

AGLC Community Bingo Rules of Play and House Rules



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Introduction

In accordance with the Community Bingo Terms and Conditions (CBTC), licensees must comply with the following AGLC Standard Rules of Play. Licensees must also establish and maintain rules of play and house rules consistent with those outlined in this document. The CBTC may be accessed on AGLC’s website at aglc.ca.

Section 1: AGLC Standard Rules of Play

1.1.1 Only bingo games using the following format must be licensed:

- a) a ball is randomly selected from 75 ping pong type balls. Each ball is printed with a letter from the word BINGO, and a number from “1” to “75” as follows:

<u>B</u>	<u>I</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>G</u>	<u>O</u>
1	16	31	46	61
to	to	to	To	To
15	30	45	60	75

1.1.2 Before an event begins, the caller, bingo chairperson or paymaster, and a player must check the bingo equipment to ensure:

- a) the bingo equipment is operating properly, including the blower, the manual drawing of balls from the blower is strictly prohibited;
- b) all 75 bingo balls are in play; and
- c) there are no duplicate balls.

1.1.3 Only players in attendance at the event may participate in the bingo program

1.1.4 Only players with proof of purchase (receipt) may play bingo. Proof of purchase must be visible at all times. The licensed charity may request this proof before allowing a player to continue to play or to claim a prize.

1.1.5 Only cards bought or issued at the event may be played.

1.1.6 Before a game is played, the caller must announce the type of game being played.

1.1.7 A ball is considered “called” when the letter/number combination of the ball has been announced by the caller. If there is a dispute regarding balls called, the ball pocket tray in front of the caller will prevail.

1.1.8 Where a pre-call of numbers occurs for a game that is not video/audio recorded, a volunteer worker must:

- a) be present on the stage to verify the letter and number of each ball as it is drawn and called; and
- b) complete a Ball Verification Sheet as the balls are called, which must be kept as part of the event records.
- c) the caller must sign the Ball Verification Sheet to certify it is correct.

- 1.1.9 A new ball must not be drawn until:
- a) the previous ball has been called; and
 - b) the called ball has been placed in its corresponding hole in the ball pocket tray.
- 1.1.10 The licensed facility's house rules or its rules of play must not require that players have the last number called to win a prize for a bingo game or bingo scheme. That is, a player may declare bingo for a winning pattern after other numbers have been called during the game in play. Exceptions to this rule may exist for progressive bingo games and schemes (see CBTC Subsections 4.3.11 and 4.3.12).
- 1.1.11 When a bingo and/or a bingo event pull ticket is declared, it is a player's responsibility to make themselves heard by the caller to stop the game, and the caller must:
- a) stop play by announcing a bingo and or bingo event pull ticket has been declared and that no more numbers will be called;
 - b) where the blower is turned off to verify a bingo and or bingo event pull ticket, the ball next in line in the cradle/chute (i.e., the next number to be called) must remain there and be the next number called;
 - c) announce the type of game and/or ticket being checked;
 - d) announce the number of bingos and/or bingo event pull tickets recognized, their approximate location in the hall, and ask (the first time) if there are any other bingos and/or bingo event pull tickets to be declared;
 - e) ask (a second time) whether there are any more bingos and/or bingo event pull tickets to be declared and pause (at least three to four seconds) to recognize any;
 - f) announce the number of bingos and/or bingo event pull tickets which have been recognized, state that only these bingos and/or bingo event pull tickets are eligible for prizes and that the game is closed and verify the declared bingo(s) and/or bingo event pull tickets;
 - g) if a player declared a bingo and/or bingo event pull tickets and the bingo and/or bingo event pull ticket was determined not to be a valid, the caller must re-open the game and, prior to calling another number, ask if any other player has a bingo and/or bingo event pull tickets to declare. This includes a player whose bingo and/or bingo event pull ticket may have been initially disqualified due to a late declaration; and
 - h) where there is a discrepancy on a declared bingo, and the player's eligibility to win depends upon the number of balls called, the caller must, with the assistance of a neutral player or licensed charity volunteer, count the number of balls in the ball pocket tray to verify that the number of balls in the ball pocket tray match the number of balls displayed on the flashboard as being called:
 - i) if the number of balls in the ball pocket tray match the number of balls displayed on the flashboard and are within the required number of balls

to win the specified prize, the prize will be awarded to the winner(s);
and

- ii) if the number of balls in the ball pocket tray does not match the number of balls displayed on the flashboard and required to win the prize, the player(s) must be given the option to verify the number of balls in the ball pocket tray, which must prevail in determining whether or not a prize has been won.

