



## GAMBLING CONTROL COMMISSION

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TRANG TO

September 9, 2020

To: California Cardroom Industry Members

Re: Outdoor Gambling

As these unprecedented times continue, we must continue to keep public health as a top priority. However, the California Gambling Control Commission (Commission) recognizes the detriment to the industry the coronavirus (COVID-19) has caused. When possible and within reason, the Commission continues to adapt in order for the industry to continue operations, even at a limited capacity, during the current State of Emergency. At times, this requires the Commission to adapt beyond our comfort zone, such as with outdoor gambling.

The Gambling Control Act and subsequent Commission and Bureau of Gambling Control (Bureau) regulations never contemplated cardrooms conducting gambling in an outdoor environment, but don't expressly prohibit outdoor gambling. As such, in the interest of public health and allowing the cardroom industry an option to safely resume operations, the Commission and Bureau worked with the Governor's Office, California Department of Public Health, and the Department of Industrial Relations to outline requirements for those cardrooms that choose to temporarily conduct outdoor gambling. The [Outdoor Operations of Cardrooms](#) guidelines (Outdoor Guidelines) were released earlier today. Per the Statewide [Public Health Officer Order \(Order\)](#) released on July 13, 2020, cardrooms **must** follow the guidelines issued in order to preserve public health, safety and welfare. In addition to complying with all existing requirements, cardrooms must ensure all local jurisdiction reviews, approvals, and/or permits are received prior to operating. For information regarding whether a cardroom is able to operate, and if so under what restrictions, please review the Commission's industry notice released on August 28, 2020 regarding the [New California Blueprint for a Safer Economy and How it Relates to Cardrooms](#).

All cardrooms operating outdoors are strongly encouraged to work with the Bureau to ensure the outdoor operations are conducted safely, securely, and in compliance with existing statutes, regulations, and all applicable requirements. In addition, it is requested that the following be provided to the Bureau, via email to [gamblingcontrol@doj.ca.gov](mailto:gamblingcontrol@doj.ca.gov), by cardrooms prior to conducting outdoor gambling:

- An updated security and surveillance plan incorporating any changes made due to conducting outdoor operations;
- An updated emergency fire safety and evacuation plan;

- A detailed map outlining where outdoor gambling activities will occur and the designated outdoor perimeter;
- Photos of the outdoor gaming operation; and,
- Description of any changes made to the operation of the cage(s) and/or count room.

For clarification, the Bureau will not be providing any approval to conduct outdoor gambling; however, the Bureau will conduct inspections to ensure that outdoor gambling is conducted safely, securely, and in compliance with existing statutes, regulations, and all applicable requirements.

If a cardroom has been conducting outdoor gambling prior to today, assuming all local requirements are met and outdoor gambling is allowed for that specific cardroom per [California's Blueprint for a Safer Economy](#), those cardrooms can continue to conduct outdoor gambling; however, those cardrooms previously conducting outdoor gambling must come into compliance with all outdoor gambling requirements as soon as possible, but no later than Monday, September 28, 2020.

The Commission has updated its COVID-19 Related Changes FAQs webpage with anticipated FAQs related to conducting outdoor gambling. If you have additional questions, please email the Bureau at [gamblingcontrol@doj.ca.gov](mailto:gamblingcontrol@doj.ca.gov) and/or the Commission at [comments@cgcc.ca.gov](mailto:comments@cgcc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



STACEY LUNA BAXTER  
Executive Director

cc: Cardroom Industry Designated Agents  
Stephanie Shimazu, Director, Bureau of Gambling Control  
Nathan DaValle, Assistant Director, Bureau of Gambling Control  
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