



Gambling

To participate in and organize events where prizes, contests, lotteries, raffles, betting, or gambling is involved, one should be well informed of the rules and regulations.

The state of Missouri indicates that:

“A person engages in gambling when he or she pays to play a game of chance or places a wager on a future contingent event not under his control or influence with the understanding that he will receive something of value if he or she wins the game or a certain outcome occurs.”

The Missouri Constitution does allow Missouri citizens to participate in otherwise unauthorized games of chance or skill if these rules are followed:

1. Players must not be required to pay a fee of any kind to play the game or to receive a prize. This includes general entry fees, cover charges, reservation fees, dues, mandatory donations, or registration fees.
2. If a fee is required to play the game, then no prize of any value may be awarded to any player. This includes ribbons, trophies, tokens, tickets, coupons, points, food, travel, vacation expenses or money.

According to the Attorney General's Office:

“Gambling, with only a few exceptions, is illegal in Missouri.”

Raffles

The Missouri Attorney General's Office states that “A raffle is a game in which a participant buys a ticket for a chance at a prize, with the winner determined by a random drawing to take place at a location and date printed on the ticket.”

Missouri does not allow any organization to organize raffles unless they are recognized under federal law as a non-profit charitable or religious organization.

Bingo

You are required to have a bingo license to operate a game of bingo in the State of Missouri, if there is a fee to play. You may apply for a bingo license if you are a non-profit organization that has maintained at least 20 members for the last five years prior to application. Additional considerations apply.

Gambling and the Student Conduct Code

8.050.19. Gambling is prohibited at activities or events arranged or sponsored by the University, on University premises, or sponsored by a student organization(s), regardless of location. It is prohibited to:

19.1. Play or sponsor an unlawful game of chance for money or for anything of value (a) on University premises or (b) at a University or student organization sponsored activity or event.

19.2. Sell, barter, or dispose of a ticket, order, or any interest in a scheme of chance by whatever name (a) on University premises or (b) at a University or student organization sponsored activity or event.

19.3. Wager on a University team or organization in a competition, with or without an intent to have a direct influence on the outcome of the competition (a) on University premises or (b) at a University or student organization sponsored activity or event.

Sanctions

Persons or organizations that violate the rules and regulations set forth by the State of Missouri and by the Truman State University Student Conduct Code may face penalties both at the University and State Level.

State Violators may face penalties of up to 4 years in prison and up to \$5,000 in fines. Conduct Code violators will face sanctions determined by the Judicial Affairs officer, and/or the Student Conduct Board.

Additional References

MO Policy:

<http://sub.truman.edu/gambling>

Student Conduct Code:

http://conduct.truman.edu/conduct_code.asp

MO Attorney General's Office:

<http://ago.mo.gov/publications/gambling.htm>

frequently asked questions:

Can my campus organization hold a Poker Tournament?

In order for the organization to legally plan and participate in this activity, the organization may do one of two things:

- 1 Ask for a voluntary donation, but may not require money to play. If this is done, there can be a prize given to the winner.
- 2 The organization may require an entry fee to play as long as no prize (monetary or otherwise) is given to the winner or to any participant.

Can my campus organization hold a raffle to earn money for a religious group in town?

The only way for this to be legal would be for the religious group to hold the raffle with the organization aiding in the planning and promotion. The religious organization must be recognized under federal law as a religious organization in the State of Missouri.

Can my campus organization hold a Bingo night?

They can do so as long as they do not charge money to play. If they want to be able to charge money to play, the legal way to do this would be to get a bingo license. In order to do this, the organization must be non-profit (such as a charitable organization, or religious, service, or veterans group) and they must make sure that the organization has been around for five years prior to the request, and that there have been at least 20 members in that organization for the last five years.

The organization would need to contact the State to apply for this license. Additionally, the bingo game must be run by volunteers who are not compensated in any way, and who have been members of the organization for at least two years. The license would need to be displayed during all games and be renewed yearly.

legal GAMBLING on campus

guidelines for safe
and legal play



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