

# Housie

## 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.

### When is a permit required?

Where a promotional activity fits into the above description of *Housie* then a lottery permit is required unless it meets one of the exemption categories listed below.

### When is a permit not required?

#### **Exempt Lotteries**

A permit is not required for an "exempt" lottery. Exempt lotteries include:

- a *Housie* session where the total prize value does not exceed \$1,000 per session. A session is a group of games run sequentially in close proximity (i.e. on the same day without a substantial break). Legislative conditions under which an exempt lottery must be conducted are detailed in the Exempt Lotteries factsheet on the Commission's website;
- a *Housie* session where "prizes" or rewards consist totally of the granting of rebates, discounts or other allowances in respect of amounts payable, or the granting of refunds of amounts paid for goods sold or services performed in the course of carrying on that trade or business which are equally available to all customers; or
- a *Housie* session 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 promotion).

#### **Website Lotteries**

If a lottery is conducted via a website a permit is not required unless:

- the website is hosted in the ACT, or
- the website is not hosted in the ACT but the lottery is being advertised in the ACT in addition to the advertising on the website.

#### **Definition of advertising:**

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, email, 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 for a permit?

The application form is available from the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission's (the Commission) website at [www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au](http://www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au).

The approved application form in its entirety must be completed and signed by the promoter, or their agent, and be lodged with the Commission with the relevant fee and supporting documentation (such as rules or terms and conditions of the game of Housie).

An application may be posted (if paying by cheque), emailed or faxed (if paying by credit card) to the Commission at the addresses listed at the beginning of this document.



Processing of the application will not commence without the payment of the determined fee.

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

### Conditions of Approval

Pursuant to Section 7(3) of the *Lotteries Act 1964*, the Commission may impose conditions on an approval of *Housie* in order to protect the interests of subscribers to the lottery.

The following information states the specific conditions that apply to *Housie* approvals.

### Specific Conditions

The applicant (or their agent) must fully and accurately complete the approved application form to the satisfaction of the Commission.

Agencies acting on behalf of an applicant must include a letter of authority from the promoter conducting the lottery.

A Gambling Contact Officer must be appointed for the event and a copy of their certification must accompany the application form.

The completed application form, including attached rules or terms and conditions must be accompanied by the determined fee.

The Commission provides a template for *Housie* rules on its website at

<http://www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au/gambling/lotteries/housie>.

Participants must be over the age of 18 years.

The following persons are not permitted to enter into or participate in games of *Housie* (or allow someone to enter the game on their behalf):

- the applicant or organiser of the games of *Housie* 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* or their employees or contractors.

### Code of Practice

Pursuant to the Gambling and Racing Control (Code of Practice) Regulation 2001 (the Code), organisers of *Housie* sessions that are not exempt (over \$1,000 total prize value per session) must comply with the harm minimisation requirements of the Code.

This means that the organisation conducting the *Housie* session must;

- a) have a Gambling Contact Officer; and
- b) have staff trained in the Responsible Service of Gambling; and
- c) have a Gambling Incident Register; and
- d) not permit a person under 18 years old from participating in the session; and
- e) not pay winnings to a person aged under 18 years; and
- f) display signage that indicates that a person under 18 years of age and intoxicated people are not allowed to gamble; and
- g) display information about the availability of interpreter services; and
- h) not publish advertising that –
  - encourages anyone to contravene a gaming law; or
  - shows people under 25 years old gambling;
  - encourages people under 18 year old to gamble or targets them; or
  - is false or misleading, particularly about the chances of winning or the expected return to the player; or
  - suggests that gambling is a form of financial investment; or
  - suggests that skill can influence games that are games of chance; or
  - shows or promotes the consumption of alcohol while gambling; and
- i) not conduct a promotion that requires or encourages people to gamble at the facility for a minimum period of time to qualify for rewards; and
- j) not conduct a promotion for or including gambling at the facility that includes an offer of free or discounted alcohol; and
- k) make available at the facility in a conspicuous way, information that tells people about –
  - restrictions on cashing cheques;
  - gambling limits at the facility;
  - the chances of winning major prizes;
  - support services available to gamblers; and
  - where information can be found about the Rules of the *Housie*, the Gambling Contact Officer, a copy of the Code of Practice and counselling services available for problem gamblers.



### **Variation to approval**

Any variation to the application after the Commission has commenced its processing must be submitted in writing and be accompanied by the determined fee for a variation. The Commission must approve a variation to the promotion before any amendment can be implemented.

A copy of the variation form can be obtained from the Commission website at [www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au](http://www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au)

### **Permit number**

Once an application has been approved the Commission will issue the applicant with a permit number. All advertisements must include the permit number issued for that promotion.

### **Records**

All records concerning the game of *Housie*, including entries, number of tickets sold and game operators details must be kept for a minimum period of twelve months after the determination of the results.

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 raffle.

The Commission may request that you provide these records at any time.

### **Contacting the Commission About Your Lottery**

Completed applications may be mailed or emailed to:

The Lotteries Officer  
ACT Gambling and Racing Commission  
GPO Box 158  
CANBERRA ACT 2601

Email: [lotteries@act.gov.au](mailto:lotteries@act.gov.au)

Telephone enquiries can be directed to the Lotteries Officer on telephone 02 6207 0361.