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Operation of Bingo Games

Secs. 7-169-1—7-169-29.

Repealed, October 1, 1987.

Sec. 7-169-1a. Bingo permit

A bingo permit may be issued to any qualified organization as defined in subsection (d) of section 7-169 of the general statutes provided such organization is located within any town in the state which has permitted the playing of bingo in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of section 7-169 of the general statutes.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-2a. Registration, identification number

No organization shall conduct bingo games until it has registered with, and secured an identification number from the executive director of the division of special revenue. Such registration may be revoked for cause.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-3a. Personal registration, identification number

(a) No person shall operate or assist in the operation of bingo games until such person has reached the age of eighteen, registered with the executive director on forms prescribed by him and has provided information which the executive director may reasonably require including, but not limited to, such person's criminal record, if any, moral character or business affiliations and thereafter has been assigned a personal identification number by him. Such personal identification number assignment may be revoked for cause.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the executive director may issue a personal identification number to a minor sixteen years of age or older, provided written permission from a parent or legal guardian of such minor is filed with the division.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-4a. Qualification of operator or worker

No person shall operate or work in the operation of authorized bingo games unless he has been a bona fide active member of at least one sponsoring organization conducting bingo for a period of at least six months.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-5a. Workers

(a) **Member in charge.** Every organization permitted to conduct bingo shall designate a bona fide, active member of the organization to be in charge of and primarily responsible for each session of bingo. The member in charge shall have been a member in good standing for at least six months of the organization permitted to conduct bingo. The member in charge shall supervise all activities and be responsible for the conduct of all bingo games, including the preparation of all returns, control reports, certified statements and affidavits, the maintenance of records of receipts and disbursements and accounts, disposition of funds and the payment of any bingo fees due the state. The member in charge may designate, in writing, a qualified worker to act in his behalf and to discharge his responsibilities on occasions when he is unable to do so. The member in charge or his qualified designee shall be present on the premises continually during each session of bingo and shall be

familiar with the general statutes and administrative regulations governing the conduct of bingo and the terms of his organization's bingo permit.

(b) **Participation as worker restricted.** No person shall assist in the conduct of bingo except the holder of a certificate of personal identification number whose name appears on the notice required pursuant to section 7-169-10a of these bingo regulations.

(c) **Identification required.** The member in charge and those assisting him in any capacity shall possess and display such identification as may be specified by the executive director.

(d) **Payment of workers prohibited.** No commission, salary, compensation in any form or gift shall be paid or given to any person in any manner conducting or assisting in the conduct of bingo either directly or indirectly. No person shall solicit or receive any gift or donation of cash or merchandise on the premises during the conduct of a session of bingo.

(e) **Compensation of bookkeepers and accountants.** Bookkeepers and accountants may receive reasonable compensation for necessary services ordinarily incidental to the operation of bingo games.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-6a. Unsuitable person barred

No person shall operate or assist in the operation of authorized bingo games whose moral character, criminal record, if any, or business affiliations render such person unsuitable in the opinion of the executive director.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-7a. Restrictions on renting of premises or equipment

No organization shall rent, lease or hire premises or equipment for the operation of authorized bingo on a percentage of gross or net earnings or income, or at a reduced rate or free of charge if the free or reduced rate for use of such equipment or premises carries with it an agreement of compensation or reward directly or indirectly in any form.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-8a. Facilities

(a) **Premises required to be open for inspection.** The premises where any game of bingo is conducted or where it is intended that any game of bingo be conducted or that any bingo equipment be used shall, at reasonable times, be open to inspection by the executive director or his duly appointed representatives.

(b) **Accommodations to be furnished players.** Authorized bingo games shall be open to the general public. Each player must be furnished, at no extra charge, a chair and place with sufficient room to play. The area must be free of hazards to safety with means of egress clearly designated. Under no circumstances shall a member of the public be admitted to a building or room where authorized bingo is to be played, if such admittance will violate the lawful occupancy limit of such building or room.

(c) **Certain notices required to be posted.** Each organization authorized to conduct bingo shall conspicuously post within that portion of the premises where bingo is played one or more notices as required by the executive director containing certain designated rules governing the conduct of bingo and its bingo permit. The notice or notices shall be in the form prescribed and may be provided by the division of special revenue.

