



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs): Licensed Gaming Online – Use of Computerized Electronic Systems for Raffles

This document provides information for organizations that may wish to use computerized electronic systems for the operation of ticket raffles. The FAQs cover a number of topics including eligibility, allowed uses of computerized systems, getting approval to use a computerized electronic system and more.

This document is a resource for convenience and guidance; it is not intended to replace official documents such as licence guidelines and standard procedures which are available on the Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) website at: www.gaming.gov.bc.ca/licences/forms-guidelines.htm

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1. I understand that computerized electronic systems can now be used to operate a ticket raffle. Am I eligible? Can I use a computer for my gaming event?

The Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch (GPEB) is launching Licensed Gaming Online which allows non-profit charitable and religious organizations that are eligible for a Class A gaming event licence to apply to use a computer to conduct and manage aspects of licensed gaming event. Raffles are the only type of gaming event that are permitted to operate with a computerized electronic system.

For information about Class A gaming event licences, including general eligibility to use computerized electronic systems, see the Class A licence webpage (www.gaming.gov.bc.ca/licences/classA.htm).

2. Can any type of organization use computers for any type of gaming event?

No, the federal government amended the Criminal Code in such a way that only certain provincially licensed gaming events and organizations are permitted to conduct their events on or through a computer. In B.C., only Class A and Class B raffle licensees qualify. Class C and D gaming event licensees (such as those held at fairs and exhibitions and small gaming events) are ineligible due to the wording of the Criminal Code amendment.

At this time, during the phased implementation period (see question 3), only Class A raffle licensees are eligible to apply to use a computer for the sale and distribution of tickets and distribution of prizes, and registered Class A licensees for electronic ticket draw. See question 5 for a full breakdown of permitted uses in phase 1.

Eligible Class A raffles events include, but are not limited to, standard ticket raffles, meat draws, and percentage draws. Gaming events that are not eligible include, but are not limited to, poker, independent bingo, social occasion casinos and wheels of fortune.

3. What is the phased implementation period?

Licensed Gaming Online will be introduced in phases which restrict the class of licence that can access one or more of the permitted computerized electronic uses. Phase 1 of Licensed Gaming Online restricts access by type of computer use to Class A licensees (sale and distribution of tickets and distribution of prizes) and registered Class A licensees (electronic ticket draw).

Phase 1 will begin in January 2016 and is expected to last approximately two years depending on the success of implementation. Licensed Gaming Online will be continuously evaluated to

identify, assess and correct any challenges along the way. This evaluation will impact the length of each phase and number of phases.

4. I am a Class B licensee operating a ticket raffle and therefore meet the Criminal Code requirements. Why can't I apply to use a computer to operate a raffle at this time?

While the Criminal Code amendment allows the use of computers for non-profit charitable and religious organizations eligible for a Class A and Class B gaming event, this permission is subject to provincial licensing. B.C. has chosen to implement Licensed Online Gaming in a phased approach in order to test the new rules with a smaller group of licensees. Therefore, in phase 1, computerized electronic systems for the operation of a raffle are restricted to Class A licensees. This will allow the branch to identify, assess and correct any challenges encountered along the way. Once any potential problems have been resolved in the first phase, the branch intends to begin to open up the use of computers to more groups of eligible gaming licensees and eventually permit all eligible Class A and B licensees to access allowable computer uses.

Class B licensees that are currently approved to use an ERS system should contact the branch for further information on eligibility.

5. What are the allowed uses of a computer for the operation of ticket raffles?

In phase 1, the allowed or prescribed uses of a computer for the operation of a ticket raffle are listed in the table below (continues on the next page):

Allowed Use of Computerized Electronic Systems:	Eligible Applicants:
Online Ticket Sales – To sell tickets through the Internet by way of a real time processing and payment system and where the purchaser's ticket is paid for immediately online.	Class A raffle licensee
Online Ticket Distribution – To send a purchaser a ticket by email or through the Internet and where the purchaser downloads a copy of the ticket.	Class A raffle licensee
Electronic Ticket Draw – To determine a prize winner by conducting an electronic draw using computer software or a computer application that utilizes a GPEB certified software random number generator (RNG).	Class A registered raffle licensees conducting regular event raffles Class A licensees that have been approved for an electronic raffle system (ERS)

