

CHAPTER 134: GAMBLING OFFENSES

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Statutory reference:

Conducting an illegal bingo game, felony, see R.C. § 2915.07

Licensing bingo games by Attorney General, see R.C. § 2915.08

Licensing distributors of bingo supplies by Attorney General, see R.C. § 2915.081

Licensing manufacturers of bingo supplies by Attorney General, see R.C. § 2915.082

§ 134.01 DEFINITIONS.

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

AMATEUR ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION. Any organization, not organized for profit, that is organized and operated exclusively to provide financial support to, or to operate, athletic activities for persons who are training for amateur athletic competition that is sanctioned by a national governing body as defined in the Amateur Sports Act of 1978, 90 Stat. 3045, 36 U.S.C. § 373.

BET. The hazarding of anything of value upon the result of an event, undertaking, or contingency, but does not include a bona fide business risk.

BINGO. Either of the following:

(1) A game with all of the following characteristics:

(a) The participants use bingo cards or sheets, including paper formats and electronic representation or image formats, that are divided into 25 spaces arranged in five horizontal and five vertical rows of spaces, with each space, except the central space, being designated by a combination of a letter and a number and with the central space being designated as a free space;

(b) The participants cover the spaces on the bingo cards or sheets that correspond to combinations of letters and numbers that are announced by a bingo game operator;

(c) A bingo game operator announces combinations of letters and numbers that appear on objects that a bingo game operator selects by chance, either manually or mechanically, from a receptacle that contains 75 objects at the beginning of each game, each object marked by a different combination of a letter and a number that corresponds to one of the 75 possible combinations of a letter and a number that can appear on the bingo cards or sheets;

(d) The winner of the bingo game includes any participant who properly announces during the interval between the announcements of letters and numbers, as described in division (1)(c) of this definition, that a predetermined and pre-announced pattern of spaces has been covered on a bingo card or sheet being used by the participant.

(2) Instant bingo, punch boards, and raffles.

BINGO GAME OPERATOR. Any person, except security personnel, who performs work or labor at the site of bingo including but not limited to collecting money from participants, handing out bingo cards or sheets or objects to cover spaces on bingo cards or sheets, selecting from a receptacle the objects that contain the combination of letters and numbers that appear on bingo cards or sheets, calling out the combinations of letters and numbers, distributing prizes, selling or redeeming instant bingo tickets or cards, supervising the operation of a punch board, selling raffle tickets, selecting raffle tickets from a receptacle and announcing the winning numbers in a raffle, and preparing, selling, and serving food or beverages.

BINGO SESSION. A period that includes both of the following:

(1) Not to exceed five continuous hours for the conduct of one or more games described in division (1) of

the definition of “bingo” in this section, instant bingo, and seal cards;

(2) A period for the conduct of instant bingo and seal cards for not more than two hours before and not more than two hours after the period described in division (1) of this definition.

BINGO SUPPLIES. Bingo cards or sheets; instant bingo tickets or cards; electronic bingo aids; raffle tickets; punch boards; seal cards; instant bingo ticket dispensers; and devices for selecting or displaying the combination of bingo letters and numbers or raffle tickets. Items that are “bingo supplies” are not gambling devices if sold or otherwise provided, and used, in accordance with this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915. For purposes of this chapter, “bingo supplies” are not to be considered equipment used to conduct a bingo game.

BOOKMAKING. The business of receiving or paying off bets.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. Any organization of individuals, professionals, and businesses that has the purpose to advance the commercial, financial, industrial, and civic interests of the community and that is, and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that currently is in effect stating that the organization is, exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(6).

CHARITABLE BINGO GAME. Any bingo game described in divisions (1) or (2) of the definition of “bingo” in this section that is conducted by a charitable organization that has obtained a license pursuant to R.C. § 2915.08 and the proceeds of which are used for a charitable purpose.

CHARITABLE INSTANT BINGO ORGANIZATION. An organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3) and is a charitable organization as defined in this section. The term does not include a charitable organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3) and that is created by a veteran’s organization, a fraternal organization, or a sporting organization in regards to bingo conducted or assisted by a veteran’s organization, a fraternal organization, or a sporting organization pursuant to R.C. § 2915.13, or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, any tax exempt religious, educational, veteran’s, fraternal, sporting, service, nonprofit medical, volunteer rescue service, volunteer firefighter’s, senior citizen’s, historic railroad educational, youth athletic, amateur athletic or youth athletic park organization. An organization is tax exempt if the organization is and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect, stating that the organization is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a)

and described in IRC §§ 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10) or 501(c)(19), or if the organization is a sporting organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and is described in IRC § 501(c)(7). To qualify as a charitable organization, an organization, except a volunteer rescue service or volunteer firefighter’s organization, shall have been in continuous existence as such in this state for a period of two years immediately preceding either the making of an application for a bingo license under R.C. § 2915.08 or the conducting of any game of chance as provided in R.C. § 2915.02(D), or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance. A charitable organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3) and that is created by a veteran’s organization, a fraternal organization, or a sporting organization does not have to have been in continuous existence as such in this state for a period of two years immediately preceding either the making of an application for a bingo license under R.C. § 2915.08 or the conducting of any game of chance as provided in R.C. § 2915.02(D), or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

CHARITABLE PURPOSE. Means that the net profit of bingo, other than instant bingo, is used by, or is given, donated, or otherwise transferred to, any of the following:

(1) Any organization that is described in IRC §§ 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), or 509(a)(3) and is either a governmental unit or an organization that is tax exempt under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3);

(2) A veteran’s organization that is a post, chapter, or organization of veterans, or an auxiliary unit or society of, or a trust or foundation for, any such post, chapter, or organization organized in the United States or any of its possessions, at least 75% of the members of which are veterans and substantially all of the other members of which are individuals who are spouses, widows, or widowers of veterans, or such individuals, provided that no part of the net earnings of such post, chapter, or organization inures to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual, and further provided that the net profit is used by the post, chapter, or organization for the charitable purposes set forth in R.C. § 5739.02(B)(12), is used for awarding scholarships to or for attendance at an institution mentioned in that division of the Ohio Revised Code, is donated to a governmental agency, or is used for nonprofit youth activities, the purchase of United States or Ohio flags that are donated to schools, youth groups, or other bona fide nonprofit organizations, promotion of patriotism, or disaster relief;

(3) A fraternal organization that has been in continuous existence in this state for 15 years and that uses the net profit exclusively for religious, charitable, scientific, literary, or educational purposes, or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals, if contributions for such use would qualify as a deductible charitable contribution under IRC § 170;

(4) A volunteer firefighter's organization that uses the net profit for the purposes set forth in the definition of "volunteer firefighter's organization" in this section.

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY. Has the same meaning as in R.C. § 122.66.

CONDUCT. To back, promote, organize, manage, carry on, sponsor, or prepare for the operation of bingo or a game of chance.

DEAL OF INSTANT BINGO TICKETS. A single game of instant bingo tickets all with the same serial number.

DISTRIBUTOR. Any person who purchases or obtains bingo supplies and who does either of the following:

(1) Sells, offers for sale, or otherwise provides or offers to provide the bingo supplies to another person for use in this state;

(2) Modifies, converts, adds to, or removes parts from the bingo supplies to further their promotion or sale for use in this state.

EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION. Any organization within this state that is not organized for profit, the primary purpose of which is to educate and develop the capabilities of individuals through instruction by means of operating or contributing to the support of a school, academy, college, or university.

ELECTRONIC BINGO AID.

(1) An electronic device used by a participant to monitor bingo cards or sheets purchased at the time and place of a bingo session and that does all of the following:

(a) It provides a means for a participant to input numbers and letters announced by a bingo caller.

(b) It compares the numbers and letters entered by the participant to the bingo faces previously stored in the memory of the device.

(c) It identifies a winning bingo pattern.

(2) The term does not include any device into which a coin, currency, token, or an equivalent is inserted to activate play.