(d) The executive director may, for good cause, require each organization authorized to conduct bingo to retain the services of one or more uniformed police officers of the city or town where the bingo session is conducted who shall be in attendance from the time sale of cards or bingo opportunities commence until net proceeds have been secured by deposit or otherwise. Such police officer(s) may be compensated at the rate not to exceed the rate currently prevailing for such services in said city or town. Compensation of such police officer(s) shall be a reasonable and necessary expense incidental to the conduct of bingo, payment of which is authorized pursuant to section 7-169-27a subsection (b) of these administrative regulations governing the operation of bingo.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-9a. Dispensing of alcoholic beverages restricted

No authorized bingo game shall be operated in a room or area where alcoholic beverages are dispensed except under conditions approved by the department of liquor control.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-10a. Notice on premises

A notice shall be posted conspicuously on the premises where authorized bingo is played providing (1) the name of the organization and its division of special revenue identification number; (2) the name of the member in charge thereof; (3) the amount of the charges for admission and the opportunity to play, and for any other service or privilege offered; (4) the nature and the amount of prizes to be offered, and (5) the names and personal identification numbers of the member in charge and workers for the particular session.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-11a. No other games of chance permitted on premises

(a) No other games of chance of any kind other than bingo games, sealed ticket games, or raffles authorized pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 98 of the general statutes, and regardless of whether any separate or additional charge or payment is required, shall be conducted or allowed in the room or rooms, on any occasion, where or when authorized bingo is played.

(b) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, bingo players may play card games for entertainment prior to and between authorized bingo games. Such card games shall not be played for money or for any representation of money.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-12a. Entire procedure to be completed on same calendar day

Whenever authorized bingo is played, all cards shall be purchased, winners determined and prizes awarded within the same calendar day.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-13a. Players to be physically present

In the playing of bingo, no person who is not physically present on the premises when the game is actually conducted shall be allowed to participate as a player in the game.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-14a. Admission, selection of cards by player

Each player at an authorized bingo game is required to have an identifiable admission card, sheet, or ticket. In order to receive any prize a player must show his or her admission card, sheet, or ticket. Players may purchase admission cards, sheets, or tickets for other players.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-15a. Each card to have equal opportunity to win

Each bingo card or sheet shall have an equal opportunity to be a winner. All bingo game cards or sheets shall be sold at a uniform unit price per game for each card or sheet, without any discount or allowance for the purchase of more than one card or sheet.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-16a. Duplication, preference prohibited

The cards or sheets of bingo players shall be part of a pre-printed deck, group or series of cards no two of which shall be alike, and such deck, group or series shall not be so prepared or arranged as to give preference to any card.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-17a. Inspection of objects in receptacle prior to session

Prior to the start of a session of bingo the member in charge shall cause to be made a verification of all objects to be placed in the receptacle, and shall inspect the objects in the presence of a disinterested person to insure that all objects are present and that there is no duplication of numbers on said objects prior to the start of the bingo games.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-18a. Objects to be drawn

Objects to be drawn at authorized bingo games shall be essentially equal as to size, weight, shape and balance, and as to all other characteristics that may control their selection. All such objects shall be present in a receptacle before each game is started.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-19a. Winning arrangement to be announced prior to game

The particular arrangement of numbers required to be covered in order to win an authorized bingo game shall be clearly described and announced to the players before the start of each game.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-20a. Permissible number arrangements

No arrangement of numbers shall be required to be covered in order to win an authorized bingo game other than the following:

- (1) One unspecified horizontal row
- (2) One unspecified vertical row
- (3) One unspecified diagonal row
- (4) One unspecified row (horizontal, vertical or diagonal)
- (5) A specified arrangement consisting of two or more of the foregoing
- (6) The entire card
- (7) Four outside corners designated as top and bottom spaces under the letters "B" and "O"

(8) Eight spaces surrounding the free space

(9) Four inside corners designated as second and fourth spaces from the top under the letters "I" and "G"

(10) Exactly the same as indicated above on cards bearing five letters other than "BINGO"

(11) Such other arrangements as are announced to bingo players at the time the game in question is played, understood by the bingo players, and which afford all players an equal opportunity to win.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-21a. Announcement of numbers drawn

