

Fact sheet

Gaming nights

This fact sheet outlines the applicable requirements and best practice for holding a gaming night.

What is a gaming night?

There is an increase in the popularity of charitable and non-profit organisations conducting “casino gaming nights” for the purpose of raising funds.

Although the format of such events may vary, they normally involve a participant being given or purchasing chips, tokens, play money or similar play pieces which are otherwise valueless. These are used to play well known casino table games – roulette, blackjack, two-up and crown and anchor.

These types of games are illegal under the *Unlawful Gambling Act 1998* if players risk a stake on the outcome. This includes players, at the conclusion of the event, using the chips to bid in an auction. The chips should not be seen to have any intrinsic value whatsoever.

If the method of playing or conducting such events is modified to remove the element of player “risking a stake on the outcome”, then illegal gaming will not occur.

How to conduct lawful gaming nights

If you intend to conduct “casino gaming nights” or similar casino type events you must comply with the following requirements:

- ▲ an admission fee or donation may be charged for entry into the event (the fundraising amount)
- ▲ gaming chips, tokens, etc. must be distributed fairly to participants

- ▲ further chips or tokens may be purchased during the event
- ▲ patrons cannot risk a stake on the outcome
- ▲ patrons cannot win and cannot lose anything of value while playing the games
- ▲ chips cannot be redeemed for money or anything of value
- ▲ chips cannot be used for the purpose of bidding in an auction either during or after the event.

Persons playing in “casino gaming nights” do so for the entertainment value and with the knowledge that the proceeds from the event will help the benefiting charity.

If there is any variation to this format, you must obtain a ruling from NSW Fair Trading by emailing lottery.enquiries@finance.nsw.gov.au

For further information

This guide is designed to provide accurate and authoritative information in regard to the subject matter covered, and with the understanding that NSW Fair Trading, part of NSW Department of Finance, Services and Innovation is not passing legal opinion or other professional advice. If you require a more detailed understanding of the legislation, it is recommended that you contact a specialist adviser.

The law governing the conduct of this lottery or game of chance is the *Lotteries and Art Unions Act 1901* and the *Lotteries and Art Unions Regulation 2014*. Online access to the legislation is available at legislation.nsw.gov.au