EXPENSES. The reasonable amount of gross profit actually expended for all of the following:

(1) The purchase or lease of bingo supplies;

(2) The annual license fee required under R.C. § 2915.08;

(3) Bank fees and service charges for a bingo session or game account described in R.C. § 2915.10;

(4) Audits and accounting services;

(5) Safes;

(6) Cash registers;

(7) Hiring security personnel;

(8) Advertising bingo;

(9) Renting premises in which to conduct a bingo session;

(10) Tables and chairs;

(11) Expenses for maintaining and operating a charitable organization's facilities, including but not limited to a post home, club house, lounge, tavern, or canteen and any grounds attached to the post home, club house, lounge, tavern, or canteen;

(12) Payment of real property taxes and assessments that are levied on a premises on which bingo is conducted;

(13) Any other product or service directly related to the conduct of bingo that is authorized in rules adopted by the Attorney General under R.C. § 2915.08(B)(1).

FRATERNAL ORGANIZATION. Any society, order, state headquarters, or association within this state, except a college or high school fraternity, that is not organized for profit, that is a branch, lodge, or chapter of a national or state organization, that exists exclusively for the common business or sodality of its members.

GAMBLING DEVICE. Any of the following:

(1) A book, totalizer, or other equipment used for recording bets;

(2) A ticket, token, or other device representing a chance, share, or interest in a scheme of chance or evidencing a bet;

(3) A deck of cards, dice, gaming table, roulette wheel, slot machine, or other apparatus designed for use in connection with a game of chance;

(4) Any equipment, device, apparatus, or paraphernalia specially designed for gambling purposes;

(5) Bingo supplies sold or otherwise provided, or used, in violation of this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915.

GAMBLING OFFENSE. Any of the following:

(1) A violation of R.C. § 2915.02, 2915.03, 2915.04, 2915.05, 2915.06, 2915.07, 2915.08, 2915.081, 2915.082, 2915.09, 2915.091, 2915.092, 2915.10, or 2915.11;

(2) A violation of an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or of the United States substantially equivalent to any section listed in division (1) of this definition or a violation of R.C. § 2915.06 as it existed prior to July 1, 1996;

(3) An offense under an existing or former municipal ordinance or law of this or any other state or of the United States, of which gambling is an element;

(4) A conspiracy or attempt to commit, or complicity in committing, any offense under division (1), (2), or (3) of this definition.

GAME FLARE. The board or placard that accompanies each deal of instant bingo tickets and that has printed on or affixed to it the following information for the game:

- (1) The name of the game;
- (2) The manufacturer's name or distinctive logo;
- (3) The form number;
- (4) The ticket count;
- (5) The prize structure, including the number of winning instant bingo tickets by denomination and the respective winning symbol or number combinations for the winning instant bingo tickets;
- (6) The cost per play;
- (7) The serial number of the game.

GAME OF CHANCE. Poker, craps, roulette, or other game in which a player gives anything of value in the hope of gain, the outcome of which is determined largely by chance, but does not include bingo.

GAME OF CHANCE CONDUCTED FOR PROFIT. Any game of chance designed to produce income for the person who conducts or operates the game of chance, but does not include bingo.

GROSS ANNUAL REVENUES. The annual gross receipts derived from the conduct of bingo described in division (1) of the definition of "bingo" in this section plus the annual net profit derived from the conduct of bingo described in division (2) of the definition of "bingo" in this section.

GROSS PROFIT. Gross receipts minus the amount actually expended for the payment of prize awards.

GROSS RECEIPTS. All money or assets, including admission fees, that a person receives from bingo without the deduction of any amounts for prizes paid out or for the expenses of conducting bingo. The term does not include any money directly taken in from the sale of food or beverages by a charitable organization conducting bingo, or by a bona fide auxiliary unit or society of a charitable organization conducting bingo, provided all of the following apply:

(1) The auxiliary unit or society has been in existence as a bona fide auxiliary unit or society of the charitable organization for at least two years prior to conducting bingo.

(2) The person who purchases the food or beverage receives nothing of value except the food or beverage and items customarily received with the purchase of that food or beverage.

(3) The food and beverages are sold at customary and reasonable prices.

HISTORIC RAILROAD. All or a portion of the tracks and right-of-way of a railroad that was owned and operated by a for profit common carrier in this state at any time prior to January 1, 1950.

HISTORIC RAILROAD EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION. An organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3), that owns in fee simple the tracks and the right-of-way of a historic railroad that the organization restores or maintains and on which the organization provides excursions as part of a program to promote tourism and educate visitors regarding the role of railroad transportation in Ohio history, and that received as donations from a charitable organization that holds a license to conduct bingo under this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915 an amount equal to at least 50% of that licensed charitable organization's net proceeds from the conduct of bingo during each of the five years preceding June 30, 2003.

INSTANT BINGO. A form of bingo that uses folded or banded tickets or paper cards with perforated break-open tabs, a face of which is covered or otherwise hidden from view to conceal a number, letter, or symbol, or set of numbers, letters, or symbols, some of which have been designated in advance as prize winners. The term includes seal cards. The term does not include any device that is activated by the insertion of a coin, currency, token, or an equivalent, and that contains as one of its components a video display monitor that is capable of displaying numbers, letters, symbols, or characters in winning or losing combinations.

INSTANT BINGO TICKET DISPENSER. A mechanical device that dispenses an instant bingo ticket or

card as the sole item of value dispensed and that has the following characteristics:

- (1) It is activated upon the insertion of United States currency.
- (2) It performs no gaming functions.
- (3) It does not contain a video display monitor or generate noise.
- (4) It is not capable of displaying any numbers, letters, symbols, or characters in winning or losing combinations.
- (5) It does not simulate or display rolling or spinning reels.
- (6) It is incapable of determining whether a dispensed bingo ticket or card is a winning or non-winning ticket or card and requires a winning ticket or card to be paid by a bingo game operator.
- (7) It may provide accounting and security features to aid in accounting for the instant bingo tickets or cards it dispenses.
- (8) It is not part of an electronic network and is not interactive.

INTERNAL REVENUE CODE (IRC). The Internal Revenue Code of 1986, 100 Stat. 2085, 26 U.S.C. §§ 1 et seq., as now or hereafter amended.

MANUFACTURER. Any person who assembles completed bingo supplies from raw materials, other items, or subparts or who modifies, converts, adds to, or removes parts from bingo supplies to further their promotion or sale.

MERCHANDISE PRIZE. Any item of value, but shall not include any of the following:

- (1) Cash, gift cards, or any equivalent thereof;
 - (2) Plays on games of chance, state lottery tickets, bingo, or instant bingo;
 - (3) Firearms, tobacco, or alcoholic beverages;
- or
- (4) A redeemable voucher that is redeemable for any of the items listed in division (1), (2), or (3) of this definition.

NET PROFIT. Gross profit minus expenses.

NET PROFIT FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE SALE OF INSTANT BINGO. Gross profit minus the ordinary, necessary, and reasonable expense expended for the purchase of instant bingo supplies.

NONPROFIT MEDICAL ORGANIZATION. Either of the following:

- (1) Any organization that has been incorporated as a nonprofit corporation for at least five years and that has continuously operated and will be operated exclusively to provide, or to contribute to the support of organizations or institutions organized and operated exclusively to provide hospital, medical, research, or therapeutic services for the public;
- (2) Any organization that is described and qualified under IRC § 501(c)(3), that has been incorporated as a nonprofit corporation for at least five years, and that has continuously operated and will be operated primarily to provide, or to contribute to the support of organizations or institutions organized or operated primarily to provide hospital, medical, research, or therapeutic services for the public.

PARTICIPANT. Any person who plays bingo.

PERSON. Has the same meaning as in R.C. § 1.59 and includes any firm or any other legal entity, however organized.

POOL NOT CONDUCTED FOR PROFIT. A scheme in which a participant gives a valuable consideration for a chance to win a prize and the total amount of consideration wagered is distributed to a participant or participants.

