



BINGO LAW – PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING FOR LICENSE

Procedure for Applying for a Bingo License

General Information:

The Bingo Law is applicable only to the playing of the game of bingo pursuant to regulations of 10 P.S. §§301-308.1. The law does not authorize any other forms of gambling. In explaining the intent of the law, the General Assembly declared that the playing of bingo for the purpose of raising funds, by certain nonprofit associations, for the promotion of charitable or civic purposes, is in the public interest.

The General Assembly further declared it to be the policy of the Legislature that all phases of licensing, operation and regulation of the game of bingo be strictly controlled, and that all laws and regulations with respect thereto as well as all gambling laws should be strictly construed and rigidly enforced.

The Legislature recognizes the possibility of association between commercial gambling and organized crime, and wishes to discourage commercialization of the game of bingo; prevent participation by organized crime and prevent the diversion of funds from the purposes herein authorized.

There are limitations on prizes, how proceeds may be used, specific regulations as to locations where games are played, how games are played, how games are advertised and other rules and regulations that licensees must be familiar with. Licensees should become familiar with the Bingo Law, 10 P.S. §§301-308.1. A copy of the law can be viewed or downloaded from this site.

Application for Initial Regular License or Three Consecutive Day License:

An application for a **Bingo License** along with instructions is available from the Lancaster County Treasurer's Office, or it can be downloaded from this site. The application must be completed in its entirety, notarized and must then be taken to the **Lancaster County Treasurer's Office located in Suite 122 of the Lancaster County Government Center, 150 North Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603**, along with the documentation listed on page 2 of the application. The application and the accompanying documentation will be reviewed for compliance with the Law. If in compliance the Treasurer's Office will issue the license upon payment of the license fee of \$100.00 (\$15.00 for three day license). All licenses are issued by and fees paid to the Lancaster County Treasurer.

Be certain to review the instructions on Page 2 of the application in their entirety and include **ALL** the listed required documentation with the application. The license is valid for one year from date of issue.

Renewal of Regular License:

Eligible organizations seeking to renew their Bingo License must complete an application as they did in applying for their initial license. The documentation required for an initial license need not be provided, unless, there has been a change in any of the documentation i.e. bylaws have been amended, there has been a change in tax exempt status etc.

The application must be completed in its entirety, notarized and then brought to the **Lancaster County Treasurer's Office located in Suite 122 of the Lancaster County Government Center, 150 North Queen Street, Lancaster, PA 17603**. If in compliance the Treasurer's Office will issue the license upon payment of the license fee of \$100.00 (\$15.00 for three day license). . All licenses are issued by and fees paid to the Lancaster County Treasurer.

Three Consecutive Day License:

An eligible association may apply for a license that permits the association to play the game of bingo for three consecutive days. The application procedure is the same as for an Initial Regular License.

The fee for a Three Consecutive Day License is \$15.00. The applicant association must be prepared to state the dates they intend to conduct the games. An association is eligible for only one Three Consecutive Day License per year and if so licensed, may not apply for another Three Consecutive Day License or Regular License for one year from the date the final game was played.

Agricultural Association or County Fair License:

An eligible agricultural or county fair association may apply for a license that permits the association to conduct the game of bingo at the association's event for a period not exceeding ten (10) days. The application procedure is the same as for an Initial Regular License.

The fee for Agricultural Association or County Fair License is \$100.00. The applicant association must be prepared to state the dates they intend to conduct the games. An association is eligible for only one Agricultural Association or County Fair License per year and if so licensed, may not apply for a Regular License for one year from the date the final game was played.

Senior Citizen Group License:

An association whose membership consists exclusively of elderly residents of a senior citizen housing project may apply for a license that permits the playing of bingo only by members of the association.

The fee for a Senior Citizen Group License is \$50.00. The application procedure is the same as for an Initial Regular License. The license is valid for one year from date of issue.

Entertainment Only License:

An eligible association may apply for an Entertainment Only License when games are not played for the purpose of making a profit. All prizes awarded shall be of nominal value.

There is no fee for an Entertainment Only License. The application procedure is the same as for an Initial Regular License except that the application must be accompanied by an affidavit that states:

- (1) The organization is a nonprofit community recognized organization.
- (2) No person under the age of 18 will be permitted by the organization to play bingo unless accompanied by an adult.
- (3) The organization is conducting bingo for entertainment purposes only and all prizes awarded will be of nominal value.

A copy of the required affidavit can be downloaded from this site. The license is valid for one year from date of issue.