

## California Gambling Control Commission Remote Caller Bingo Process

Senate Bill 1369 (Cedillo and Battin, Chapter 748, Statutes of 2008) enacted the California Remote Caller Bingo Act (Act) to authorize eligible nonprofit organizations to conduct remote caller bingo as a means to raise funds for their charitable purpose. Senate Bill 126 (Cedillo, Chapter 562, Statutes of 2009) made various technical changes to the Act. Remote caller bingo is based on the playing of a traditional game of bingo. The numbers or symbols from randomly drawn plastic balls are announced by a live bingo caller at a host game site and simultaneously transmitted by the use of audio and video technology to remote game sites. The host game site and remote game sites are operated by members of nonprofit organizations, except where otherwise permitted by law. All remote caller bingo game sites must be located within California.

One key element that differentiates remote caller bingo from a traditional game of bingo is that the prize limit in a remote caller bingo game is based on a percentage of the gross receipts, which cannot exceed 37%. Under traditional bingo, the prize limit is \$500 per game. This provides the opportunity to attract players by offering higher prize amounts than a traditional game of bingo.

For additional information or any questions regarding remote caller bingo, please refer to the Commission's website at [://www.cgcc.ca.gov/bingo.asp](http://www.cgcc.ca.gov/bingo.asp) or contact the Remote Caller Bingo Program at (916) 263-0700.

The steps below provide an overview of the process to become authorized to participate in remote caller bingo.

### Step 1 – Organization Recognition

An authorized representative of the organization shall submit a *Statement of Eligibility to Conduct Remote Caller Bingo (CGCC-618)*.

- ✓ The organization must meet one of the following requirements:
  - A. Be exempt from the payment of the bank and corporation tax under section 23701a, 23701b, 23701d, 23701e, 23701f, 23701g, 23701k, 23701w, or 23701l of the Revenue and Taxation Code.
  - B. Be a mobilehome park association
  - C. Be a senior citizens organization
  - D. Be a charitable organization affiliated with a school district
- ✓ The organization shall have been incorporated or in existence for three years or more.
- ✓ The organization shall be licensed or authorized by a city, county, or city and county to conduct bingo games. (The local license number and expiration date must be submitted.)
- ✓ The receipts of the game shall be used only for charitable purposes.
- ✓ The operation of bingo may not be the primary purpose for which the organization is organized.

Note: Upon Commission recognition of an organization as being eligible to conduct remote caller bingo, a letter will be sent to the organization that notifies them of the additional requirements to be satisfied prior to actually conducting remote caller bingo games. These requirements are also described below.

## Step 2 – Applications for Interim Licenses and Work Permits

Applications for interim licenses and work permits can be submitted before, after, or at the same time as the organization recognition (Step 1). Applicants that are approved will receive an approval letter from the Commission.

- 1) An *Application for Interim License for Remote Caller Bingo (CGCC-620)* must be submitted for each individual that will perform duties in the following categories:
  - Fiduciary<sup>1</sup>
  - Site Manager<sup>2</sup>
  - Bingo Caller<sup>3</sup>
- 2) An *Application for Interim Work Permit for Remote Caller Bingo (CGCC-622)* must be submitted for any individual (volunteer or paid employee) working for the organization performing duties in any of the following capacities:
  - Administrative<sup>4</sup>
  - Managerial<sup>6</sup>
  - Technical<sup>8</sup>
  - Financial,<sup>5</sup>
  - Security<sup>7</sup>

Note: The organization will need to identify individuals and their license or work permit numbers prior to conducting any games at the time the 30-day Notice of Intent to Conduct Remote Caller Bingo (Step 5) is submitted. This shall include one designated fiduciary, the site manager for each site, the bingo caller for the host game site, and any individuals that are required to have work permits.

## Step 3 – Controls, Methodology, and Standards of Game Play

Submit the controls, methodology, and standards of game play to the Commission.<sup>9</sup>  
This shall include:

- ✓ The equipment used to select bingo numbers and create or originate cards.
- ✓ How cards are controlled and maintained, are distributed to participating locations, and to the players.

Note:

- ✓ The controls shall be deemed approved by the Commission after 90 days from the date of submission, unless disapproved. The Commission may also approve the controls in less than 90 days.
- ✓ The controls may be submitted at any time during the organization recognition or interim licensing process; however, they must be approved prior to conducting remote caller bingo games.

<sup>1</sup> Defined in Title 4, California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 12480(b)(9)

<sup>2</sup> Defined in Title 4, CCR Section 12480(b)(38)

<sup>3</sup> Defined in Title 4, CCR Section 12480(b)(5)

<sup>4</sup> Defined in Title 4, CCR Section 12480(b)(1)

<sup>5</sup> Defined in Title 4, CCR Section 12480(b)(10)

<sup>6</sup> Defined in Title 4, CCR Section 12480(b)(17)

<sup>7</sup> Defined in Title 4, CCR Section 12480(b)(36)

<sup>8</sup> Defined in Title 4, CCR Section 12480(b)(40)

<sup>9</sup> Required pursuant to Title 4, CCR Section 12511

#### Step 4 – Request Approval of Remote Caller Bingo Equipment

Submit a written list to the Commission of all equipment to be used, including any equipment used in the transmission of the game, at least 30 days prior to conducting remote caller bingo games.<sup>10</sup> The list should include:

- ✓ The make and model number of the equipment to be used
- ✓ The manufacturer, distributor, or vendor from which the item was purchased, leased or, otherwise acquired.

**Note:** The list may be submitted at the same time as the 30-Day Notice of Intent to Conduct Remote Caller Bingo Games, as indicated below in Step 5.

#### Step 5 – 30-Day Notice of Intent to Conduct Remote Caller Bingo

Submit a written Notice of Intent to Conduct Remote Caller Bingo Games,<sup>11</sup> to the Commission at least 30 days in advance, which must include the following information:

- ✓ Legal name of the authorized organization.
- ✓ Address of record of the agent upon who legal notice may be served.
- ✓ Location and license number of the bingo caller.
- ✓ Location and license number of each site manager.
- ✓ Names and work permit numbers of any administrative, managerial, technical, financial, and security personnel.
- ✓ Name and license number of any vendor or person or entity maintaining the equipment used to operate and transmit the game.
- ✓ Name and license number of the designated fiduciary.
- ✓ A copy of the ordinance authorizing remote caller bingo for the city, county, or city and county for each location in which the games will be played (host and each remote site).

**Note:** The local ordinance must explicitly allow remote caller bingo games to be played or conducted in the city, county, or city and county. If the ordinance has not been amended to allow remote caller bingo games, the organization will need to work with the local governing agency to establish the appropriate ordinance. It is suggested that organizations begin working with their local jurisdiction early in the application process. Model ordinance language is included in paragraph (1) of subdivision (c) of section 326.3 of the Penal Code and is posted on the Commission’s website.

Also the local ordinance does not have to be amended prior to submitting applications for organization recognition (Step 1) or interim licenses and work permits (Step 2). However, the local ordinance must be amended prior to submitting the 30-Day Notice of Intent to Conduct Remote Caller Bingo (Step 5).

<sup>10</sup> Required pursuant to Title 4, CCR Section 12488

<sup>11</sup> Pursuant to Title 4, CCR Section 12508 and Penal Code section 326.3(i)(4)