

Regulations relating to bingo

Legal authority: Issued by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture.....pursuant to Act no 11 of 24 February 1995 relating to lotteries etc. section 3.

Chapter 1. General provisions

Section 1. For the purpose of these Regulations, the following terms shall mean:

- a) *Bingo*: a game of chance in which a player wins when a certain combination of pre-defined numbers on his or her ticket is called out.
- b) *Ticket*: a game card consisting of number combinations.
- c) *Main game*: a bingo game in which all the players present on the premises can participate using paper or electronic tickets. The numbers that are drawn shall be called out one after the other and to all players at the same time.
- d) *Side game*: a lottery in the form of computer bingo or pre-drawn paper-based lotteries.
- e) *Linked bingo*: a bingo game in which there is a common draw for several bingo premises and the players play for the same prizes.
- f) *Split-the-pot bingo*: a bingo game played for the benefit of several different causes in which the profit is split between them.
- g) *Day report*: a daily report on bingo turnover and prizes for main games and side games.
- h) *Organiser*: contractor or association responsible for organising main games and side games of bingo.
- i) *Internal bingo*: a bingo game played at meetings that are closed to the general public and where the lottery is not the main purpose of the meeting.

Section 2. Permits to arrange bingo games and associated side games are granted by the Gaming Authority. Permits can only be granted to associations that have been approved pursuant to the (Norwegian) Lottery Act section 4. The Gaming Authority decides how long in advance applications for planned bingo games must be submitted.

Any one association can only be granted one permit for organising main games per year. The permit can cover the sale of tickets for up to NOK 700,000.

The Gaming Authority may grant several permits to one association if it deems it necessary in order to avoid unreasonable results.

Section 3. The organiser and his/her employees may not participate in the game.

Persons under 18 years of age are not permitted to be present on bingo premises.

On applying to organise bingo games in premises without electronic main games or side games, the Gaming Authority may grant exemption from the minimum age requirement of 18 years.

All electronic terminals on bingo premises shall be labelled with standard information about the Helpline for gambling addicts.

Chapter 2. Main games

Section 4. Bingo games shall consist of main games. An application to organise side games can also be submitted, see Chapter 3.

Section 5. Only tickets approved by the Gaming Authority may be used for paper-based main games. The printer or importer's name and control number consisting of serial numbers or unique numbers shall be printed on the tickets. When a contractor is used, the name of the contractor and of the bingo premises shall be stated on the tickets. The tickets in a ticket book shall be numbered unless they have different colours.

Electronic tickets shall have dedicated serial numbers and unique numbers. The name of the organiser, bingo premises and manufacturer shall be stated on the ticket. Up to 30 electronic tickets may be purchased per game.

The numbers that are drawn in the main game shall be called out twice before a new draw takes place.

Section 6. Importers, Norwegian manufacturers and dealers of tickets are obliged to keep records of their ticket sales to each individual organiser. The records shall include information about ticket control numbers, the date of delivery and information about any returned or shredded tickets.

The ticket supplier shall state the control numbers on invoices. The invoice shall be enclosed with the association's accounts.

At the request of the gaming authorities, importers, Norwegian manufacturers and dealers are obliged to provide information from their records.

Section 7. During the bingo game, the tickets shall be sold consecutively in numerical order. The first and final number that is sold shall be stated in the day report, together with the total number of tickets sold.

If the tickets are not sold in numerical order, any unsold tickets in between shall be shredded. The day report shall include information about any shredded ticket numbers and how many tickets, if any, have been shredded. The Gaming Authority can grant exemption from the shredding requirement if the organiser can document good accounting procedures for the sale of such tickets.

0 Amended by Regulations no 1651 of 13 Dec. 2007 (in force from 1 January 2008).

Section 8. Tickets may only be sold to the players on the same date as they are used in a bingo game.

It is not permitted to require a player to buy more than one ticket for each round of bingo.

All forms of games in which there is no stake in the form of a fixed amount in cash are prohibited.

Section 9. The value of each individual prize must not exceed NOK 5,000.