PUNCH BOARD. A board containing a number of holes or receptacles of uniform size in which are placed, mechanically and randomly, serially numbered slips of paper that may be punched or drawn from the hole or receptacle when used in conjunction with instant bingo. A player may punch or draw the numbered slips of paper from the holes or receptacles and obtain the prize established for the game if the number drawn corresponds to a winning number or, if the punch board includes the use of a seal card, a potential winning number.

RAFFLE. A form of bingo in which the one or more prizes are won by one or more persons who have purchased a raffle ticket. The one or more winners of the raffle are determined by drawing a ticket stub or other detachable section from a receptacle containing ticket stubs or detachable sections corresponding to all tickets sold for the raffle. The term does not include the drawing of a ticket stub or other detachable section of a ticket purchased to attend a professional sporting event if both of the following apply:

- (1) The ticket stub or other detachable section is used to select the winner of a free prize given away at the professional sporting event; and
- (2) The cost of the ticket is the same as the cost of a ticket to the professional sporting event on days when no free prize is given away.

REDEEMABLE VOUCHER. Any ticket, token, coupon, receipt, or other noncash representation of value.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION. Any church, body of communicants, or group that is not organized or operated for profit and that gathers in common membership for regular worship and religious observances.

REVOKE. To void permanently all rights and privileges of the holder of a license issued under R.C. § 2915.08, 2915.081, or 2915.082 or a charitable gaming license issued by another jurisdiction.

SCHEME OF CHANCE. A slot machine, lottery, numbers game, pool conducted for profit, or other scheme in which a participant gives a valuable consideration for a chance to win a prize, but does not include bingo, a skill-based amusement machine, or a pool not conducted for profit.

SEAL CARD. A form of instant bingo that uses instant bingo tickets in conjunction with a board or placard that contains one or more seals that, when removed or opened, reveal predesignated winning numbers, letters, or symbols.

SECURITY PERSONNEL. Includes any person who either is a Sheriff, deputy sheriff, Marshal, deputy marshal, township constable, or member of an organized police department of a municipal corporation or has successfully completed a peace officer's training course pursuant to R.C. §§ 109.71 through 109.79 and who is hired to provide security for the premises on which bingo is conducted.

SENIOR CITIZEN'S ORGANIZATION. Any private organization, not organized for profit, that is organized and operated exclusively to provide recreational or social services for persons who are 55 years of age or older and that is described and qualified under IRC § 501(c)(3).

SERVICE ORGANIZATION. Either of the following:

(1) Any organization, not organized for profit, that is organized and operated exclusively to provide or to contribute to the support of organizations or institutions organized and operated exclusively to provide medical and therapeutic services for persons who are disabled, born with birth defects, or have any other mental or physical disabilities or those organized and operated exclusively to protect or to contribute to the support of organizations or institutions organized and operated exclusively to protect animals from inhumane treatment or to provide immediate shelter to victims of domestic violence;

(2) Any organization that is described in IRC §§ 509(a)(1), 509(a)(2), or 509(a)(3) and is either a governmental unit or an organization that is tax exempt under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3) and that is an organization, not organized for profit, that is organized and operated primarily to provide, or to contribute to the support of organizations or institutions

organized and operated primarily to provide, medical and therapeutic services for persons who are disabled, born with birth defects, or have any other mental or physical disability.

SKILL-BASED AMUSEMENT MACHINE.

(1) (a) A mechanical, video, digital, or electronic device that rewards the player or players, if at all, only with merchandise prizes or with redeemable vouchers redeemable only for merchandise prizes, provided that with respect to rewards for playing the game all of the following apply:

1. The wholesale value of a merchandise prize awarded as a result of the single play of a machine does not exceed \$10;

2. Redeemable vouchers awarded for any single play of a machine are not redeemable for a merchandise prize with a wholesale value of more than \$10;

3. Redeemable vouchers are not redeemable for a merchandise prize that has a wholesale value of more than \$10 times the fewest number of single plays necessary to accrue the redeemable vouchers required to obtain that prize; and

4. Any redeemable vouchers or merchandise prizes are distributed at the site of the skill-based amusement machine at the time of play.

(b) A card for the purchase of gasoline is a redeemable voucher for purposes of division (1) of this definition even if the skill-based amusement machine for the play of which the card is awarded is located at a place where gasoline may not be legally distributed to the public or the card is not redeemable at the location of, or at the time of playing, the skill-based amusement machine.

(2) A device shall not be considered a skill-based amusement machine and shall be considered a slot machine if it pays cash or one or more of the following apply:

(a) The ability of a player to succeed at the game is impacted by the number or ratio of prior wins to prior losses of players playing the game;

(b) Any reward of redeemable vouchers is not based solely on the player achieving the object of the game or the player's score;

(c) The outcome of the game, or the value of the redeemable voucher or merchandise prize awarded for winning the game, can be controlled by a source other than any player playing the game;

(d) The success of any player is or may be determined by a chance event that cannot be altered by player actions;

(e) The ability of any player to succeed at the game is determined by game features not visible or known to the player;

(f) The ability of the player to succeed at the game is impacted by the exercise of a skill that no reasonable player could exercise.

(3) All of the following apply to any machine that is operated as described in division (1) of this definition:

(a) As used in this section, **GAME** and **PLAY** mean one event from the initial activation of the machine until the results of play are determined without payment of additional consideration. An individual utilizing a machine that involves a single game, play, contest, competition, or tournament may be awarded redeemable vouchers or merchandise prizes based on the results of play.

(b) Advance play for a single game, play, contest, competition, or tournament participation may be purchased. The cost of the contest, competition, or tournament participation may be greater than a single non-contest, competition, or tournament play.

(c) To the extent that the machine is used in a contest, competition, or tournament, that contest, competition, or tournament has a defined starting and ending date and is open to participants in competition for scoring and ranking results toward the awarding of redeemable vouchers or merchandise prizes that are stated prior to the start of the contest, competition, or tournament.

(4) For purposes of division (1) of this definition, the mere presence of a device, such as a pin-setting, ball-releasing, or scoring mechanism, that does not contribute to or affect the outcome of the play of the game does not make the device a skill-based amusement machine.

SLOT MACHINE.

(1) Either of the following:

(a) Any mechanical, electronic, video, or digital device that is capable of accepting anything of value, directly or indirectly, from or on behalf of a player who gives the thing of value in the hope of gain;

(b) Any mechanical, electronic, video, or digital device that is capable of accepting anything of value, directly or indirectly, from or on behalf of a player to conduct bingo or a scheme or game of chance.

(2) The term does not include a skill-based amusement machine or an instant bingo ticket dispenser.

SPORTING ORGANIZATION. A hunting, fishing, or trapping organization, other than a college or high school fraternity or sorority, that is not organized for profit, that is

affiliated with a state or national sporting organization, including but not limited to the Ohio League of Sportsmen, and that has been in continuous existence in this state for a period of three years.

SUSPEND. To interrupt temporarily all rights and privileges of the holder of a license issued under R.C. § 2915.08, 2915.081, or 2915.082 or a charitable gaming license issued by another jurisdiction.

VETERAN'S ORGANIZATION. Any individual post or state headquarters of a national veteran's association or an auxiliary unit of any individual post of a national veteran's association, which post, state headquarters, or auxiliary unit is incorporated as a nonprofit corporation and either has received a letter from the state headquarters of the national veteran's association indicating that the individual post or auxiliary unit is in good standing with the national veteran's association or has received a letter from the national veteran's association indicating that the state headquarters is in good standing with the national veteran's association. As used in this definition, **NATIONAL VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION** means any veteran's association that has been in continuous existence as such for a period of at least five years and either is incorporated by an act of the United States Congress or has a national dues-paying membership of at least 5,000 persons.

VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER'S ORGANIZATION. Any organization of volunteer firefighters, as defined in R.C. § 146.01, that is organized and operated exclusively to provide financial support for a volunteer fire department or a volunteer fire company and that is recognized or ratified by a county, municipal corporation, or township.

