

To all Virginia Elk Lodges:

Good News! The Division of Charitable Gaming and the ABC Department have recently reversed their previous ruling that the “Queen of Hearts” game is illegal in Virginia. They have now concluded that the Queen of Hearts game is consistent with the definition of a raffle under Section 18.2-340 of the Code of Virginia, provided that the game is conducted by a charitable organization under their established guidelines and complies with the other applicable provisions of the Charitable Gaming Law.

In the past, the Queen of Hearts game has been used by many of our Lodges to increase revenue for the Lodge. Also, since the winner is required to be present to receive the full payout, the game can actually encourage attendance at Lodge Meetings and/or other events at which the tickets are drawn, as the prize fund continues to grow.

In order to conduct the Queen of Hearts game, a Lodge must hold a raffle permit from the Division of Charitable Gaming that specifically includes the game. This will mean amending any current raffle permit by filing a Charitable Gaming Permit Amendment on the form provided by the Division. You may obtain this form by calling the Division Office at (804)225-2598.

The basic guidelines for the Queen of Hearts game require that the game must be purchased from a company currently registered as an approved supplier with the Division of Charitable Gaming. The Division has also set the required pay-outs from the game at 60% to the winner, 30% to the Lodge, and 10% to the State Association. From the 10%, the State Association must donate 8% to charity and 2% may be used for operating expenses. In addition, standard record keeping and reporting to the Division are required. For more information, please see the enclosed Guidelines and Basic Rules of the game.

The VEA Board of Trustees has determined that each Lodge participating in the “Queen of Hearts” game may designate whether the 8% they pay to the State Association for charitable purposes will go to the Virginia Elks Youth Camp or to the Virginia Safety Glass Program, or both. If not otherwise designated by the Lodge, then the amount earmarked for charitable purposes will be deposited into the Virginia Elks Charity Fund. The VEA will use the other 2% to help cover Association operating expenses.

While participation in this game is completely up to the individual Lodges, it is expected that a number of Lodges will take advantage of this opportunity to help increase revenues and attendance, which can, in turn, be a win-win-win situation for the Lodges, the Association, and our major State Projects.

Sincerely

Ronald L. Hicks

Guidelines for the "Queen of Hearts" Game as issued by the Division of Charitable Gaming Commission

1. The "Queen of Hearts" game (or the same game under a different name) is hereby defined to be a "raffle" within the definition of Section 18.2-340 of the Code of Virginia and is allowed for charitable gaming by a "qualified organization" as defined in Section 18.2-340.16 of the Code of Virginia.
2. "Queen of Hearts" games must be purchased from a company currently registered with the Department as a supplier pursuant to Section 18.2-340.34 of the Code of Virginia, and which has obtained approval to sell the game.
3. "Queen of Hearts" game tickets may be sold only upon the premises owned or exclusively leased by the organization and at such times as the portion of the premises in which the game tickets are sold is open only to members and their guests.
4. Percentages of the gross receipts derived by a qualified organization from the conduct of the "Queen of Hearts" to be set as follows: Sixty percent (60%) to the winner, thirty percent (30%) to the organization, and ten percent (10%) to the state or parent association. Of the ten percent (10%) of state or national association, eight percent (8%) is to be donated to charities and two percent (2%) may be used for operating expenses.
5. Proceeds from the "Queen of Hearts" game must be used for those lawful religious, charitable, community or educational purposes for which the organization is specifically chartered or organized. If the qualified organization is a subordinate of a National or State parent organization or association, this requirement will be deemed satisfied when the qualified organization donates or transfers the said minimum amount to its National or State parent organization or association to be used for the same purposes.
6. Any organization conducting "Queen of Hearts" games shall be subject to applicable provisions of the Charitable Gaming Law, including the record-keeping and reporting requirements of Sections 18.2-340.30 and 18.2-340.31 of the Code of Virginia.

Basic Rules for the "Queen of Hearts" game

- a. The game consists of a board on which there are placed 54 standard playing cards or replicas thereof (including two jokers), the face of each card being placed against the board, secured and laminated, so as not to be visible to the person making the choice.
- b. The winning card must be designated by the organization, in advance, by the face of the card, for example "Queen of Hearts," "Jack of Spades," etc. The designation shall be posted on the board.
- c. Pre-numbered tickets to draw cards may be sold at the price per ticket established by the organization. The purchased tickets, which shall show sufficient information to identify the ticket buyer, are deposited in the receptacle for the drawing.
- d. The time and place of the drawing shall be posted in a visible location. Tickets may be sold during a prescribed time period before the drawing.
- e. At a designated time and place, all the sold tickets are placed in a receptacle and a single ticket is drawn by the moderator from all of the tickets sold during the prescribed time period. If the ticket holder is present, he is allowed to choose one of the cards from the board. If the ticket holder is not present, the moderator or designee would select a card on the ticket holder's behalf, if so authorized by the organization.

- f. The holder of the first ticket selected (the winning ticket) is awarded a predetermined cash prize and in addition is given the opportunity to choose one playing card from the cards arranged on the board.
- g. If the card chosen by the holder of the winning ticket is the "Queen of Hearts" (or other designated card), then the holder wins all the money in the prize fund.
- h. If the card chosen by the holder of the winning ticket is not the "Queen of Hearts" (or other designated card), then the holder may still win another consolation prize as prescribed by the organization.
- i. If the holder of the winning ticket does not choose the Queen of Hearts from the board of cards, then the remainder of the prize amount is retained for a subsequent drawing. A new set of tickets is sold (with all prior tickets being eliminated), and the prescribed percentage of the additional proceeds is added to the prize fund. At the time and place set for the next drawing of tickets, the procedures are repeated the same as for the previous drawing and the entire accumulated prize fund is available to be won.
- j. The game continues with subsequent ticket sales and drawings until the winning card ("Queen of Hearts" or other designated card ") is drawn.