

# FAQ: Conducting the authorised game of bingo

## What is bingo and how is it played?

Bingo is a game in which each player is given a card with numbers printed on it and the winner is decided by the player matching randomly selected numbers to the numbers on the player's ticket.

The caller of the bingo game randomly selects a number and announces the number to all players, with the number also displayed physically. To ensure numbers have a random and equal chance to be drawn they must be selected by placing all numbered balls in a container, or by a random number generator. This process is repeated until there is a winner or winners. The winner of a bingo game is the first person to cover the required numbers on their bingo card and advise the caller of this, usually by calling out 'Bingo!'. If more than one person covers the required numbers at the same time, they are declared joint winners.

## Do I need a minor gaming permit?

You usually need a minor gaming permit to conduct the game of bingo. This is known as the **authorised game of bingo**. You must comply with the rules of the authorised game of bingo, as well as the conditions issued on your minor gaming permit.

You do not need a minor gaming permit if you are only conducting a game which complies with the conditions of the exemption for low value bingo or 'pingo'.

## Can I claim any costs or expenses to run the game?

The proceeds of all bingo games must be used for the lawful purposes of a not-for-profit organisation or a charitable purpose, and not for the private gain or benefit of any individual except by way of charity.

The minor gaming permit holder of the bingo game may deduct from the gross proceeds:

- the costs incurred for the prizes which have been distributed to winners; and
- reasonably and actually incurred operational costs, if any, limited to a maximum of five percent of the bingo card sales for the session.

The remaining proceeds must be distributed to the not-for-profit organisation or charitable purpose.

The minor gaming permit holder will need to keep records, including the costs incurred and the amount distributed to the not-for-profit organisation or charitable purpose.

## What kind of bingo games can I play?

Bingo games are played in “sessions”, during which multiple rounds of bingo will be played.

For the authorised game of bingo, players can choose whether to participate in a round of bingo by choosing whether to purchase a bingo card (or multiple bingo cards) for that game. The cost of a bingo card must not exceed 50 cents (with a limited exception for the games of “get six and win”, “mini get six and win” and “get nine and win”, which may be sold for a maximum of \$2 per bingo card).

There may be no other cost or additional charge to play the authorised game of bingo. For example, it is not possible to charge an admission fee for the bingo session. All cards to be played in a round of bingo must be purchased before the game begins.

Permit holders can obtain the cards used in the authorised game of bingo from any source, but the cards must comply with the specifications set out in the rules of the game.

## Can children play bingo?

Children under the age of 18 must not participate in the authorised game of bingo. It is an offence for a child to participate in the game.

## What prizes can I offer?

Prizes for the authorised game of bingo must be cash only. There are requirements in the rules about how prizes must be distributed to winners, as well as rules about jackpot games and promotional games.

## How should I provide information to players?

The minor gaming permit holder has an obligation to provide specified information to participants in advance of them purchasing a ticket. Details of these requirements can be found in the rules.

This is to ensure that players have all the information that they need to make an informed decision about whether to play the game. This information needs to be readily available to the players. For example, it could be included in a set of “house rules” developed by the operators.

## How do I keep the required records?

Minor gaming permit holders have an obligation to keep records about the bingo session/s which have been conducted. The requirements about what records must be kept are set out in the rules of the authorised game and conditions of the minor gaming permit.

The record keeping forms that must be used can be found on the “forms” section of the website - [Forms | Treasury and Finance Tasmania](#)

### Contact

Phone: (03) 6166 4040

Email: [gaming@treasury.tas.gov.au](mailto:gaming@treasury.tas.gov.au) Visit: <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/liquor-and-gaming>