

**Title 11—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Division 45—Missouri Gaming Commission
Chapter 40—Fantasy Sports Contests**

EMERGENCY RULE

11 CSR 45-40.070 Operational Fees

PURPOSE: This rule addresses the calculation, documentation, and the filing requirement of the annual operation fee to be paid by licensed operators.

EMERGENCY STATEMENT: This emergency rule is necessary to address statutory sections enacted in HB 1941 (2016), specifically, sections 313.900, 313.910, 313.920, 313.930, 313.940, 313.950, 313.960, 313.970, 313.990, 313.1000, 313.1010, and 313.1020, which became law on August 28, 2016. This legislation requires the Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) to regulate and license the management, operation, and conduct of fantasy sports contests and participants.

This bill created the Missouri Fantasy Sports Consumer Protection Act and requires the operators of websites engaged in fantasy sports contests in Missouri to apply for and receive annual licenses from the Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) prior to operation. It includes a provision for “grandfathering in” fantasy sports contest operators already operating in Missouri prior to April 1, 2016, by allowing them to continue operating until they receive or are denied a license. We estimate this will affect seven (7) operators who will be charged an annual operation fee for net revenue received. This is estimated to generate \$600,000 per year for the Gaming Proceeds for Education Fund. Those operators must submit an application for licensure prior to October 1, 2016. Once licensed, HB 1941 requires operators to segregate players’ funds, maintain a reserve account for the benefit and protection of those funds, establish procedures that will prevent unauthorized withdrawals or commingling of the player and operator funds, as well as provide procedures for a player to report a compromised account. The bill also requires licensed operators to contract with a Certified Public Accountant to conduct an annual financial and internet website audit to ensure compliance with the law. The licensed operators will also have to pay an annual operation fee. Licensed operators may not issue credit to players and may not allow multiple accounts for one player. It requires licensed operators to comply with certain requirements relative to the contests they offer, including requiring that all winning outcomes be determined by accumulating statistical results of fully completed events, forbidding players to select athletes through an auto-draft process, forbidding the licensed operator from awarding any prize to the winner of or athletes in the underlying competition, and not allowing the contest to be based on collegiate, high school, or youth athletics or performances. Licensed operators must also verify each player’s age and state of residence as well as maintain and provide access to online self-exclusion forms and processes. The bill also sets parameters for the disclosure of information and documents.

HB 1941 grants the MGC the authority to oversee all licensed operators and provides the MGC investigatory, licensing, and rulemaking powers. The submitted regulations were drafted to provide procedures for licensing fantasy sports contest operators to comply with the statute that became effective August 28, 2016. The rules also provide a consistent regulatory framework from which all of the fantasy sports contest operators can operate. We met with two (2) large operators and two small operators prior to drafting these rules and we solicited comments from

three (3) of those companies. We received comments from all three (3) operators and made changes as appropriate and consistent with our statutory duties. Players will benefit from consistent standards as well, in that they can be secure in knowing that all licensed fantasy sports contest operators accepting wagers from Missouri residents comply with and operate within the same framework; these regulations will provide a level playing field for all parties involved.

Specifically, this emergency rule provides regulatory procedures for fantasy sports contest operators to follow regarding the calculation, documentation, and filing requirement of the annual operation fee.

*As such, the MGC finds an immediate threat to the public welfare and a compelling governmental interest to regulate Fantasy Sports Contests which requires this emergency action. A proposed rule covering the same material is published in this issue of the **Missouri Register**. The scope of this emergency rule is limited to the circumstances creating the emergency and complies with the protections extended in the **Missouri and United States Constitutions**. The Missouri Gaming Commission believes this emergency rule is fair to all interested persons and parties under the circumstances. This emergency rule was filed August 29, 2016, becomes effective September 8, 2016, and expires March 6, 2017.*

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: The secretary of state has determined that the publication of the entire text of the material which is incorporated by reference as a portion of this rule would be unduly cumbersome or expensive. This material as incorporated by reference in this rule shall be maintained by the agency at its headquarters and shall be made available to the public for inspection and copying at no more than the actual cost of reproduction. This note applies only to the reference material. The entire text of the rule is printed here. The Annual Operation Fee (AOF) report may also be accessed at <http://www.mgc.dps.mo.gov>.

(1) A licensed operator shall pay an annual operation fee, by April 15 of each year, in a sum equal to eleven and one-half percent (11.5 %) of the licensed operator's net revenue from the previous calendar year. All revenue collected under this subsection shall be placed in the gaming proceeds for education fund created under section 313.822, RSMo. If a licensed operator fails to pay the annual operation fee by April 15, the licensed operator shall have its license immediately suspended by the commission until such payment is made.

(2) The applicant or licensed operator shall file an Annual Operation Fee (AOF) report and all required supporting documentation with the commission by January 15 of each year for the previous calendar year. The annual operation fee shall be reported on the AOF report, which the commission adopts and incorporates by reference herein, as published by the Missouri Gaming Commission, 3417 Knipp Dr., PO Box 1847, Jefferson City, MO 65102, and which may be accessed at <http://www.mgc.dps.mo.gov>. The AOF report does not incorporate any subsequent amendments or additions.

*AUTHORITY: sections 313.920, 313.970, 313.1010, and 313.1020, RSMo (HB 1941, Second Regular Session, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, 2016). Emergency rule filed Aug. 29, 2016, effective Sept. 8, 2016, expires March 6, 2017. A proposed rule covering this same material is published in this issue of the **Missouri Register**.*