VOLUNTEER RESCUE SERVICE ORGANIZATION. Any organization of volunteers organized to function as an emergency medical service organization, as defined in R.C. § 4765.01.

YOUTH ATHLETIC ORGANIZATION. Any organization, not organized for profit, that is organized and operated exclusively to provide financial support to, or to operate, athletic activities for persons who are 21 years of age or younger by means of sponsoring, organizing, operating, or contributing to the support of an athletic team, club, league, or association.

YOUTH ATHLETIC PARK ORGANIZATION. Any organization, not organized for profit, that satisfies both of the following:

(1) It owns, operates, and maintains playing fields that satisfy both of the following:

(a) The playing fields are used at least 100 days per year for athletic activities by one or more organizations, not organized for profit, each of which is organized and operated exclusively to provide financial support to, or to operate, athletic activities for persons who

are 18 years of age or younger by means of sponsoring, organizing, operating, or contributing to the support of an athletic team, club, league, or association.

(b) The playing fields are not used for any profit-making activity at any time during the year.

(2) It uses the proceeds of bingo it conducts exclusively for the operation, maintenance, and improvement of its playing fields of the type described in division (1) of this definition.
(R.C. § 2915.01) (Rev. 2012)

§ 134.02 PROHIBITIONS AGAINST GAMBLING; EXCEPTION.

(A) No person shall do any of the following:

(1) Engage in bookmaking, or knowingly engage in conduct that facilitates bookmaking.

(2) Establish, promote, or operate or knowingly engage in conduct that facilitates any game of chance conducted for profit or any scheme of chance.

(3) Knowingly procure, transmit, exchange, or engage in conduct that facilitates the procurement, transmission, or exchange of information for use in establishing odds or determining winners in connection with bookmaking or with any game of chance conducted for profit or any scheme of chance.

(4) Engage in betting or in playing any scheme or game of chance as a substantial source of income or livelihood.

(5) With purpose to violate division (A)(1), (A)(2), (A)(3), or (A)(4) of this section, acquire, possess, control, or operate any gambling device.

(B) For purposes of division (A)(1) of this section, a person facilitates bookmaking if the person in any way knowingly aids an illegal bookmaking operation, including, without limitation, placing a bet with a person engaged in or facilitating illegal bookmaking. For purposes of division (A)(2) of this section, a person facilitates a game of chance conducted for profit or a scheme of chance if the person in any way knowingly aids in the conduct or operation of any such game or scheme, including, without limitation, playing any such game or scheme.

(C) This section does not prohibit conduct in connection with gambling expressly permitted by law.

(D) This section does not apply to any of the following:

(1) Games of chance, if all of the following apply:

(a) The games of chance are not craps for money or roulette for money.

(b) The games of chance are conducted by a charitable organization that is and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect, stating that the organization is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3).

(c) The games of chance are conducted at festivals of the charitable organization that are conducted either for a period of four consecutive days or less and not more than twice a year, or for a period of five consecutive days not more than once a year, and are conducted on premises owned by the charitable organization for a period of no less than one year immediately preceding the conducting of the games of chance, on premises leased from a governmental unit, or on premises that are leased from a veteran’s or fraternal organization and that have been owned by the lessor veteran’s or fraternal organization for a period of no less than one year immediately preceding the conducting of the games of chance. A charitable organization shall not lease premises from a veteran’s or fraternal organization to conduct a festival described in this division, if the veteran’s or fraternal organization already has leased the premises 12 times during the preceding year to charitable organizations for that purpose. If a charitable organization leases premises from a veteran’s or fraternal organization to conduct a festival described in this division, the charitable organization shall not pay a rental rate for the premises per day of the festival that exceeds the rental rate per bingo session that a charitable organization may pay under R.C. § 2915.09(B)(1) or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance when it leases premises from another charitable organization to conduct bingo games.

(d) All of the money or assets received from the games of chance after deduction only of prizes paid out during the conduct of the games of chance are used by, given, donated or otherwise transferred to any organization that is described in IRC § 509(a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) and is either a governmental unit or an organization that is tax exempt under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3).

(e) The games of chance are not conducted during or within ten hours of a bingo game conducted for amusement purposes only pursuant to R.C. § 2915.12 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance. No person shall receive any commission, wage, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity, or other form of compensation, directly or indirectly, for operating or assisting in the operation of any game of chance.

(2) Any tag fishing tournament, as defined in R.C. § 1531.01, operated under a permit issued under R.C. § 1533.92.

(3) Bingo conducted by a charitable organization that holds a license issued under R.C. § 2915.08.

(E) Division (D) of this section shall not be construed to authorize the sale, lease, or other temporary or permanent transfer of the right to conduct games of chance, as granted by that division, by any charitable organization that is granted that right.

(F) Whoever violates this section is guilty of gambling, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of any gambling offense, gambling is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

(R.C. § 2915.02) (Rev. 2011)

§ 134.03 OPERATING A GAMBLING HOUSE.

(A) No person, being the owner or lessee, or having custody, control, or supervision of premises, shall:

(1) Use or occupy the premises for gambling in violation of R.C. § 2915.02 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

(2) Recklessly permit the premises to be used or occupied for gambling in violation of R.C. § 2915.02 or a substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty of operating a gambling house, a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a gambling offense, operating a gambling house is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

(C) Premises used or occupied in violation of this section constitute a nuisance subject to abatement under R.C. Chapter 3767.
(R.C. § 2915.03) (Rev. 2003)

§ 134.04 PUBLIC GAMING.

(A) No person, while at a hotel, restaurant, tavern, store, arena, hall, or other place of public accommodation, business, amusement, or resort shall make a bet or play any game of chance or scheme of chance.

(B) No person, being the owner or lessee, or having custody, control, or supervision of a hotel, restaurant, tavern, store, arena, hall, or other place of public accommodation, business, amusement, or resort shall recklessly permit those premises to be used or occupied in violation of division (A) of this section.

(C) Divisions (A) and (B) of this section do not prohibit conduct in connection with gambling expressly permitted by law.

(D) Whoever violates this section is guilty of public gaming. Except as otherwise provided in this division, public gaming is a minor misdemeanor. If the offender

previously has been convicted of any gambling offense, public gaming is a misdemeanor of the fourth degree.

(E) Premises used or occupied in violation of division (B) of this section constitute a nuisance subject to abatement under R.C. Chapter 3767.
(R.C. § 2915.04) (Rev. 2003)

§ 134.05 CHEATING.

(A) No person, with purpose to defraud or knowing that the person is facilitating a fraud, shall engage in conduct designed to corrupt the outcome of any of the following:

(1) The subject of a bet.

(2) A contest of knowledge, skill, or endurance that is not an athletic or sporting event.

(3) A scheme or game of chance.

(4) Bingo.

(B) No person shall knowingly do any of the following:

(1) Offer, give, solicit, or accept anything of value to corrupt the outcome of an athletic or sporting event.

(2) Engage in conduct designed to corrupt the outcome of an athletic or sporting event.

(C) (1) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty of cheating. Except as otherwise provided in this division, cheating is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the potential gain from the cheating is \$1,000 or more or if the offender previously has been convicted of any gambling offense or of any theft offense as defined in R.C. § 2913.01, cheating is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

(2) Whoever violates division (B) of this section is guilty of corrupting sports. Corrupting sports is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
(R.C. § 2915.05) (Rev. 2012)

§ 134.06 REGULATIONS CONCERNING OPERATION OF LICENSED BINGO GAME.