In addition to prizes as mentioned in the first paragraph, an extra prize may be offered with a value of up to NOK 5,000. If the prize is not paid out, it can be carried over to the next bingo day. The jackpot prize can either be collected in two different pots, neither of which may exceed a value of NOK 35,000, or it can consist of one pot of NOK 70,000.

Section 10. If several players with non-identical tickets win the bingo at the same time, the prize shall be shared equally between them.

If several players with identical tickets win the bingo at the same time, they must all receive the full prize.

Section 11. The bingo permit and an overview of the bingo programme must be posted in a clearly visible place on the bingo premises. The bingo programme shall include the price of bingo tickets.

The organiser shall store the bingo programme for a period of five years.

Section 12. Split-the-pot games with a duration of up to one year can be permitted. When applying for split-the-pot games, all participating associations must apply at the same time. It must be clearly stated that the application is for a split-the-pot game and what period the application covers.

Permits for split-the-pot games may not be granted to bingo games subject to simplified financial reporting, cf. section 20 a).

In connection with split-the-pot games, disbursements to the various causes shall be made at least once every six months.

Section 13. For main games, a charge of NOK 1,250 per permit shall be paid to the state.

Section 14. Internal bingo may be organised without a permit provided that the total value of the prizes does not exceed NOK 2,000.

Chapter 3. Side games

Section 15. Associations that organise main games can also be granted a permit to organise side games during the same period. Side games can only take place on premises where main games are also held.

A permit to organise computer bingo will not be granted for premises in which the turnover for the main game is less than NOK 2 million per year. The turnover from the main game shall govern how many computer bingo terminals the permit shall be granted for. A permit will not be granted for more than 30 computer bingo terminals in any one bingo premises.

Section 16. The term side game covers computer bingo and pre-drawn paper-based lotteries.

By computer bingo is meant electronic bingo games in which the players' terminals are connected and there is a common draw for all the terminals. The numbers drawn can be distributed to the tickets simultaneously or consecutively. On completion of a game, at least 60 seconds shall elapse before a new draw can be made.

It is not permitted to give players the option of buying extra draws (numbers).

It is a requirement that a minimum of ten terminals are connected in one and the same premises and it is permitted to buy up to five tickets per game. Only one computer bingo game may be organised on one premises.

A stake must have been paid for minimum two terminals before numbers can be drawn.

An individual prize of up to NOK 2,500 may be offered in computer bingo. In addition to this, an extra prize of up to NOK 12,000 may be offered.

Pre-drawn lotteries can have a maximum prize of NOK 1,000 and the stake must not exceed NOK 10.

Section 17. A charge of NOK 25 per day shall be paid to the state for the use of premises for computer bingo.

For pre-drawn lotteries, the charge is NOK 10 per day.

Chapter 4. Requirements relating to profits

Section 18. A bingo permit is granted on the condition that at least 15% of the profit from the main game shall fall to the organisation for whose benefit the bingo is held. The profit shall be calculated on the basis of the actual prizes disbursed, but it shall not however be more than 70% of the gross turnover.

In the case of bingo side games, the requirement is that a minimum of 30% of the profit shall go to the causes.

By profit is meant gross turnover after the deduction of prizes.

Chapter 5. Requirements relating to accounts

Section 19. Separate accounts shall be kept and reported for the main game and the side games.

Section 20. A day report shall be produced for each day, stating ticket turnover and the payment of prizes in the main game. The report and vouchers shall be produced on prescribed forms.

The Gaming Authority can grant exemption from the above requirement in the case of electronic games, if it finds that the prescribed forms can be replaced by print-outs.

On expiry of a permit, a summary of the day reports shall be produced together with an overview of payments to causes. In the case of split-the-pot games, a summary of day reports and an overview of disbursements to each individual association shall be produced at least every six months. The summary shall be sent to the Gaming Authority on the prescribed form within six weeks.

Day reports relating to side games shall also be produced, containing an overview of the turnover and prizes in each side game. A summary of the day reports for side games shall be submitted at the same time as the summary for the main game.

