



Football Sports Boards-FAQ's

Q. How much can I charge per chance?

A. Up to \$100 per chance

Q. What is the most that a \$100/square board can pay out?

A. A 25 square board which charges \$100 per chance can pay no more than \$2,500.

Q. Can I have a board that only pays out on the final score of a football game?

*A. Yes, as long as the payout to the winner equals the total value of the board. All sports boards have to have 100% payout. Sport tab games must have at least a 90% payout.**

Q. Is there a way I can create a separate board for each quarter?

A. No, but a board is legal if it pays on a recognized interval score as well as the final score. (Example: Your rules announce that the board would have two winners, one for the score at the end of the first quarter, for example, and one for the end of game score, where the prize for the final score is equal to or greater than the prize for the first quarter interval score. So, if you were charging \$2 space on a 25-square board, the pot would be \$50. The first quarter winner could receive \$25 for matching the numbers at the end of the first quarter, and a second winner matching the final score would win the remaining \$25 of the \$50 pot). Remember, the final score payout has to be equal to or greater than the value of any other interval payout and payouts can only be made at "regularly timed periods or naturally occurring break" in the football game, e.g., quarters, half and final. Prize awards can never be made at "any other contrived point, action, event or episode" in the game (e.g., each score change is not a recognized interval).

Q. How many boards can I run for each game?

A. There is no limit to the number of boards you can run per game, but they must be independent from each other.

Q. What happens if I don't sell all the spaces on the board before the start of the game?

A. The sponsor selling the spaces is required to buy any remaining unsold space(s). The board can never be altered after it is started (e.g., cancelling or changing the board to a later sports event to allow more time to sell spaces is prohibited).

Q. Where should I store the money for each board?

A. The money for each board should be kept in a safe location, but must be made available for inspection by a Gambling Investigator or local law enforcement officer. Money from separate boards must be kept separate (in separate envelopes or other method for segregating the money) and the envelopes should be labeled to correspond with the board it represents. Investigators or local law enforcement officials should be able to randomly select a fully or partially sold board and be able to accurately count the money specific to that board. No charitable proceeds may be removed from the proceeds until after the outcome of the sports event.

Q. Can I lock the sports board money in the safe until it's paid out?

A. Yes, so long as it is made available for inspection upon request of a Gambling Investigator, or local law enforcement officer, and so long as each envelope corresponds to an associated board.

Q. Can I accept checks or credit cards for the sale of sports pool chances?

A. No. The sale of sports pool chances must be in cash only.

Q. I've heard different stories on how to properly set up a board. Any suggestions?

*A. Master square boards containing horizontal and vertical rows are the most common boards we see. It is important to note that **BEFORE ANY SQUARES ARE SOLD**, the sports pool card shall clearly indicate:*

1. NAME of the sports event or series of events covered by the card.
2. The name of the COMPETITORS in the sports event or series of events. (Detroit vs. Minnesota, Home and Away/Visitor, Winning Team and Losing Team)
3. The DATE of the sports event or DATES of the series.
4. The COST for each chance (space) per sports event. (\$1, \$5, up to \$25)
5. How much MONEY and/or what PRIZES the winner(s) will receive at pre-determined intervals. (1st qtr., halftime, final score)
6. Sponsor of the sports pool. (e.g., Bob's Casino)
7. Name or initials of participants who purchased chances on card (Names cannot go on the board without paying first)
8. If board pays both ways, it must be advertised in advance of sales

Winners of each prize must be identified on each card.

All sports pool cards must be kept for 90 days minimum after the event or last event in a series of events.

Once the sale of chances begins, the sports pool cannot cancel or alter the sports pool card in any manner

If the value of a merchandise prize is less than the amount of money paid by all participants for the chance to participate, the person conducting the sports pool shall award the balance to the winner(s) in cash.

** Non-profit organizations may keep up to 50% of the value of a sports pool if the amount retained is used to support charitable activities, scholarships, educational grants or community service activities.*

Q. When do I assign numbers to the horizontal and vertical rows?

A. Once you close the pool to sales but before the start of the sports event, numbers are then to be randomly assigned to the horizontal rows and vertical columns. Any unsold spaces at that point are considered purchased by the bar or person sponsoring the board and that person or entity must mark those spaces as sold.

Q. How long do I need to keep my sports boards after the football game(s)?

*A. A sports pool card/board must be held for at least **90 days** from the date of the sports event and be made available for inspection upon request. The names of the sports pool winner(s) must be prominently displayed on each board. **Sports tab games are required to be maintained for at least one year.***

Q. When do I have to award the prizes?

*A. Prizes must be awarded **at the conclusion** of the sports event (or series of sports events), or as soon thereafter as the winner appears to claim her prize.*

Q. Can merchandise be awarded as prizes?

*A. Yes, you can award merchandise as the prize(s) to the winner(s) of the sports pool. However, a prize in the form of merchandise must be identified before the sale of any chances; the purchase price of the merchandise must equal the value of winning square, or the difference in value must be paid in cash to the winner. Proof of the purchase price (**receipts**) of merchandise must be retained for **at least 90 days** from the date of the sports event. **Sports tab games have a one year retention.***

Q. When do the team names have to be placed on the horizontal & vertical axis?

*A. You are required to place the two teams on the axis **prior to the start of the game.** (It is your preference which team goes on the horizontal axis or the vertical axis of the board). **But remember, the sporting event itself must be identified on the board prior to the sale of any chances.***

Q. Our beer distributor gave the bar some free sports pool boards. Are they in compliance?

A. Maybe-Maybe not. Distributors are not required to verify that their boards are legal in MT prior to handing them out. It is the responsibility of the bar or person offering the sports pool to ensure the boards being used are legal. When in doubt, contact the Gambling Control Division.

Q. If I have any questions, who do I call?

A. Please contact the Gambling Control Division or visit the State of Montana Dept. of Justice, Gambling Control Division website to get the most up to date FAQ Sports Board sheet, office locations and phone numbers. The main Helena number is 406-444-1971. Website is: <https://doj.mt.gov/gaming/>

The codes concerning Sports Pools can be located in MCA 23-5-501 thru 23-5-512 and rules can be located in ARM 23.16.1701 thru 23.16.1709.

Valid only for 2017/2018 Football Season