

FAQ: Conducting the game of social poker

What is the game of social poker?

Poker is a card game in which players place bets on hands of cards that they are dealt. The game is regulated under the *Gaming Control Act 1993* because participants pay money to play a game involving chance for which prizes can be won.

The *Gaming Control Act 1993* provides that only a licensed casino operator can run a poker game or tournament that involves wagering of money or anything of value. However, following a Ministerial Direction, an exemption has been created under the Act for certain types of social poker tournaments. This means that poker tournaments can be operated outside of the casino, but only if all the conditions of the exemption are complied with.

What kind of tournaments can be played?

The exemption only applies to poker games which are conducted in a tournament style.

This means that players pay an entry fee to enter the tournament, but money is not bet on individual hands of cards. All players must receive the same amount and value of chips at the start of the tournament. These chips do not have monetary value during the game and are only used to determine the overall winner or winners of the tournament. Players cannot “cash out” during the tournament.

What charges can there be to participate?

The entry fee to play in the social poker tournament must not be more than \$250. One further “re-entry” fee is permissible, which also must not be more than \$250. The entry fee and the re-entry fee must be the same for all players.

No further charges can be levied on players during the game, and it must not be possible to obtain any other additional chips during the tournament.

Can children play social poker?

Individuals under the age of 18 years must not participate in social poker tournaments.

What prizes can be available?

The cash value or equivalent retail value of all prizes for any social poker tournament must be no less than 70 per cent of the total proceeds generated from entry and re-entry fees for the tournament.

The operators must inform players in advance of available prizes and how the prizes will be distributed to winners. The value of the prizes must be determined before the completion of the tournament.

Where can social poker tournaments be played?

A social poker tournament must only be conducted in a licensed premises. This means a premises specified in a liquor licence granted under the *Liquor Licensing Act 1990* as premises on which liquor may be sold.

Who can conduct a social poker tournament?

The operators of social poker tournaments must undertake Responsible Conduct of Gambling training. This means a course approved by the Tasmanian Liquor and Gaming Commission and delivered by a Registered Training Organisation.

Any person responsible for conducting the games of social poker must have completed this training. This training must be repeated at least every five years.

How should I provide information to players?

The operators of the social poker tournament must make the rules of the tournament available to all participants, and those rules must include sufficient information to enable all participants to reasonably understand the game.

How do I keep the required records?

The operators of the social poker tournament must retain sufficient records to reasonably demonstrate compliance with the conditions of the exemption.

Contact

Phone: (03) 6166 4040

Email: gaming@treasury.tas.gov.au Visit: <https://www.treasury.tas.gov.au/liquor-and-gaming>