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Charitable Games Bulletin

To: All Bingo Licensees
From: Peggy Richardson, Executive Director
Date: October 30, 2023

Recently, we have received several inquiries regarding the use of cellular phones, laptops, and other personal electronic devices as electronic bingo card monitors. Through the use of an app, which can be downloaded for free on most platforms, players are able to scan their bingo cards and have the app monitor their cards for them.

The use of a player-owned electronic bingo card monitoring device (EBCMD) at a bingo occasion is prohibited pursuant to 11 CSR 45-30.600(17), which states, “The use of a player-owned EBCMD at a bingo occasion is prohibited.” Bingo players should not be allowed to use their cellular phone, laptop, or any other personal electronic device as an electronic bingo card assistant. All bingo games must be conducted on either disposable paper bingo cards or on an EBCMD approved by the Commission. (Chapter 313.040(16), RSMo.)

Please inform your patrons that the use of bingo assistants or monitors on their personal electronic devices is prohibited. It is your responsibility to comply with all applicable laws and stop the use of these bingo apps in your hall. You can post this notice or direct patrons to our website to view this notice at www.mgc.dps.mo.gov under Charitable Games, Newsletters, Bulletins, and Notices.

Chapter 313.005(3), RSMo defines an electronic bingo card monitoring device (EBCMD) as, “A technology aid which allows a bingo player to enter bingo numbers as they are announced at a bingo occasion and which marks or otherwise conceals those numbers on bingo cards which are electronically stored in and displayed on the device...(.)”

Many bingo halls offer EBCMDs for player use at their bingo games. These devices are approved by the Commission prior to use in the hall pursuant to 11 CSR 45-30.600(1). These devices are the only EBCMDs which can be used in Missouri. They are provided to the bingo licensee by a licensed supplier, and they are monitored by the Commission to ensure that the machines function fairly and are compliant with all applicable laws.