Every number drawn at an authorized bingo game shall be announced so as to be visible or audible to each player present.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-22a. Caller to complete call once started

Once a caller has started vocally to announce a call, he shall complete the call of that number. After the caller has started vocally to announce a call, if any person shall have gone bingo based upon the previous number called, such person shall share the designated prize with any other person or persons who may have gone bingo on the completed call.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-23a. Right to request verifications of numbers

Each player shall have the right to call for a verification of all numbers drawn at an authorized bingo game at the time a winner is determined, and for a verification of the objects remaining in the receptacle not yet drawn. The verification shall be made in the immediate presence of the member in charge, but if such member is also the announcer, it shall be made in the immediate presence of another officer of the sponsoring organization.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-24a. Prizes

The prizes of an authorized bingo game shall be as provided in section 7-169 of the general statutes.

(a) Where merchandise is offered as a prize, a gift certificate may be used. A gift certificate shall mean a certificate, ticket, coupon or written order which entitles the holder to a prize of specified value at the place of business of a specified merchant.

(b) A prize of merchandise or gift certificate shall not be redeemable, refundable, exchangeable for or convertible to cash, directly or indirectly in any form.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-25a. Division of prize between winners

When more than one player is found to be a winner on the call of the same number, the designated prize shall be divided equally to the next nearest dollar and provided a permittee so elects, no winner may receive a prize which amounts to less than ten percent of the announced prize and that in such case the total of said multiple prizes may exceed the statutory limit of said game. Where merchandise is the prize and division is not possible, substitute prizes, the aggregate value of which shall not exceed that of the designated merchandise prize, shall be awarded, but such prizes shall be of equal value to each other.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-26a. Records, control forms

(a) **Record keeping.** Accurate records and books shall be kept by each organization authorized to conduct bingo in a manner and on control forms prescribed by the executive director, showing in detail, among other things, the amount and source of gross receipts, prizes, and the expenses incurred.

(b) **Access to records.** The executive director or his authorized representatives shall at all times have access to all books and records of any organization authorized to conduct bingo for the purpose of examining them. Such records shall be accessible at each and every bingo session from the start of the first bingo game.

(c) **Period of retention of records.** All records, books of account, bank statements and all other papers incidental to the operation of authorized bingo games shall be retained by the permitted organization and be available for inspection by the executive director or his authorized representatives for a period of five years from the close of the calendar year to which the records apply.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-27a. Bank accounts, expenses

(a) **Special bingo bank account.** Proceeds from authorized bingo games, including proceeds from authorized sealed ticket sales at bingo games, shall be kept in a separate special bingo bank account which shall be in the form of a checking account. All receipts from each bingo session less the amount awarded as cash prizes for that session shall be deposited in this special bingo account no later than three business days following the date of the bingo session. The comingling of any funds derived from the operation of bingo with any other funds, other than proceeds from sealed ticket sales, of the permitted organization is strictly prohibited. Money shall be withdrawn from this special bingo account for only the following purposes:

(1) Payment of expenses authorized pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(2) Disbursement from net proceeds for charitable, civic, educational, fraternal, veterans', religious, volunteer fire department or grange purposes.

(b) **Payment of expenses.** Money for reasonable and necessary expenses ordinarily incidental to the conduct of bingo games and sealed ticket sales at bingo games may be paid from the gross receipts only by checks having preprinted consecutive numbers drawn on the special bingo account established pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. Said checks must be payable to the specific person or organization providing the goods or rendering the services which gave rise to the expense item, and at no time may checks be payable to cash. Only those expenses which are reasonable and necessary and ordinarily incidental to the conduct of authorized bingo games and sealed ticket sales at bingo games may be paid from gross receipts.

(c) The requirement for a special bingo bank account, required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section, shall not need apply to an organization holding a "Class B" bingo permit issued pursuant to Section 7-169 (f) of the general statutes, provided an acceptable means of accounting for gross bingo game receipts, prizes, expenses, and disbursements for each session held is approved by the division of special revenue.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-28a. Returns to be filed, fees to be paid

In accordance with the provisions of section 7-169 of the general statutes, the following returns shall be filed with the executive director of the division of special revenue, and fees paid to the state:

(a) Each organization operating or conducting an authorized bingo game shall file a return with the executive director, on a form prescribed by him, within ten days after such game is held or within such further time as the executive director may allow.