(A) No charitable organization that conducts bingo shall fail to do any of the following:

(1) Own all of the equipment used to conduct bingo or lease that equipment from a charitable organization that is licensed to conduct bingo, or from the landlord of a premises where bingo is conducted, for a rental rate that is not more than is customary and reasonable for that equipment;

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (A)(3) of this section, use all of the gross receipts from bingo for paying prizes, for reimbursement of expenses for or for renting premises in which to conduct bingo, for reimbursement of expenses for or for purchasing or leasing bingo supplies used in conducting bingo, for reimbursement of expenses for or for hiring security personnel, for reimbursement of expenses for or for advertising bingo, or for reimbursement of other expenses or for other expenses listed in the definition for “expenses” in R.C. § 2915.01, provided that the amount of the receipts so spent is not more than is customary and reasonable for a similar purchase, lease, hiring, advertising, or expense. If the building in which bingo is conducted is owned by the charitable organization conducting bingo and the bingo conducted includes a form of bingo described in division (1) of the definition of “bingo” in R.C. § 2915.01, the charitable organization may deduct from the total amount of the gross receipts from each session a sum equal to the lesser of \$600 or 45% of the gross receipts from the bingo described in that division as consideration for the use of the premises;

(3) Use, or give, donate, or otherwise transfer, all of the net profit derived from bingo, other than instant bingo, for a charitable purpose listed in its license application and described in the definition for “charitable purpose” in R.C. § 2915.01, or distribute all of the net profit from the proceeds of the sale of instant bingo as stated in its license application and in accordance with R.C. § 2915.101.

(B) No charitable organization that conducts a bingo game described in division (1) of the definition of “bingo” in R.C. § 2915.01 shall fail to do any of the following:

(1) Conduct the bingo game on premises that are owned by the charitable organization, on premises that are owned by another charitable organization and leased from that charitable organization for a rental rate not in excess of the lesser of \$650 per bingo session or 45% of the gross receipts of the bingo session, on premises that are leased from a person other than a charitable organization for a rental rate that is not more than is customary and reasonable for premises that are similar in location, size, and quality but not in excess of \$450 per bingo session, or on premises that are owned by a person other than a charitable organization, that are leased from that person by another charitable organization, and that are subleased from that other charitable organization by the charitable organization for a rental rate not in excess of \$450 per bingo session. If the charitable organization leases from a person other than a charitable organization the premises on which it conducts bingo sessions, the lessor of the premises shall provide only the premises to the organization and shall not provide the organization with bingo game operators, security personnel, concessions or concession operators, bingo supplies, or any other type of service. A charitable organization shall not lease or sublease premises that it owns or leases to more than one other charitable organization per calendar week for the purpose of conducting bingo sessions on the premises. A person that is not a charitable

organization shall not lease premises that it owns, leases, or otherwise is empowered to lease to more than three charitable organizations per calendar week for conducting bingo sessions on the premises. In no case shall more than nine bingo sessions be conducted on any premises in any calendar week;

(2) Display its license conspicuously at the premises where the bingo session is conducted;

(3) Conduct the bingo session in accordance with division (1) of the definition of “bingo” in R.C. § 2915.01.

(C) No charitable organization that conducts a bingo game described in division (1) of the definition of “bingo” in R.C. § 2915.01 shall do any of the following:

(1) Pay any compensation to a bingo game operator for operating a bingo session that is conducted by the charitable organization or for preparing, selling, or serving food or beverages at the site of the bingo session, permit any auxiliary unit or society of the charitable organization to pay compensation to any bingo game operator who prepares, sells, or serves food or beverages at a bingo session conducted by the charitable organization, or permit any auxiliary unit or society of the charitable organization to prepare, sell, or serve food or beverages at a bingo session conducted by the charitable organization, if the auxiliary unit or society pays any compensation to the bingo game operators who prepare, sell, or serve the food or beverages;

(2) Pay consulting fees to any person for any services performed in relation to the bingo session;

(3) Pay concession fees to any person who provides refreshments to the participants in the bingo session;

(4) Except as otherwise provided in division (C)(4) of this section, conduct more than three bingo sessions in any seven-day period. A volunteer firefighter’s organization or a volunteer rescue service organization that conducts not more than five bingo sessions in a calendar year may conduct more than three bingo sessions in a seven-day period after notifying the Attorney General when it will conduct the sessions;

(5) Pay out more than \$6,000 in prizes for bingo games described in R.C. § 2915.01(S)(1) during any bingo session that is conducted by the charitable organization. “Prizes” does not include awards from the conduct of instant bingo.

(6) Conduct a bingo session at any time during the ten-hour period between midnight and 10:00 a.m., at any time during, or within ten hours of, a bingo game conducted for amusement only pursuant to R.C. § 2915.12 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, at any premises not specified on its license, or on any day of the week or

during any time period not specified on its license. This division does not prohibit the sale of instant bingo tickets beginning at 9:00 a.m. for a bingo session that begins at 10:00 a.m. If circumstances make it impractical for the charitable organization to conduct a bingo session at the premises, or on the day of the week or at the time specified on its license or if a charitable organization wants to conduct bingo sessions on a day of the week or at a time other than the day or time specified on its license, the charitable organization may apply in writing to the Attorney General for an amended license pursuant to R.C. § 2915.08(F). A charitable organization may apply twice in each calendar year for an amended license to conduct bingo sessions on a day of the week or at a time other than the day or time specified on its license. If the amended license is granted, the organization may conduct bingo sessions at the premises, on the day of the week, and at the time specified on its amended license;

(7) Permit any person whom the charitable organization knows, or should have known, is under the age of 18 to work as a bingo game operator;

(8) Permit any person whom the charitable organization knows, or should have known, has been convicted of a felony or gambling offense in any jurisdiction to be a bingo game operator;

(9) Permit the lessor of the premises on which the bingo session is conducted, if the lessor is not a charitable organization, to provide the charitable organization with bingo game operators, security personnel, concessions, bingo supplies, or any other type of service;

(10) Purchase or lease bingo supplies from any person except a distributor issued a license under R.C. § 2915.081;

(11) (a) Use or permit the use of electronic bingo aids except under the following circumstances:

1. For any single participant, not more than 90 bingo faces can be played using an electronic bingo aid or aids.

2. The charitable organization shall provide a participant using an electronic bingo aid with corresponding paper bingo cards or sheets.

3. The total price of bingo faces played with an electronic bingo aid shall be equal to the total price of the same number of bingo faces played with a paper bingo card or sheet sold at the same bingo session but without an electronic bingo aid.

4. An electronic bingo aid cannot be part of an electronic network other than a network that includes only bingo aids and devices that are located on the premises at which the bingo is being conducted or be interactive with any device not located on the premises at which the bingo is being conducted.

5. An electronic bingo aid cannot be used to participate in bingo that is conducted at a location other than the location at which the bingo session is conducted and at which the electronic bingo aid is used.

6. An electronic bingo aid cannot be used to provide for the input of numbers and letters announced by a bingo caller other than the bingo caller who physically calls the numbers and letters at the location at which the bingo session is conducted and at which the electronic bingo aid is used.

(b) The Attorney General may adopt rules in accordance with R.C. Chapter 119 that govern the use of electronic bingo aids. The rules may include a requirement that an electronic bingo aid be capable of being audited by the Attorney General to verify the number of bingo cards or sheets played during each bingo session.

(12) Permit any person the charitable organization knows, or should have known, to be under 18 years of age to play bingo described in division (1) of the definition of "bingo" in R.C. § 2915.01.

(D) (1) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(3) of this section, no charitable organization shall provide to a bingo game operator, and no bingo game operator shall receive or accept, any commission, wage, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity, or other form of compensation, directly or indirectly, regardless of the source, for conducting bingo or providing other work or labor at the site of bingo during a bingo session.

(2) Except as otherwise provided in division (D)(3) of this section, no charitable organization shall provide to a bingo game operator any commission, wage, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity, or other form of compensation, directly or indirectly regardless of the source, for conducting instant bingo other than at a bingo session at the site of instant bingo other than at a bingo session.

(3) Nothing in this division (D) of this section prohibits an employee of a fraternal organization, veteran's organization, or sporting organization from selling instant bingo tickets or cards to the organization's members or invited guests, as long as no portion of the employee's compensation is paid from any receipts of bingo.

