

MONTANA TAVERN TIMES

Division Reminders - July 1, 2012

By Angela Nunn

Operations Bureau Chief, Gambling Control Division

This is a busy time of year for the division as fiscal year end approaches. We are in full swing of license and permit renewals, issuing special event permits such as Calcuttas and Card Tournaments, and processing applications. In light of a few recent issues, I have decided to dedicate this article to reminders from the division.

The end of the fiscal year also means it's the end of 4th quarter and video gambling machine taxes are due. All end-of-quarter meter readings must be submitted *before July 7th at noon* in order to get an accurate tax estimate. If they are not submitted by that time, the tax estimate will be calculated based on the last meter reading entered and when it is corrected, additional taxes may be due.

The division is excited to announce that Live Game permitting is now available online! The renewal piece of live game permits was not complete in time to roll out this year, but any new live card tables, keno, or bingo can be permitted online. We are working on adding more services online and will let you know as they become available.

Another reminder is the importance of completing video gambling machine service reports. In rule (23.16.1929, ARM) it states:

Any repair or replacement of a machine's logic board which may cause a loss of memory or change in the meter reading must be reported to the Gambling Control Division of the Department of Justice on forms prescribed by the department at the time of the repair. The report requires the disclosure of the following information:

- Final electronic and mechanical meter readings before repair;
- Initial electronic and mechanical meter readings after repair; and
- The nature of the problem encountered which necessitated the repair.

If your machine zeroed itself or locked up, you must obtain the last good lifetime electronic meter readings prior to being zeroed from the machine's audit roll and enter them as the before meter readings.

If there wasn't a problem with the machine, but rather a different program was installed, you must also complete a service report. There is a section on the form to identify the new program ID number. Program changes affect the accounting of the machine (even if the meters are not zeroed out) and can cause problems if not promptly reported. So, please communicate these changes as well. Typically, service reports are completed online through your epass account. If you do not have an epass account, the form is available on our website.

The final reminder I would like to share is related to card tournaments. In response to an issue that kept popping up, in December we revised 23.16.1101 (9), ARM to state:

Winners are determined at the conclusion of the tournament based upon points or chips accumulated throughout the course of the tournament. Prizes may only be awarded at the conclusion of the tournament.

Because of the statutory requirement that seven days must lapse between tournaments, if you choose to hold a multi-day tournament, each day may not be run as a separate tournament. We have received some card tournament applications which indicate that there are separate buy-ins for each day of the tournament. This indicates to us that each day is essentially a separate tournament. Simply requiring the winners from each day to wait until the last scheduled day to receive their prize does not comply with the card tournament statutes and rules, and those applications will be denied.

For any questions or more information, please call the Gambling Control Division at (406) 444-1971 or email gcd@mt.gov. (References: 23-5-317, MCA; 23.16.1101 and 23.16.1929, ARM).