(b) Each organization operating or conducting an authorized bingo game shall pay to the state a fee of five percent of its gross bingo game receipts, less the bingo game prizes awarded, including the prize of any special grand prize game. This fee shall be paid to the Division of Special Revenue within ten days after such game is held or within such further time as the executive director may allow. This fee payment shall accompany each return required pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-29a. Amendment of permit application

A bingo game may be conducted under conditions other than as stated in the original application for bingo permit if an application to amend, prescribed by the executive director of the division of special revenue, is filed with the executive director and if the subject matter of the proposed amendment could lawfully and properly have been included in the original application and permit, and upon payment of such additional fee, if any, as would have been payable if it had been so included. In no case shall there be a refund of fees. After an investigation of all the facts the executive director may approve or disapprove the application to amend.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-30a. Notice of change in organization status

No organization shall conduct a game of bingo after any substantial change has come about in its status which is at variance with the facts contained in the original application for registration until an application to amend is filed with the executive director. After an investigation, the executive director may, if the facts so warrant, revoke such certificate of registration.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-31a. Notice of change in personal status

No person may operate or assist in the operation of a bingo game when any substantial change has come about in his personal status which is at variance with the facts contained in the original application for a personal identification number until an application to amend has been filed with the executive director. After an investigation, the executive director may, if the facts so warrant, revoke such certificate of personal identification.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-32a.

Repealed, March 22, 1989.

Sec. 7-169-33a. Violations of statutes, rules and regulations

(a) **Liability.** Any organization permitted to conduct bingo by the executive director, and any person registered and assigned a personal identification number by the executive director shall be liable to the penalties herein provided, unless otherwise provided. It is the duty of all such organizations or persons to know the provisions of Sections 7-169 and 7-169a of the general statutes and these administrative regulations governing the operation of bingo. Nothing in these administrative regulations governing bingo shall be deemed to lessen the primary responsibility

of an organization permitted to conduct bingo, or a person registered and assigned a personal identification number to enforce these statutory provisions and administrative regulations governing the operation of bingo.

(b) **Penalties.** The penalties for violation of Section 7-169 or 7-169a of the general statutes or of these administrative regulations governing the operation of bingo shall be as follows:

(1) The executive director shall revoke a permit for a violation of any provision of section 7-169 of the general statutes and shall not issue any permit to such permittee within one year from the date of such revocation.

(2) For cause, the executive director, pursuant to the provisions of section 7-169a of the general statutes may revoke the registration and identification number of an organization permitted to conduct bingo.

(3) For cause, the executive director may revoke the personal identification number assigned a person operating or assisting in the operation of bingo games in accordance with section 7-169-3a of these administrative regulations governing bingo.

(4) The executive director shall fine any person who promotes or operates any bingo game without a permit, or who violates any provision of Section 7-169 or of Section 7-169a of the general statutes or administrative regulations issued pursuant thereto, or who makes any false statement in any application for a permit or in any report required by Sections 7-169 or 7-169a or by the executive director, not more than two hundred dollars.

(c) **Payment of fines.** Except where a stay is granted, all fines assessed shall be paid over to the state immediately upon official notification of such fine.

(d) **Right to hearing.** All parties cited for violations will be given opportunity for a hearing in accordance with these regulations and the division of special revenue rules of practice and hearing procedures.

(Effective March 22, 1989)

Sec. 7-169-34a. Forms, statements under oath

All forms, including control forms, used in compliance with the general statutes governing the conduct of bingo and these administrative regulations for bingo shall be furnished by the executive director of the division of special revenue, and when required, all statements therein shall be made under oath.

(Effective October 1, 1987)

Sec. 7-169-35a. Waiver

The executive director, with the approval of the gaming policy board, may waive any rule contained herein in his discretion, except any rule specified in the general statutes, upon his finding that such waiver is in the best interests of the state of Connecticut and the operation of bingo games. Prior approval of the gaming policy board shall not be required in circumstances where the executive director finds that public health, safety, and welfare requires emergency action provided the gaming policy board shall be apprised of the waiver and the circumstances surrounding it at its next scheduled meeting following said waiver whereupon the gaming policy board may approve or disapprove the continuance of such waiver.

(Effective October 1, 1987)