



RULES GOVERNING RAFFLES AND OTHER GAMES OF CHANCE FOR COUNCILS AND UNITS

Effective Date: November 7, 2025

Issued By: Boy Scouts of America d/b/a Scouting America – National Council (“National”),
Office of the Chief Scout Executive/President & CEO

Applicable To: All chartered local councils (“Councils”) and their authorized Scouting units
 (“Units”)

1. PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

These Rules Governing Raffles and Other Games of Chance for Councils and Units (“Rules”) are promulgated by National for the purpose of establishing minimum standards governing the conduct of raffles and other games of chance (“Games” and, to the extent multiple Games are conducted in proximate time and place, “Events”) by Councils and Units. These Rules are intended to ensure compliance with all applicable laws, uphold the integrity of fundraising activities benefiting Scouting, and protect Scouting’s reputation.

2. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION

Subject to Sections 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the Rules, Councils and Units are authorized to organize and/or conduct Games for charitable fundraising purposes.

3. COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAWS

- a. **Mandatory Compliance.** All Games and Events organized and/or conducted by Councils or Units must comply with all applicable federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations, including but not limited to licensing, registration, reporting, and taxation requirements (“Applicable Laws”).
- b. **Responsibility for Compliance.** Each Council or Unit shall be responsible for determining the legality of any proposed Game or Event, obtaining all necessary governmental approvals, and ensuring compliance with all Applicable Laws. National recommends that each Council or Unit familiarize itself with relevant Applicable Laws, regulatory guidance, and industry standards by consulting publicly accessible resources, including government websites and professional publications.
- c. **Legal Counsel.** National *highly* recommends that each Council or Unit engage or consult with a local attorney to ensure compliance with Applicable Laws.

4. LIMITATIONS & RESTRICTIONS

- a. **Types.** Permissible Games and Events are limited to:
 - i. Raffles/drawings (and similar), including “50:50” raffles;
 - ii. Bingo (and similar);
 - iii. “Wheels” of chance (and similar); and
 - iv. Casino-style Events (including poker, blackjack, baccarat, roulette, and similar), so long as all monies/winnings remain with the Council/Unit.
- b. **Prizes.** Prizes offered in connection with any Game or Event:
 - i. Shall be consistent with Scouting values, including the Scout Oath and Scout Law;
 - ii. Shall be procured or received from reputable persons/organization by means consistent with Scouting values, including the Scout Oath and Scout Law;
 - iii. May include cash/cash equivalents;
 - iv. Shall not include any tobacco or tobacco products or vaping devices;
 - v. With respect to Units (but not Councils), shall not include alcohol; and
 - vi. With respect to Units (but not Councils), shall not include firearms.
- c. **Frequency.** No Council or Unit shall organize and/or conduct more than four (4) Games or Events within any calendar year.
- d. **Locations.** All Games and Events must be conducted at a venue that (i) is within the prescribed geographic area of the Council or is owned/operated by the Council (e.g., camp located outside the Council’s geographic area) and (ii) is otherwise consistent with Scouting values, including the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
- e. **Remote/Virtual.** Notwithstanding subsection (d), raffles/drawings, including “50:50” raffles, may be conducted by remote, electronic, or virtual means. No other Games or Events may be conducted in such manner.
- f. **Scout/Youth Presence & Involvement.** No Council or Unit shall utilize or permit any Scout or other youth/child to attend, advertise, promote, sell tickets to, or otherwise be associated with any of the following:
 - i. An Event containing casino-style Games;
 - ii. An Event containing Bingo;
 - iii. An Event or Game in which any prize will be alcohol; or
 - iv. An Event or Game in which any prize will be a firearm.
- g. **Beneficiary Designation.** All advertisements, tickets, and other materials or communications promoting a Game or Event, whether printed, electronic, or otherwise, must clearly and prominently indicate the specific Council or Unit that is the intended

beneficiary of the proceeds of the Game or Event. References to “Scouting”, “Scouting America”, “Cub Scouts”, “Scouts BSA”, etc. are insufficient to meet this requirement.

- h. **Supplemental Council-Imposed Limitations & Restrictions.** Each Council may impose such additional restrictions, limitations, conditions, and requirements on itself and/or its Units as the Council deems prudent and reasonable, up to and including a wholesale ban of Games and Events within its prescribed geographic area, which may include, but is not limited to any subject matter addressed in subsections (a)-(g) above.