Allowed Use of Computerized Electronic Systems:	Eligible Applicants:
Online Prize Distribution – To send a winner a prize voucher by email or over the Internet and where the prize winner downloads a voucher or gift certificate for redemption.	Class A raffle licensee
Electronic Raffle System – A GPEB certified and inspected computer application, known as an Electronic Raffle System (ERS), that may include the use of hand held electronic devices to sell tickets and other computer software and related equipment to account for sales and facilitate the manual or electronic drawing of tickets to determine the winner.	Class A raffle licensee conducting single event percentage raffles (50/50)

6. Can I continue to accept orders for tickets through my website without additional GPEB approval?

Yes, there are no changes to the ability to accept orders for tickets by email or through an organization’s website as permitted under section 9.3 of the [Standard Procedures for Ticket Raffles](#). Organizations licensed to operate a ticket raffle that only use a website for the receipt of orders for the purchase of tickets, and subsequently batch process the payments for the tickets and manually distribute those tickets, are not required to be specifically approved by GPEB to undertake that activity.

7. Do these new rules for use of a computer affect my bingo or poker gaming events?

No, the new rules allowing certain uses of a computer apply only to raffles.

8. Do I need to be licensed to use a computer for the direct operation of my ticket raffle? How do I get approval to use a computer?

Yes, eligible organizations must be licensed by GPEB to operate a Class A raffle and obtain a separate approval from GPEB to use one or more of the allowed uses of a computer in the operation of the ticket raffle (online ticket sales, online ticket distribution, electronic ticket draw or online prize distribution as well as electronic raffle systems).

If you want to apply to use a computer you must apply for a gaming event licence using the Gaming Online Service (GOS). You must also submit an additional form by email related to the

use of computerized electronic systems called the [Addendum to Application – Licensed Gaming Online](#), which you will be prompted to download while you are completing your online application. You should complete the form after your online application has been submitted. Information about the application process and related documents, as well as the addendum form, is available at www.gaming.gov.bc.ca/licences/ClassA.htm.

9. I have an existing licence to operate a ticket raffle; can I apply to have my licence amended to allow use of a computer?

Yes, if you hold a Class A raffle licence and you have not begun to sell tickets (any multi-day raffle), you may request an amendment to your licence to allow one or more of the uses of a computer. If you hold a Class A licence for a single event raffle (50/50 percentage raffle) you may apply for a licence amendment at any time during the licence period.

To apply to have your Class A licence amended to include one or more of the computer uses, you must apply directly to the branch. Please follow the instructions in section 3.1 of the [Standard Procedures for Ticket Raffles](#) and submit a completed copy of the [Addendum to Application – Licensed Gaming Online](#) to the branch.

10. How long will it take to get approval to use a computer?

Once a completed application is received, it will take up to a maximum of 10 weeks to process.

A request for licence amendment to allow the use of a computer to operate a raffle will be processed on a date-received basis and is subject to GPEB workload demands.

11. Does it cost anything more to get approval to use a computer?

No, there is no additional cost for applying to use a computer.

12. Can I use a service provider to help me with using a computer to operate a raffle?

Yes, any service provider offering services to a licensee in the conduct and management of a GPEB licensed gaming event must be registered with GPEB.

Contact GPEB Registration by email at gaming.branch@gov.bc.ca if you need further information or have any questions about registration.

13. I am a company that wishes to offer services related to the use of a computer to organizations that are operating a raffle. Do I need to be approved for this?

Yes, any company that offers services to an organization that is licensed by GPEB to operate a gaming event in the province must be registered with GPEB.

Contact GPEB Registration by email at gaming.branch@gov.bc.ca if you need further information or have any questions about registration.

14. How do I apply to use computers if I am having difficulty with the online application through GPEB's Gaming Online Service (GOS)?

If you are having difficulty using GPEB's Gaming Online Service (GOS) system, please contact the Licensing Division by email at gaming.branch@gov.bc.ca to discuss ways that your application can be submitted.

15. Contact Information

Mail:

Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
Licensing Division
PO Box 9310 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9N1

Web: www.gaming.gov.bc.ca

E-mail: gaming.branch@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250 387-5311

Or call toll-free 1 800 663-7867 and
ask for 250 387-5311.

Location:

Gaming Policy and Enforcement Branch
Licensing Division
3rd Floor, 910 Government Street
Victoria, BC V8W 1X3