(E) Notwithstanding division (B)(1) of this section, a charitable organization that, prior to December 6, 1977, has entered into written agreements for the lease of premises it owns to another charitable organization or other charitable organizations for the conducting of bingo sessions so that more than two bingo sessions are conducted per calendar week on the premises, and a person that is not a charitable organization and that, prior to December 6, 1977, has entered into written agreements for the lease of premises it owns to charitable organizations for the conducting of more than two bingo sessions per calendar week on the premises, may continue to lease the premises to those charitable organizations, provided that no more than four sessions are

conducted per calendar week, that the lessor organization or person has notified the Attorney General in writing of the organizations that will conduct the sessions and the days of the week and the times of the day on which the sessions will be conducted, that the initial lease entered into with each organization that will conduct the sessions was filed with the Attorney General prior to December 6, 1977, and that each organization that will conduct the sessions was issued a license to conduct bingo games by the Attorney General prior to December 6, 1977.

(F) This section does not prohibit a bingo licensed charitable organization or a game operator from giving any person an instant bingo ticket as a prize.

(G) Whoever violates division (A)(2) of this section is guilty of illegally conducting a bingo game, a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law. Except as otherwise provided in this division, whoever violates division (A)(1), (A)(3), (B)(1), (B)(2), (B)(3), (C)(1) through (C)(11), or (D) of this section is guilty of a minor misdemeanor. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of division (A)(1), (A)(3), (B)(1), (B)(2), (B)(3), (C)(1) through (C)(11), or (D) of this section, a violation of division (A)(1), (A)(3), (B)(1), (B)(2), (B)(3), (C)(1) through (C)(11), or (D) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Whoever violates division (C)(12) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of division (C)(12) of this section, a violation of division (C)(12) of this section is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
(R.C. § 2915.09) (Rev. 2011)

§ 134.07 RECORDS TO BE KEPT.

(A) No charitable organization that conducts bingo or a game of chance pursuant to R.C. § 2915.02(D), or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, shall fail to maintain the following records for at least three years from the date on which the bingo or game of chance is conducted:

(1) An itemized list of the gross receipts of each bingo session, each game of instant bingo by serial number, each raffle, each punch board game, and each game of chance, and an itemized list of the gross profits of each game of instant bingo by serial number;

(2) An itemized list of all expenses, other than prizes, that are incurred in conducting bingo or instant bingo, the name of each person to whom the expenses are paid, and a receipt for all of the expenses;

(3) A list of all prizes awarded during each bingo session, each raffle, each punch board game, and each game of chance conducted by the charitable organization, the total prizes awarded from each game of instant bingo by serial number, and the name, address, and social security number of all persons who are winners of prizes of \$600 or more in value;

(4) An itemized list of the recipients of the net profit of bingo or game of chance, including the name and address of each recipient to whom the money is distributed, and if the organization uses the net profit of bingo, or the money or assets received from a game of chance, for any charitable or other purpose set forth in R.C. § 2915.01(Z), R.C. § 2915.02(D), or R.C. § 2915.101, a list of each purpose and an itemized list of each expenditure for each purpose;

(5) The number of persons who participate in any bingo session or game of chance that is conducted by the charitable organization;

(6) A list of receipts from the sale of food and beverages by the charitable organization or one of its auxiliary units or societies, if the receipts were excluded from "gross receipts" under R.C. § 2915.01(X);

(7) An itemized list of all expenses incurred at each bingo session, each raffle, each punch board game, or each game of instant bingo conducted by the charitable organization in the sale of food and beverages by the charitable organization or by an auxiliary unit or society of the charitable organization, the name of each person to whom the expenses are paid, and a receipt for all of the expenses.

(B) A charitable organization shall keep the records that it is required to maintain pursuant to division (A) of this section at its principal place of business in this state or at its headquarters in this state and shall notify the Attorney General of the location at which those records are kept.

(C) The gross profit from each bingo session or game described in division (1) or (2) of the definition of "bingo" in R.C. § 2915.01 shall be deposited into a checking account devoted exclusively to the bingo session or game. Payments for allowable expenses incurred in conducting the bingo session or game and payments to recipients of some or all of the net profit of the bingo session or game shall be made only by checks drawn on the bingo session or game account.

(D) Each charitable organization shall conduct and record an inventory of all of its bingo supplies as of the first day of November of each year.

(E) The Attorney General may adopt rules in accordance with R.C. Chapter 119 that establish standards of accounting, record keeping, and reporting to ensure that gross receipts from bingo or games of chance are properly accounted for.

(F) A distributor shall maintain, for a period of three years after the date of its sale or other provision, a record of each instance of its selling or otherwise providing to another person bingo supplies for use in this state. The record shall include all of the following for each instance:

(1) The name of the manufacturer from which the distributor purchased the bingo supplies and the date of the purchase;

(2) The name and address of the charitable organization or other distributor to which the bingo supplies were sold or otherwise provided;

(3) A description that clearly identifies the bingo supplies;

(4) Invoices that include the nonrepeating serial numbers of all paper bingo cards and sheets and all instant bingo deals sold or otherwise provided to each charitable organization.

(G) A manufacturer shall maintain, for a period of three years after the date of its sale or other provision, a record of each instance of its selling or otherwise providing bingo supplies for use in this state. The record shall include all of the following for each instance:

(1) The name and address of the distributor to whom the bingo supplies were sold or otherwise provided;

(2) A description that clearly identifies the bingo supplies, including serial numbers;

(3) Invoices that include the nonrepeating serial numbers of all paper bingo cards and sheets and all instant bingo deals sold or otherwise provided to each distributor.

(H) (1) The Attorney General or any law enforcement agency may do all of the following:

(a) Investigate any charitable organization or any officer, agent, trustee, member, or employee of the organization;

(b) Examine the accounts and records of the organization;

(c) Conduct inspections, audits, and observations of bingo or games of chance;

(d) Conduct inspections of the premises where bingo or games of chance are conducted;

(e) Take any other necessary and reasonable action to determine if a violation of any provision of this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915 has occurred and to determine whether R.C. § 2915.11, or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance, has been complied with.

(2) If any law enforcement agency has reasonable grounds to believe that a charitable organization or an officer, agent, trustee, member, or employee of the organization has violated any provision of this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915, the law enforcement agency may proceed by action in the proper court to enforce this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915, provided that the law enforcement agency shall give written notice to the Attorney General when commencing an action as described in this division.

(I) No person shall destroy, alter, conceal, withhold, or deny access to any accounts or records of a charitable organization that have been requested for examination, or obstruct, impede, or interfere with any inspection, audit, or observation of bingo or a game of chance or premises where bingo or a game of chance is conducted, or refuse to comply with any reasonable request of, or obstruct, impede, or interfere with any other reasonable action undertaken by, the Attorney General or a law enforcement agency pursuant to division (H) of this section.

(J) Whoever violates division (A) or (I) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (R.C. § 2915.10) (Rev. 2004)

§ 134.08 REQUIREMENTS FOR BINGO GAME OPERATORS.

(A) No person shall be a bingo game operator unless the person is 18 years of age or older.

(B) No person who has been convicted of a felony or a gambling offense in any jurisdiction shall be a bingo game operator.

(C) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the third degree. Whoever violates division (B) of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. (R.C. § 2915.11) (Rev. 2003)

§ 134.09 BINGO GAMES FOR AMUSEMENT ONLY.

(A) Sections 134.06 through 134.13 do not apply to bingo games that are conducted for the purpose of amusement only. A bingo game is conducted for the purpose of amusement only if it complies with all of the requirements specified in either division (A)(1) or (A)(2) of this section.

(1) (a) The participants do not pay any money or any other thing of value, including an admission fee or any fee, for bingo cards or sheets, objects to cover the spaces, or other devices used in playing bingo, for the privilege of participating in the bingo game, or to defray any costs of the game, or pay tips or make donations during or immediately before or after the bingo game.