5. UNIT PRE-AUTHORIZATION

In advance of a Unit advertising, marketing, selling tickets to, or organizing/conducting a Game or an Event, the Unit must apply for and obtain written approval from the Council. The application shall be in the form promulgated by or otherwise acceptable to the Council and shall contain at least the following information regarding the proposal:

- a. Date(s) and Locations(s) of Game/Event;
- b. Type(s) of Games;
- c. Type(s) of prizes; and
- d. Name of Responsible Person (as defined below).

6. RESPONSIBLE PERSON; RECORDKEEPING; REPORTING

- a. **Responsible Person.** Each Council or Unit desiring to organize and/or conduct Games and Events shall designate an individual (“Responsible Person”) who will oversee the planning, execution, and monitoring of all Games and Events. The Responsible Person shall:
 - i. Ensure that all Games and Events are conducted in compliance with (A) Applicable Laws, (B) these Rules, and (C) any additional restrictions, limitations, conditions, and requirements imposed by a Council;
 - ii. Coordinate with the legal counsel, regulatory authorities, and the Council (if applicable) as appropriate and required;
 - iii. Maintain appropriate documentation and records;
 - iv. Serve as the primary point of contact for compliance-related inquiries and oversight.

The Responsible Person may be a professional Scouter or a registered Scouting America adult member.

- b. **Required Records.** Each Council or Unit shall maintain accurate and complete records of all Games and Events conducted, including:
 - i. Date(s) and location(s) of Games/Event;
 - ii. Type(s) of Games and Events
 - iii. Types of prize(s) awarded;

- iv. Gross receipts and net proceeds; and
 - v. Licenses, permits, and governmental filings.
- c. **Reporting to National.** Each Council shall submit such reports to National as may be requested from time to time, including annual summaries of fundraising activities involving Games and Events. If requested, Councils will be required to obtain such figures and information from its Units.

7. PASSIVE BENEFICIARIES

Councils (but not Units) are authorized to accept monies from and otherwise be passive beneficiaries of Games and/or Events that are organized and conducted by third parties (e.g., state-wide lottery-style raffles). Such Games and/or Events generally will not solely (or even primarily) benefit Scouting but rather a host of charitable organizations. The foregoing authorization is subject to the following: (A) the third-party organizer(s) and the Games and/or Events being consistent with Scouting values, including the Scout Oath and Scout Law; (B) the Council complying with the terms of Section 3, to the extent applicable, (C) the types of Games and/or Events being consistent with Section 4.a, (D) the prizes offered and awarded being consistent with Section 4.b, (E) the Games/Event being organized and conducted in a state in which the Council has prescribed geographic area; and (F) the Council complying with the terms of Section 6 herein, to the extent applicable.

8. VIOLATIONS

Any violation of Applicable Laws, these Rules, or, in the case of Units, any additional restrictions, limitations, conditions, or requirements imposed by a Council may result in suspension, reduction, or termination of the Council or Unit's privileges set forth herein.

9. AMENDMENTS

These Rules may be amended, modified, or repealed by National at any time. Notice of any such changes shall be provided to all Councils in a timely manner.

SUMMARY OF SELECT RULES

	Council	Unit
Games:		
Raffle/Drawing (Pooled)	Authorized	Authorized
“Casino” Games	Authorized; no Scouts or youth/children to be associated	Authorized; no Scouts or youth/children to be associated allowed
Bingo	Authorized; no Scouts or youth/children to be associated	Authorized; no Scouts or youth/children to be associated
“Wheels” of Chance	Authorized	Authorized
Prizes:		
Cash (e.g., 50/50)	Authorized	Authorized
Alcohol	Authorized; no Scouts or youth/children to be associated	Unauthorized
Firearms	Authorized; no Scouts or youth/children to be associated	Unauthorized
Organizing/Conducting Games & Events:		
Frequency	Maximum of four (4) per calendar year	Maximum of four (4) per calendar year
Location	Within Council boundaries or Council owned/operated property	Within Council boundaries or Council owned/operated property
Remote/Online	Authorized only for raffles	Authorized only for raffles
Scout/Youth/Child Participation (e.g., selling tickets)	Authorized except where for Events with casino games, Bingo, and/or prizes of alcohol or firearms.	Authorized except where for Events with casino games, Bingo, and/or prizes of alcohol or firearms.
Scout/Youth/Child Attendance	Authorized except where for Events with casino games, Bingo, and/or prizes of alcohol or firearms.	Authorized except where for Events with casino games, Bingo, and/or prizes of alcohol or firearms.
Third-Party Organized and Conducted Games & Events:		
Passive Beneficiary	Authorized	Unauthorized