



CALCUTTA GUIDELINES

A Calcutta is an auction pool conducted by an organization authorized by the department. Competitors in an event are “sold” to the highest bidder and the winner(s) of the pool of money is determined by the results of the event. A Calcutta auction is commonly conducted in conjunction with golf tournaments, rodeos, March Madness college basketball tournaments, etc.

Submit at least 10 working days before the event:

[Form 26](#) and \$25 Application Fee

[Form 26](#) requires:

- ✓ Date/time/location of the Calcutta auction
- ✓ Date/time/location of the underlying event(s)
- ✓ Description of the underlying event(s)

Note: A Calcutta permit may cover more than one underlying events if they are all part of a recognized single competitive exhibition or contest (e.g. rodeo).

- ✓ Number of competitors or teams
- ✓ List of event rules
- ✓ Prize values
- ✓ Projected costs
- ✓ Identification of charitable cause or nonprofit the Calcutta is supporting
- ✓ Intended use of proceeds

Requirements:

- Participants bid on individual or team competitors in an underlying event.
- A person’s wager is equal to their bid.
- No more than one wager for each competitor is allowed.
- Only cash, checks, or debit cards may be accepted as payment during the event (no credit cards).
- At least 50% of the total pool must be paid out in prizes.
- Calcutta payouts can only occur at the end of the underlying event and be divided among pool participants who “purchased” the winners of the event according to the rules.
- Proceeds from the pool, after administrative expenses and prizes paid, must be donated to a charitable cause or nonprofit organization
- Rules must be publicly posted at the event.
- Events may not be fictitious or contrived.
- Calcutta’s may not be conducted on elementary or high school sporting events.
- Underlying event must have more than two entrants.
- Records of Calcutta must be kept and reported to the division upon request.

Questions? Contact the Gambling Control Division at (406) 444-1971, visit <https://dojmt.gov/gaming/> or email gcd@mt.gov.

Reference [23-5-221](#), [23-5-222](#), [23-5-223](#), MCA; [23.16.2801](#), [23.16.2802](#), [23.16.2803](#), [23.16.2806](#), ARM