(b) All prizes awarded during the course of the game are non-monetary, and in the form of merchandise, goods, or entitlement to goods or services only, and the total value of all prizes awarded during the game is less than \$100.

(c) No commission, wages, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity, or other form of compensation, either directly or indirectly, and regardless of the source, is paid to any bingo game operator for work or labor performed at the site of the bingo game.

(d) The bingo game is not conducted either during or within ten hours of any of the following:

1. A bingo session during which a charitable bingo game is conducted pursuant to R.C. §§ 2915.07 through 2915.11 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance.

2. A scheme or game of chance, or bingo described in division (2) of its definition in R.C. § 2915.01.

(e) The number of players participating in the bingo game does not exceed 50.

(2) (a) The participants do not pay money or any other thing of value as an admission fee, and no participant is charged more than \$0.25 to purchase a bingo card or sheet, objects to cover the spaces, or other devices used in playing bingo.

(b) The total amount of money paid by all of the participants for bingo cards or sheets, objects to cover the spaces, or other devices used in playing bingo does not exceed \$100.

(c) All of the money paid for bingo cards or sheets, objects to cover spaces, or other devices used in playing bingo is used only to pay winners monetary and nonmonetary prizes and to provide refreshments.

(d) The total value of all prizes awarded during the game does not exceed \$100.

(e) No commission, wages, salary, reward, tip, donation, gratuity, or other form of compensation, either directly or indirectly, and regardless of the source, is paid to any bingo game operator for work or labor performed at the site of the bingo game.

(f) The bingo game is not conducted during or within ten hours of either of the following:

1. A bingo session during which a charitable bingo game is conducted pursuant to R.C. §§ 2915.07 through 2915.11 or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance;

2. A scheme of chance or a game of chance, or bingo described in division (2) of its definition in R.C. § 2915.01.

(g) All of the participants reside at the premises where the bingo game is conducted.

(h) The bingo games are conducted on different days of the week and not more than twice in a calendar week.

(B) The Attorney General or any local law enforcement agency may investigate the conduct of a bingo

game that purportedly is conducted for purposes of amusement only if there is reason to believe that the purported amusement bingo game does not comply with the requirements of either division (A)(1) or (A)(2) of this section. A local law enforcement agency may proceed by action in the proper court to enforce this section if the local law enforcement agency gives written notice to the Attorney General when commencing the action.

(R.C. § 2915.12) (Rev. 2003)

§ 134.10 PROHIBITIONS WHERE INSTANT BINGO GAME IS CONDUCTED.

(A) No charitable organization that conducts instant bingo shall do any of the following:

(1) Fail to comply with the requirements of R.C. § 2915.09(A)(1), (A)(2), and (A)(3), or any substantially equivalent municipal ordinance;

(2) Conduct instant bingo unless either of the following applies:

(a) That organization is, and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect stating that the organization is, exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a), is described in IRC § 501(c)(3), is a charitable organization as defined in R.C. § 2915.01, is in good standing in the state pursuant to R.C. § 2915.08, and is in compliance with R.C. Chapter 1716;

(b) That organization is, and has received from the Internal Revenue Service a determination letter that is currently in effect stating that the organization is, exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a), is described in IRC § 501(c)(7), (c)(8), (c)(10), or (c)(19) or is a veteran's organization described in IRC § 501(c)(4), and conducts instant bingo under R.C. § 2915.13.

(3) Conduct instant bingo on any day, at any time, or at any premises not specified on the organization's license issued pursuant to R.C. § 2915.08;

(4) Permit any person whom the organization knows or should have known has been convicted of a felony or gambling offense in any jurisdiction to be a bingo game operator in the conduct of instant bingo;

(5) Purchase or lease supplies used to conduct instant bingo or punch board games from any person except a distributor licensed under R.C. § 2915.081;

(6) Sell or provide any instant bingo ticket or card for a price different from the price printed on it by the manufacturer on either the instant bingo ticket or card or on the game flare;

(7) Sell an instant bingo ticket or card to a person under 18 years of age;

(8) Fail to keep unsold instant bingo tickets or cards for less than three years;

(9) Pay any compensation to a bingo game operator for conducting instant bingo that is conducted by the organization or for preparing, selling, or serving food or beverages at the site of the instant bingo game, permit any auxiliary unit or society of the organization to pay compensation to any bingo game operator who prepares, sells, or serves food or beverages at an instant bingo game conducted by the organization, or permit any auxiliary unit or society of the organization to prepare, sell, or serve food or beverages at an instant bingo game conducted by the organization, if the auxiliary unit or society pays any compensation to the bingo game operators who prepare, sell, or serve the food or beverages;

(10) Pay fees to any person for any services performed in relation to an instant bingo game;

(11) Pay fees to any person who provides refreshments to the participants in an instant bingo game;

(12) (a) Allow instant bingo tickets or cards to be sold to bingo game operators at a premises at which the organization sells instant bingo tickets or cards or to be sold to employees of a D permit holder who are working at a premises at which instant bingo tickets or cards are sold;

(b) Division (A)(12)(a) of this section does not prohibit a licensed charitable organization or a bingo game operator from giving any person an instant bingo ticket as a prize in place of a cash prize won by a participant in an instant bingo game. In no case shall an instant bingo ticket or card be sold or provided for a price different from the price printed on it by the manufacturer on either the instant bingo ticket or card or on the game flare.

(13) Fail to display its bingo license, and the serial numbers of the deal of instant bingo tickets or cards to be sold, conspicuously at each premises at which it sells instant bingo tickets or cards;

(14) Possess a deal of instant bingo tickets or cards that was not purchased from a distributor licensed under R.C. § 2915.081 as reflected on an invoice issued by the distributor that contains all of the information required by R.C. § 2915.10(E);

(15) Fail, once it opens a deal of instant bingo tickets or cards, to continue to sell the tickets or cards in that deal until the tickets or cards with the top two highest tiers of prizes in that deal are sold;

(16) Possess bingo supplies that were not obtained in accordance with R.C. Chapter 2915.

(B) (1) A charitable organization may conduct instant bingo other than at a bingo session at not more than five separate locations. A charitable organization that is exempt from federal taxation under IRC § 501(a) and

described in IRC § 501(c)(3) and that is created by a veteran's organization or a fraternal organization is not limited in the number of separate locations the charitable organization may conduct instant bingo other than at a bingo session.

(2) A charitable organization may purchase, lease, or use instant bingo ticket dispensers to sell instant bingo tickets or cards.

(C) Pursuant to R.C. § 2915.091(C), the Attorney General may adopt rules in accordance with R.C. Chapter 119 that govern the conduct of instant bingo by charitable organizations.

(D) Whoever violates division (A) of this section or a rule adopted under division (C) of this section is guilty of illegal instant bingo conduct. Except as otherwise provided in this division, illegal instant bingo conduct is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of division (A) of this section or of such a rule adopted under division (C) of this section, illegal instant bingo conduct is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

(R.C. § 2915.091) (Rev. 2011)

§ 134.11 RAFFLE DRAWINGS.

(A) (1) Subject to division (A)(2) of this section, a charitable organization, a public school, a chartered nonpublic school, a community school, or a veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and is described in IRC §§ 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), 501(c)(7), 501(c)(8), 501(c)(10), or 501(c)(19) may conduct a raffle to raise money for the organization or school and does not need a license to conduct bingo in order to conduct a raffle drawing that is not for profit.

(2) If a charitable organization that is described in division (A)(1) of this section, but that is not also described in IRC § 501(c)(3), conducts a raffle, the charitable organization shall distribute at least 50% of the net profit from the raffle to a charitable purpose described in R.C. § 2915.01(Z) or to a department or agency of the federal government, the state, or any political subdivision.

(B) A chamber of commerce may conduct not more than one raffle per year to raise money for the chamber of commerce.

(C) Except as provided in division (A) or (B) of this section, no person shall conduct a raffle drawing that is for profit or a raffle drawing that is not for profit.