1.1.12 In circumstances where there is no bingo verification unit used, a manual call back must take place. The verification procedures to be used must be identified in the licensee's house rules. The procedures must include:

- a) the checker must provide the caller with the colour and series number of the bingo card;
- b) then take the bingo card and put it in front of a player at another table who will assist in verifying that the numbers called back by the caller form the winning pattern on the player's card;
- c) confirm the declared and verified card is valid; and
- d) the Caller and/or paymaster must record all prize payouts.

1.1.13 Where a bingo verification unit is used, the call back must be conducted as follows:

- a) the seller/checker identifies the declared bingo(s) to the caller;
- b) for regular games, the seller/checker must provide the caller with the card color or pay level, page number and card face number(s);
- c) for special games, the seller/checker must provide the caller with the card color, series number and card face number(s);
- d) the caller must enter the card number(s) into the verifier to display the card face on the TV monitor for at least three seconds;
- e) the seller/checker will compare the player's card to that displayed on the monitor, confirming both the card face and card number match and the bingo is valid;
- f) all declared bingos must be verified through the verification unit; and
- g) the Caller and/or paymaster must record all prize payouts.

1.1.14 For any game in which the single bingo prize is \$500 or more; or there is a pre-call, bingo card(s) must be checked by the bingo chairperson and paymaster for signs of tampering prior to the prize being awarded. The winner(s) must sign (provide their signature and print their name, address and phone number) on the back of the paper card and the card(s) will be attached to the control sheet.

1.1.15 The series number must be visible and readable on a declared winning paper card, or the bingo must be rejected.

- 1.1.16 For all progressive games, when the progressive prize is won and eligibility of the winner(s) confirmed, the bingo chairperson (or designate) must present the cheque and/or cash representing the progressive prize to the winner(s); if the prize is cash, then it must be physically counted in front of the winner. The winner(s) are required to sign (provide their signature and print their name, address and phone number) on the progressive prize pool control sheet or on a separate receipt confirming the winning player(s) has received the prize. The event chairperson must also ensure that, if a cheque with the prize amount is awarded, the cheque number and amount are recorded on the progressive prize pool control sheet.
- 1.1.17 Cards may be used for a single game, or for two or more successive games in a series.
- a) called balls must remain in the ball pocket tray until the final game in a series is completed; and
 - b) after all bingos are checked and verified, the caller must clearly state the game series is closed and return the balls to the blower.
- 1.1.18 Two of the most common issues that arise during the process of declaring a bingo are described here, with resolutions:
- a) **Issue:** The caller did not acknowledge a declared bingo and proceeded to call another number.
Resolution: the next number called is valid. The player who had a bingo on the previous number may declare bingo again, however, may have to share the prize if another player declared a bingo on the next number which was called.
 - b) **Issue:** Multiple bingos were declared, but for some reason, the caller did not acknowledge one of the bingos.
Resolution: the caller must clarify with the usher and other players in the vicinity whether the player's bingo was declared on time. Once clarified, the caller must refer the matter to the bingo chairperson, who must decide (in consultation with the advisor) whether the player will receive a portion of the prize.

