

## **Conducting Raffles, Lotteries, and Games of Chance in Florida 4-H**

### ***Overview***

4-H National Headquarters-USDA has a long-standing policy of discouraging 4-H fundraising activities involving games of chance, raffles, lotteries, etc.

Federal regulations state that fundraising using the 4-H name and emblem should be carried out for specific educational purposes; and private support monies should be given and used for educational purposes, and accounted for efficiently. Often, these regulations are difficult to meet in a game of chance or raffle situation, which may lead to negative implications for the 4-H program and Land Grant institution.

However, 4-H National Headquarters-USDA does not expressly forbid the involvement of 4-H clubs and groups in raffles and games of chance, leaving to state 4-H programs to adopt a statewide policy

### ***Florida 4-H Policy***

Raffles, lotteries and games of chance, etc., are permitted at the discretion of the County 4-H Agent and County Extension Director (or the State 4-H Program Leader for district/statewide activities). All applicable federal and state laws shall be followed when conducting activities of this nature.

County 4-H programs may accept contributions from organizations that derive revenue from gaming at the discretion of the County 4-H Agent and County Extension Director.

### ***Conducting Games of Chance in Florida 4-H***

#### ***Public Perception***

Before choosing to conduct fundraising involving games of chance, 4-H Agents should first give careful consideration to whether the involvement of the 4-H program in games of chance enhances the precepts,

ideals, or goals of the 4-H educational work or the Land Grant institution.

### ***Florida Laws Concerning Games of Chance***

Florida Statutes §849.0935 authorizes qualified nonprofit corporations and their officers, employees and agents to conduct drawings by chance, provided the following conditions are met:

All brochures, advertisements, notices, tickets, or entry blanks used for such drawings must *conspicuously* disclose:

1. Rules governing the conduct and operation of the drawing.
2. The organization's full name and principal place of business.
3. Source of the funds used to award cash prizes, or to purchase prizes.
4. The date, hour and place where the winner will be chosen and the prizes will be awarded, unless the brochures, advertisements, notices, tickets, or entry blanks are not offered to the public more than three days prior to the drawing.
5. That no purchase or contribution is necessary.

Please also note the following:

1. If accepting money from BINGO parlors, it's necessary to accurately document to the use of those funds (i.e. camp scholarships, curriculum, etc.).
2. Money raised by games of chance or BINGO for scholarship funds (camp, congress, etc.) should have clear criteria for applying for funds.
3. 4-H Club meeting minutes should clearly identify acceptance of funds, use of funds and disbursement of funds received from BINGO or games of chance.
4. 4-H Club treasury records should also accurately reflect the above.

### ***Tax Deductibility***

Additionally, according to the Internal Revenue

Code, the price of raffle tickets, lotteries, etc. are not tax deductible as contributions.

#### *Youth Participation*

It is not legal for youth under the age of 18 to participate in games of chance.

#### ***Accepting Contributions from Gaming Organizations***

Florida 4-H has adopted a policy of permitting county 4-H programs to accept contributions from outside groups that have raised monies by games of chance without the use of the 4-H name and emblem, because these organizations are deriving revenue in a lawful manner.

However, 4-H Faculty should use discretion in protecting the name and image of 4-H, and may choose to refuse to accept donations from any entity, individual or group should they feel that it does not represent the positive youth development ideals of the program.

#### *Endorsement*

Care should also be taken not to imply endorsement of a product or organization. The 4-H name and emblem may not be used on, or associated with, products and services sold in connection with 4-H fundraising programs where endorsement of a commercial firm, product, or service is either intended or effected.

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