

Advisory Notice:

APPROVED REGULATIONS REGARDING ASSISTANCE TO BINGO PLAYERS WITH DISABILITIES

(CGCC-GCA-2009-03-C)

On March 15, 2010, the Office of Administration Law approved and filed with the Secretary of State amendments to the existing emergency regulation governing the manner in which the operator of a bingo game may offer assistance to players with disabilities making the emergency regulation permanent. The permanent regulation took effect upon filing with the Secretary of State, March 15, 2010.

This proposal makes permanent Section 12482, adopted as an emergency regulation effective May 18, 2009, in Article 1, Chapter 8, Division 18, Title 4 of the California Code of Regulations as follows:

1. Subsection (a) lists the means by which the operator of a bingo game shall accommodate players with disabilities that affect their ability to mark bingo cards. These means include the use of card-minding devices, the waiver of fees, and alternative methods for claiming prizes. Specifically, those accommodations include the following:
 - a. Paragraph (1) requires the operator of a bingo game that offers card-minding devices, to reserve a minimum of two card-minding devices for use by players with disabilities. If there are no requests for use of the devices by players with disabilities prior to fifteen minutes before the scheduled start of a session, the operator may make the reserved card-minding devices available for use by any player.
 - b. If the operator of a bingo game charges a fee for the use of an electronic card-minding device, paragraph (2) requires the operator to waive the fee and to waive any minimum purchase requirement imposed on players utilizing electronic card-minding devices, for players with disabilities described in subsection (a). Disabled players are not relieved of the requirement to pay any fee or to comply with any minimum purchase requirement, imposed on players that do not use card-minding devices.
 - c. Paragraph (3) requires the operator of a bingo game to allow players with disabilities described in subsection (a) to present a print out of winning cards, or other evidence of a winning card approved by the Commission, in order to claim a prize.
2. Subsection (b) requires the operator of a bingo game to allow players with disabilities consistent with definitions set forth in the ADA, when such disabilities would restrict their ability to verbally announce "BINGO," to utilize a form of visual or audible signaling to notify the operator of a winning pattern or "bingo,"

which may include a flag, paddle, light, horn, bell or whistle, or other means approved by the Commission.

3. Subsection (c) requires the operator of a bingo game to allow players with disabilities consistent with definitions set forth in the ADA, when such disabilities would restrict their ability to mark cards, or announce "BINGO," to bring another individual to assist them in playing bingo. The assisting individual shall not count towards the 750-player maximum applicable to remote caller bingo provided in Penal Code section 326.3(i).

A copy of the final approved regulations is attached, or may be obtained from the Commission's Web site at http://www.cgcc.ca.gov/gambling_control_act_regulations.asp. Information is also available at http://www.cgcc.ca.gov/2009_proposed_gambling_control_act_regulations.asp.

Questions, Concerns, Suggestions

Please contact the Commission's Remote Caller Bingo Program at (916) 263-4024, or by e-mail at lawsandregs@cgcc.ca.gov, should you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.