarded as advertised and approved on the gaming event licence.
- The total number of prizes advertised and awarded must be the same as the total number of winning tickets drawn.
- Board members and those listed as responsible for the conduct and management (officers responsible) of an event are not permitted to purchase tickets for that raffle.
- Prizes offered must not include any of the following ineligible prizes: Liquor or alcohol of any kind (wine, beer, spirits, etc.), live animals cannabis products or paraphernalia, or prohibited or restricted firearms as defined in the Firearms Act (Canada).
- Reconciliations must be conducted to ensure that each sold ticket is included in the draw.
- The licensee must also announce the sequence of drawing to award prizes before the draw starts.

Person Responsible for Selecting Winning Counterfoils

- Must be 19 years of age or older.
- Cannot own a ticket or own a share of a ticket in the draw.
- Must not wear jewelry or clothing on the arm reaching into the container (arm must be bare from the elbow to the hand).
- Must not be able to see the printed information on tickets in the container.
- Must select the tickets in a way the witnesses are satisfied that the person is not influencing the outcome of the draw.
- Must select only one counterfoil at a time. Counterfoils must be mixed, at a minimum, after 10 counterfoils have been drawn.

Counterfoil

Goes into the draw barrel.

Ticket

Goes to the ticket purchaser.

Recording Prize Winners

At the time of the draw, a list of winners must be completed, signed and witnessed by at least two volunteers; one of whom is a board member of the organization, or a person authorized by the board.

The list of winners must contain the following:

- Date and time of the draw.
- Record of each ticket stub or counterfoil drawn.
- Ticket serial number.
- Name, email/ mailing address and telephone number of the prize winner.
- Winners must provide a signature before claiming prizes valued \$100 or more.
- List of winners is to be retained as part of the organization's gaming records for the required 5 years.

Online Resources



Information about gaming event classes, types, and the Licensed Charitable Gaming Rules are available here: [Licensed Charitable Gaming](#).

Additional information, news and updates can be found on the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch website at: [Gambling and fundraising - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](#).