When contractors are used, the summary of day reports shall be confirmed by a registered public accountant.

Section 20a. Notwithstanding the above, the rules in section 20 relating to financial reporting shall not apply if a permit has been granted to organise bingo subject to simplified financial reporting. Such a permit can be granted to associations that organise bingo themselves (association-run bingo) on condition that the association's total turnover from the main game and side games does not exceed NOK 250,000 per calendar year.

The financial report shall be prepared on the prescribed form and sent to the Gaming Authority within six weeks of the expiry of the permit period.

Section 21. In the case of linked bingo games (main game and computer bingo), separate accounts shall be kept for each bingo premises. The accounts for each bingo premises will form the basis for the calculation of the profit, cf. Section 18.

Chapter 6. Bingo on local radio/television

Section 22. The provisions in chapters 1 to 5 shall apply insofar as they are relevant.

Section 23. A permit can only be granted to licensed local radio stations/ local television stations, and on condition that the revenues from the lottery will be used to finance its activities.

Section 24. A permit can be granted to organise bingo once a week. Any one local radio station/ local television station can only be granted one permit for main games per year.

Section 25. Sales number, control numbers, the name of the station and brief information about the game must be printed on the tickets.

To identify the ticket, the week number, day and time or the number of the bingo round shall be printed on the ticket.

Section 26. The tickets shall be sold in advance from one or more sales outlets with which the organiser has signed a contract. The contract shall be enclosed with the application for a bingo permit. Tickets may also be sold from the station's office.

The Gaming Authority can decide to prohibit the sale of bingo tickets elsewhere than in a station's licence area if such sales are in direct competition with bingo events organised by another local radio station/ local television station.

The sale of tickets for a bingo game may not commence until the previous game has been concluded. Ticket sales must stop within a reasonable period of time before the start of the event.

The sales outlets shall sign a receipt for tickets received. Unsold tickets shall be returned to the organiser together with a signed sales statement before the numbers are drawn.

In special cases, the Gaming Authority can decide that unsold tickets and sales statements can be submitted after the bingo game has been concluded. In such case, the organiser must obtain information from the sales outlet by other means to find out which tickets have been sold. Unsold tickets must be shredded by the person in charge once the day's game has been concluded.

Section 27. The value of each individual prize must not exceed NOK 5,000. The total value of prizes on any one bingo day must not exceed NOK 25,000.

In addition to prizes as mentioned in the first paragraph, an extra prize may be offered with a value of up to NOK 5,000.

If the prize is not paid out, it can be carried over to the following bingo day. The jackpot prize can be collected in two different pots, neither of which may have a value exceeding NOK 70,000.

Section 28. The draw shall take place in the studio on the air. The numbers shall be registered as they are drawn. A master binder or checklist must be available to check

whether any of the tickets sold have resulted in a win. A computer system may also be used to carry out this check.

Section 29. Prizes shall only be paid to players who call during the course of the broadcast to report that they have a win. A prize may only be paid on presentation of the ticket.

Section 30. An overview of the bingo programme shall be available at the sales outlets and announced on the local radio/ local television station during the broadcast.

Section 31. None of those present in the studio during the broadcast may participate in the game.

Chapter 7. Final provisions

Section 32. A permit to set up bingo machines can only be granted if the Gaming Authority finds that the game will be subject to satisfactory control. A permit may not be granted for a longer period than until 31 March 2010. In the case of bingo machines, it is a requirement that a minimum of 30% of the profit falls to the club or association that installs the machine. After 15 August 2007, it is not permitted to use banknotes to play bingo machines. Bingo machines may not be placed on premises that also contain change machines for changing banknotes into cash. If the machine has a slot for notes, it must be disabled by means of a permanent internal or external physical barrier.

Section 33. In the event of any breach of the rules set out in these Regulations, the general sanctions provided for in the Lottery Act chapter 3 shall apply.

Section 34. The Gaming Authority may grant exemption from the provisions of these Regulations.

Section 35. These Regulations enter into force on Regulations no. 1528 of 30. November 2004 relating to bingo are repealed from the same date.