Section 2: Licensee Rules of Play

- 2.1.1 Licensee rules of play must address, but are not limited to, the following:
- a) listing of the regular games played during the event, including game payouts (per game) and minimum and maximum pay levels;
 - b) detailed explanation of how each special game is played (i.e., number of game parts played within the special game, rule(s) of the game, procedure for multiple winners including, where applicable, minimum payouts, and the prize breakdown;
 - c) for all games with consolation prizes or pre-call games:
 - i) whether another number has to be called prior to the game card pattern being recognized, if the game card pattern was not declared within the pre-call (e.g., a 49th number has to be called prior to recognizing a full card, if the full card was not declared within the 48 number pre-call);
 - ii) when a late bingo is called on any game involving a consolation prize, whether the player can receive the consolation prize without another number being called;
 - iii) how the main prize and consolation prize are calculated when it appears the consolation prize will be of higher value than the main prize;
 - iv) on any pre-call game, if the pre-call game was not won during the pre-call, whether any other numbers have to be called before the game can be won;
 - v) if bingo is declared during the bonanza pre-call, rules of play must specify what happens to unmarked cards from the bonanza. This may include allowing five to ten minutes for players to mark their cards for the consolation prize or to offer a refund on any unmarked cards; and
 - vi) for special events, which may include guaranteed prize payouts, establish alternate rules of play;
 - d) the card prices and colours of regular games and special games;
 - e) minimum payout, as well as amounts for each regular or special games card price;
 - f) details on the linked game, if offered
 - g) requirements for valid bingos, the formula or method by which multiple winners are awarded both cash and non-cash prizes, and if any cash in lieu option exists on merchandise prizes;
 - h) whether or not two games can be won at the same time, or does another number have to be called prior to the second game being recognized (keeping in mind the affect these rules may have on the Loonie Pot scheme or progressive games);
 - i) whether or not games can be won out of order (keeping in mind the affect these rules may have on the Loonie Pot scheme or progressive games);

- j) details on door prize draws or other giveaways and promotions;
- k) details on how bonus prizes (e.g., King/Queen, Player of the Event, Lucky Number, ect.) will be awarded;
- l) rules of play for the progressive game or scheme must be approved by AGLC prior to being implemented and address the following:
 - i) price of cards or cost to participate;
 - ii) details on how the bingo game/scheme is played and how the prize will be awarded;
 - iii) prize payout including a breakdown of the event payout between the progressive contribution and the main prize and consolation prize (if applicable);
 - iv) details on how the prize pool progresses (e.g., evening to evening, afternoon to afternoon, afternoon to evening);
 - v) details on capping of the progressive jackpot(s) and on the method of playing off the main jackpot once the cap is reached; and
 - vi) normal course of play for bingo games and schemes versus playoffs or playoff days (including whether playoffs or playoff days may differ from the normal course of play and how they may differ);
- m) details on free games;
- n) details on the distribution of free cards; and
- o) media bingo events must also include;
 - i) how to obtain a recap of the called bingo numbers;
 - ii) method and time limit to declare a bingo
 - iii) method and time limit to claim a prize; and
 - iv) procedure for handling any media transmission or telephone failures.

Section 3: Licensee House Rules

- 3.1.1 The licensee must have house rules regarding, but not limited to, the following:
- a) what time the doors and cashiers open, and what time the early birds and regular games start;
 - b) minimum purchase of regular game cards;
 - c) if U.S. currency will be accepted and how it will be exchange;
 - d) that receipts or bingo cards are not transferable from one player to another player;
 - e) minors are prohibited or permitted to play bingo as applicable. See also CBTC 2.3.1. **NOTE:** A sign should be posted at the card sales location indicating minors play;
 - f) what time the attendance reading is taken to determine regular game payouts and the time at which attendance prize payout will be announced by the caller before starting regular games;
 - g) that players may not claim a prize for any game or scheme without valid proof of purchase;
 - h) the policy regarding players caught playing more cards than they paid for;
 - i) that only cards issued by the licensed facility for that event are eligible to be played and be recognized for prizes;
 - j) the policy on players playing the wrong series or colour of cards;
 - k) the policy regarding the exchange and/or refund of bingo cards (e.g., for cancelled events, low attendance, equipment malfunction, etc.);
 - l) the policy on workers and/or volunteers playing bingo cards for a player temporarily absent;
 - m) the policy on players found cheating;
 - n) days of operation;
 - o) number and types of events per day; and
 - p) hours of operation for each event.