(D) Whoever violates division (C) of this section is guilty of illegal conduct of a raffle. Except as otherwise provided in this division, illegal conduct of a raffle is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of division (C) of this

section, illegal conduct of a raffle is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
(R.C. § 2915.092) (Rev. 2005)

§ 134.12 INSTANT BINGO OTHER THAN AT BINGO SESSIONS.

(A) As used in this section, **RETAIL INCOME FROM ALL COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY** means the income that a person receives from the provision of goods, services, or activities that are provided at the location where instant bingo other than at a bingo session is conducted, including the sale of instant bingo tickets. A religious organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3), at not more than one location at which it conducts its charitable programs, may include donations from its members and guests as retail income.

(B) A charitable instant bingo organization may conduct instant bingo other than at a bingo session at not more than five separate locations.

(C) (1) If a charitable instant bingo organization conducts instant bingo other than at a bingo session, the charitable instant bingo organization shall enter into a written contract with the owner or lessor of the location at which the instant bingo is conducted to allow the owner or lessor to assist in the conduct of instant bingo other than at a bingo session, identify each location where the instant bingo other than at a bingo session is being conducted, and identify the owner or lessor of each location.

(2) A charitable instant bingo organization that conducts instant bingo other than at a bingo session is not required to enter into a written contract with the owner or lessor of the location at which the instant bingo is conducted provided that the owner or lessor is not assisting in the conduct of the instant bingo other than at a bingo session and provided that the conduct of the instant bingo other than at a bingo session at that location is not more than five days per calendar year and not more than ten hours per day.

(D) Except as provided in division (G) of this section, no charitable instant bingo organization shall conduct instant bingo other than at a bingo session at a location where the primary source of retail income from all commercial activity at that location is the sale of instant bingo tickets.

(E) The owner or lessor of a location that enters into a contract pursuant to division (C) of this section shall pay the full gross profit to the charitable instant bingo organization, in return for the deal of instant bingo tickets. The owner or lessor may retain the money that the owner or lessor receives for selling the instant bingo tickets, provided, however, that after the deal has been sold, the owner or lessor shall pay to the charitable instant bingo organization the value of any unredeemed instant bingo prizes remaining in the deal of instant bingo tickets. As used

in this division, **FULL GROSS PROFIT** means the amount by which the total receipts of all instant bingo tickets, if the deal has been sold in full, exceeds the amount that would be paid out if all prizes were redeemed.

(F) A charitable instant bingo organization shall provide the Attorney General with all of the following information:

(1) That the charitable instant bingo organization has terminated a contract entered into pursuant to division (C) of this section with an owner or lessor of a location;

(2) That the charitable instant bingo organization has entered into a written contract pursuant to division (C) of this section with a new owner or lessor of a location;

(3) That the charitable instant bingo organization is aware of conduct by the owner or lessor of a location at which instant bingo is conducted that is in violation of R.C. Chapter 2915.

(G) Division (D) of this section does not apply to a volunteer firefighter's organization that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3), that conducts instant bingo other than at a bingo session on the premises where the organization conducts firefighter training, that has conducted instant bingo continuously for at least five years prior to July 1, 2003, and that, during each of those five years, had gross receipts of at least \$1,500,000.
(R.C. § 2915.093) (Rev. 2005)

(H) (1) A veteran's organization, a fraternal organization, or a sporting organization authorized to conduct a bingo session pursuant to R.C. Chapter 2915 may conduct instant bingo other than at a bingo session if all of the following apply:

(a) The veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization limits the sale of instant bingo to 12 hours during any day, provided that the sale does not begin earlier than 10:00 a.m. and ends not later than 2:00 a.m.

(b) The veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization limits the sale of instant bingo to its own premises and to its own members and invited guests.

(c) The veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization is raising money for an organization that is described in IRC § 509(a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) and is either a governmental unit or an organization that maintains its principal place of business in this state, that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3), and that is in good standing in this state and executes a written contract with that organization as required in division (H)(2) of this section.

(2) If a veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization authorized to conduct instant bingo pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section is raising money for another organization that is described in IRC § 509(a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) and is either a governmental unit or an organization that maintains its principal place of business in this state, that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c), and that is in good standing in this state, the veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization shall execute a written contract with the organization that is described in IRC § 509(a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) and is either a governmental unit or an organization that maintains its principal place of business in this state, that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c), and that is in good standing in this state in order to conduct instant bingo. That contract shall include a statement of the percentage of the net proceeds that the veteran's, fraternal, or sporting organization will be distributing to the organization that is described in IRC § 509(a)(1), (a)(2), or (a)(3) and is either a governmental unit or an organization that maintains its principal place of business in this state, that is exempt from federal income taxation under IRC § 501(a) and described in IRC § 501(c)(3), and that is in good standing in this state.

(3) (a) If a veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization authorized to conduct instant bingo pursuant to division (H)(1) of this section has been issued a liquor permit under R.C. Chapter 4303, that permit may be subject to suspension, revocation, or cancellation if the veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization violates a provision of this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915.

(b) No veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization that enters into a written contract pursuant to division (H)(2) of this section shall violate any provision of this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915, or permit, aid, or abet any other person in violating any provision of this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915.

(4) A veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization shall give all required proceeds earned from the conduct of instant bingo to the organization with which the veteran's organization, fraternal organization, or sporting organization has entered into a written contract.

(5) Whoever violates division (H) of this section is guilty of illegal instant bingo conduct. Except as otherwise provided in this division, illegal instant bingo conduct is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of division (H) of this section, illegal instant bingo conduct is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law. (R.C. § 2915.13) (Rev. 2005)

§ 134.13 RESTRICTIONS ON OWNER OR LESSOR OF LOCATION AT INSTANT BINGO.

(A) No owner or lessor of a location shall assist a charitable instant bingo organization in the conduct of instant bingo other than at a bingo session at that location unless the owner or lessor has entered into a written contract, as described in R.C. § 2915.093(C), with the charitable instant bingo organization to assist in the conduct of instant bingo other than at a bingo session.

(B) The location of the lessor or owner shall be designated as a location where the charitable instant bingo organization conducts instant bingo other than at a bingo session.

(C) No owner or lessor of a location that enters into a written contract as prescribed in division (A) of this section shall violate any provision of this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915, or permit, aid, or abet any other person in violating any provision of this chapter or R.C. Chapter 2915.

(D) No owner or lessor of a location that enters into a written contract as prescribed in division (A) of this section shall violate the terms of the contract.

(E) (1) Whoever violates division (C) or (D) of this section is guilty of illegal instant bingo conduct. Except as otherwise provided in this division, illegal instant bingo conduct is a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of division (C) or (D) of this section, illegal instant bingo conduct is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.

(2) If an owner or lessor of a location knowingly, intentionally, or recklessly violates division (C) or (D) of this section, any license that the owner or lessor holds for the retail sale of any goods on the owner's or lessor's premises that is issued by the state or a political subdivision is subject to suspension, revocation, or payment of a monetary penalty at the request of the Attorney General. (R.C. § 2915.094) (Rev. 2003)

§ 134.14 SKILL-BASED AMUSEMENT MACHINES; PROHIBITED CONDUCT.

(A) No person shall give to another person any item described in division (1), (2), (3), or (4) of the definition for "merchandise prize" in § 134.01 in exchange for a noncash prize, toy, or novelty received as a reward for playing or operating a skill-based amusement machine or for a free or reduced-price game won on a skill-based amusement machine.

(B) Whoever violates division (A) of this section is guilty of skill-based amusement machine prohibited conduct. A violation of division (A) of this section is a misdemeanor of the first degree for each redemption of a prize that is

involved in the violation. If the offender previously has been convicted of a violation of division (A) of this section, a violation of that division is a felony to be prosecuted under appropriate state law.
(R.C. § 2915.06) (Rev. 2008)