

# ***LOTTERIES ACT 1964***

## **HOUSIE**

### **ACT GAMBLING AND RACING COMMISSION**

### **INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS**

#### **What is Housie?**

Housie (or bingo) is a game of chance where tickets or cards containing numbered squares or symbols are matched by participants to numbers or symbols that are randomly selected and called by an announcer or displayed. A winner is determined when certain numbers or symbols are matched on participants' tickets or cards and prizes are awarded accordingly. A prize includes anything of value or benefit.

It should be noted that the specific provisions of the *Lotteries Act 1964* will ultimately determine the eligibility or otherwise of any lottery application. This includes whether a game of Housie may be considered as an "exempt lottery". See below for details or obtain a copy of the legislation from the Commission's website: [www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au](http://www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au)

#### **When is a Permit/Approval Required?**

A permit or approval is required if the game of Housie fits into the above description, but does not include an exempt lottery, such as a game of Housie which comes within the definition of a private lottery as defined in the *Lotteries Act 1964* (where participation is restricted to members of the same association or who work or reside in the same premises and where there is no external advertising of the game of Housie).

If a game of Housie is being conducted by a club (or society or organisation based on or made up of members) and is advertised, then an approval is required. In this context, "advertised" includes:

- a notice or mention on television, radio or other public broadcast;
- a notice or mention in a newspaper, magazine, pamphlet, leaflet, flier, direct mail (specific address), general mail (non-specific address), internet, e-mail, SMS, MMS, fax, billboard, sign, poster, banner or other publicly available printed material; or
- any other method of communicating the conduct of the promotion to the public (excluding material forwarded directly to or made available to members only).

## **How do I Apply?**

The approved application form in its entirety must be completed and signed by the promoter and be lodged with the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission with the relevant determined fee. Processing of the application will not commence without the payment of the determined fee.

The completed application form, any required attachments or supporting documentation (such as rules or terms and conditions of the competition) and the determined fee should be forwarded to:

The Lotteries Officer  
ACT Gambling and Racing Commission  
PO Box 214  
CIVIC SQUARE ACT 2608

Level 2, Canberra Nara Centre  
1 Constitution Avenue  
CANBERRA CITY ACT 2601

Fax to: 02 6207 7390

Email to: [lotteries@act.gov.au](mailto:lotteries@act.gov.au) - (signature required on application form and payment authorisation)

Seven working days should be allowed for processing once the Commission has received all information.

## **Contact for Enquiries**

The Lotteries Officer at the Gambling and Racing Commission can be contacted on phone (02) 6207 0361 or fax (02) 6207 7390 or email [lotteries@act.gov.au](mailto:lotteries@act.gov.au)

## **General Requirements**

1. The applicant or organiser (the organisation or agency submitting the application) must fully and accurately complete the approved application form to the satisfaction of the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission (the Commission).
2. The beneficiary of the proceeds of the game of Housie (i.e. the person or organisation who receives the proceeds or profits) must be clearly stated on the application.
3. Agencies acting on behalf of an organisation must include a letter of authority from the organisation conducting the Housie games.
4. The completed application form, including attached rules or terms and conditions, must be accompanied by the determined fee.

5. Any variation to the application after the Commission has commenced its processing or an approval has been issued, to the game or the way it is conducted must be submitted in writing and be accompanied by the determined fee for a variation. The Commission must approve any changes or amendments to the game of Housie, the rules it is conducted under or the level of prizes before any amendments can be implemented.
6. For the purpose of calculating the application determined fee, the total prize value is calculated as the summation of the values of all possible prizes that could be attained based on the prize allocation options.
7. The value of individual prizes is the usual or recommended retail or market value of the goods or services offered as the prize.
8. Participants must be over the age of 18 years.
9. The following persons are not permitted to enter into or participate in the games of Housie (or allow someone to enter the game on their behalf):
  - the applicant or organiser of the games of Housie (as identified in paragraph 1 of these Conditions) or their employees; or
  - the organisation conducting the games of Housie or their employees or contractors; or
  - the beneficiary of the proceeds of the game of Housie (as identified in paragraph 2 of these Conditions) or their employees or contractors.
10. Where the proceeds of Housie (after allowing for printing tickets and paying prizes) are used wholly and exclusively for charitable purposes and that the total prize value does not exceed \$500, an application is not required.

### **Specific Requirements**

11. Subject to paragraph 12 of these Conditions, each facility used for the conduct of Housie must have displayed in a conspicuous manner a sign that indicates the following information:
  - the permit number issued by the Commission;
  - the benefiting person or organisation as outlined in paragraph 2 of these Conditions;
12. If the benefiting person or organisation (see paragraph 2 of these Conditions) is a not-for-profit organisation, paragraph 11 of these Conditions only applies if an individual prize (including jackpots) has a value equal to or greater than \$2,000.

In this paragraph, “not-for-profit” means an organisation established for a community purpose and is eligible to be income tax exempt under Division 50 of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997*.

13. Any advertisement where Housie is mentioned must include the permit number issued for that game of Housie.

14. If a prize involves travel the Commission's travel information form must be satisfactorily completed and submitted as part of the application.
15. All records concerning the game of Housie, including entries, the number of tickets sold and game operators must be kept for a minimum period of 12 months after the determination of the results.
16. Financial statements must be drawn-up and retained for a period of 12 months after the determination of the results. The financial statements must provide a detailed record of all income and expenditure associated with the conduct of the Housie games. The Commission may request a copy of the financial statements as part of its audit program.
17. The determination of the winners must be undertaken in a transparent manner.
18. All prizes in the Housie games must be distributed or allocated as approved.
19. The winner of a prize must not be charged an administrative or delivery fee upon receipt of their prize.