Gambling, Bingo and Games Advice for Pubs & Clubs

**General Advice:**  
  
This document provides a summary of the advice available on the Gambling Commission website. It is important you follow all requirements and have the appropriate license, or you could be liable for a fine or prosecution.

Gambling is often used for fund raising, this can be games of chance like a lottery or a bingo night. Specific legislation applies to gambling in an alcohol-licensed premises.

When organising an event, you must:

* ensure that all players have the same chance of winning,
* ensure that no one under 18 years old take part,
* limit the prizes to £2,000 (in a 7 day period),
* limit players stakes to £5 per person, per game,
* ensure all stakes must be returned as prizes.

You cannot:

* make a profit from the game – even if you intend to donate the profits to a charity or good causes.
* charge any participation or admission fee,
* run games which are linked with players at other premises
* deduct any of the money staked or won by players of the game.
* Conduct any part of the event online, such as players joining by Zoom.

The Gambling Commission has a lot of guidance for a range of venues, check the full guidance here:  
  
[www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/guide/page/exempt-gaming-in-pubs](http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/guide/page/exempt-gaming-in-pubs)

**Club Gaming & Machine Permits:**

A members club is not created for commercial enterprise and are run for the benefit for its members.

A commercial club is set up for commercial gain

Both must have at least 25 members, are permanent and not create or mainly used for gambling activities. **Club Gaming Permit (CGP):**  
A club gaming permit is available to members’ clubs or miners’ welfare institutes, but not commercial clubs. It allows the club to offer:

* equal chance gaming such as poker and bingo
* games of chance (pontoon and chemin de fer only)
* up to three gaming machines in total of categories B3A, B4, C or D, but by agreement, only one machine can be of category B3A. Category definitions are available on the gambling commission website, linked below.

There are no limits on stakes and prizes, except:

* bingo where there is a stakes and prizes limit of £2,000 in any seven-day period.
* A limit on participation fees per person per day - £20 for bridge and or whist (if played on a day on which no facilities of any kinds of gaming (other than bridge or whist) are provided by the relevant club on that day), £3 for other gaming (including poker) in any other circumstances.

**Club Machine Permit (CMP):**A club machine permit is available from the district authority to members’ clubs, miners’ welfare institutes, and commercial clubs. It allows the club to offer:

* equal chance gaming such as poker and bingo
* up to three gaming machines in total of categories B3A, B4, C or D, but by agreement, only one machine can be of category B3A (B3A not permitted for   
  commercial clubs).

Restrictions on the gaming are:

* a limit on stakes and prizes for bingo is £2,000 in any seven-day period,
* a limit on stakes for poker - £10 per person per game, within a premises limit of £250 in stakes per day and £1,000 per week,
* a limit on prizes for poker - £250 per game,
* a limit on participation fees per person per day - £18 for bridge/whist (if played on a day on which no facilities of any kind of gaming (other than bridge or whist) are provided by the relevant club on that day), £1 for other gaming (including poker), £3 where it’s a commercial club.

**Bingo (in Public Houses and Clubs)**

Bingo can be offered on alcohol licensed premises, members' clubs, miners’ welfare institutes and commercial clubs without an operating licence. However, the games must:

* be for adults only
* not be linked with games played on other premises.

Guidance for businesses and individuals on [how to run bingo legally](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/guide/how-to-run-a-game-of-bingo) is available.

Pubs must ensure that:

* no participation fee is charged,
* they remain within the stake limit of charging a maximum of £5 per person, per game.

Both alcohol licensed premises and clubs must ensure they do not exceed the maximum of £2,000 per week in stakes/prizes. Those wishing to exceed this limit need to [apply for a bingo operating licence](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/licences-and-fees/sector/bingo).

**Further Information:**

Club Gaming & Machine Permits - [Issuing of CGP and CMP flowchart (PDF).](https://assets.contentful.com/j16ev64qyf6l/73DmivoQIwFlpltr7WJ1EF/2ba468e783b7148d09a59f09339b6bb4/Issuing-of-CGP-and-CMP-flowchart.pdf)

Guidance for members and commercial clubs [Members club or commercial club for more information](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/guide/members-clubs-and-commercial-clubs).

[Members' clubs and commercial clubs](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/licensees-and-businesses/guide/members-clubs-and-commercial-clubs)

[Code of practice for equal chance gaming in clubs and premises with an alcohol licence](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/authorities/codes-of-practice/guide/page/section-b-equal-chance-gaming-in-clubs-and-premises-with-an-alcohol-licence)

[Code of practice for gaming machines in clubs and premises with an alcohol licence](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/authorities/codes-of-practice/guide/page/section-c-gaming-machines-in-clubs-and-premises-with-an-alcohol-licence)

[Quick guides and template letters](https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/authorities/guide/page/la-bulletin-quick-guides-and-template-letters)

[Advice on Gaming in Pubs and Licensed Premises](https://assets.ctfassets.net/j16ev64qyf6l/4XuYkDpII6e0zK7Uw3jDvD/24991f25a33567436f8c3f035d247f85/Advice-on-gaming-in-pubs-and-alcohol-licensed-premises.pdf)