

STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
GAMBLING CONTROL DIVISION

2550 Prospect Avenue, P.O. Box 201424, Helena, Montana 59620-1424

Tim Fox
Attorney General

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March 17, 2015

RE: "March Madness NCAA Multiple Competitor Sports Pool" variation approved.

Effective March 17, 2015, the Montana Department of Justice Gambling Control Division has approved a variation of an authorized Multiple Competitor Sports Pool, hereafter referred to as "March Madness NCAA Multiple Competitor Sports Pool." *(Note: While the title of the board clarifies its intended use, the method in which you operate it must be in compliance with the laws, rules and variations approved by the Gambling Control Division.)*

As a reminder, a standard "Multiple Competitor Sports Pool board" consists of: *A "multiple competitor sports pool" in which three or more competitors simultaneously compete in a sports event or series of sports events as individuals, not as a team, such as in a car race or golf tournament. Competitors are randomly assigned to participants, and a pool winner is determined by the score or place that the competitor attains in the sports event or series of sports events. (ARM 23.16.1705(3)(g))*

At this time, only Calcuttas, Series Sports Pool Boards, a variation of a Multiple Way Sports Pool Board and this Multiple Competitor Sports Pool Board are currently authorized to accommodate the "March Madness" NCAA Basketball Tourney (Men's or Women's) in Montana.

The NCAA bracket boards **are not authorized** in Montana except as a "Promotional activity." This means that no consideration (money or other thing of value) can be paid for the opportunity to participate, either publicly or privately.

For the purposes of the "March Madness NCAA Multiple Competitor Sports Pool," an NCAA bracket board may only be used to track the team names and scores.

Multiple Competitor Sports Pool spaces can only be sold for up to \$25 each. Total prizes cannot exceed the \$2,500 maximum limit, but with only 64 NCAA competitors, the maximum total payout in prizes could only be \$1600.

Three attachments have been added for your convenience. They are:

Attachment #1: Guidance for conducting a March Madness NCAA Multiple Competitor Sports Pool

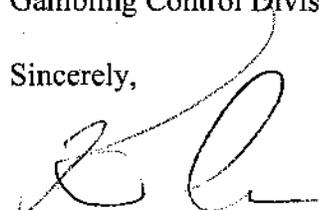
Attachment #2: Required information on all sports pool boards in Montana

Attachment #3: Example of a NCAA Multiple Competitor Sports Pool Board

Rules for maintaining records for sports pool boards apply to this authorized activity. Sports pools may not be conducted over the internet. As a reminder, please check with the Gambling Control Division each year for any changes to law or rules pertaining to sports pool boards.

If you have any questions or a need for clarification, please do not hesitate to contact the Gambling Control Division at (406) 444-1971.

Sincerely,



Rick Ask, Administrator
Montana Department of Justice
Gambling Control Division
2550 Prospect Ave.
Helena, MT 59620

Attachment #1

GUIDANCE FOR CONDUCTING A MARCH MADNESS NCAA MULTIPLE COMPETITOR SPORTS POOL

1. The March Madness NCAA Multiple Competitor Sports Pools must be conducted on a 64 space board.
2. Spaces must always be sold to each participant for the same amount. Money to participate must be paid at same time the space is chosen. A person cannot sign the board and pay later (*that constitutes Credit Gambling*).
3. Payouts must occur at the end of the tournament.
4. After all spaces on the board are sold and prior to the first game of the tournament, randomly drawn teams are assigned to each participant. Those teams will not change for the duration of the tournament.
5. The original board is required to be stored on the premises for at least 90 days beyond the last game in the series. (ie: 90 days past the NCAA Finals Championship Game).
6. Once the cost of the spaces on the board is determined, a layout of prize values can be determined.
7. Prizes awarded to the winner or winners of a sports pool may be cash or merchandise but must not exceed a total value of \$2,500. (See ARM 23.16.1704(2) for more details.)
8. 100% of the proceeds of a sports board must be paid out in prizes. A "non-profit organization" may retain up to 50% of the value of the sports pool as provided in MCA 23-5-503(3)(b).
9. Winners of each prize must be clearly identified.
10. Any spaces not sold before the start of the first game and prior to assigning random numbers are to be purchased by the sponsor of the board. Participants may not sell, trade, or otherwise transfer his/her competitor (team) to another person.
11. Winners are determined by 1st and 2nd place winners after the Championship game. Since the teams that did not make the championship game are not ranked for their final position, no other payouts could occur.

Attachment #2

REQUIRED INFORMATION ON A SPORTS POOL BOARD

All information required in Mont. Admin. R. § 23.16.1702(4): The sports pool card shall, in advance of any sale of any chance, clearly indicate:

- (a) rules for conducting the sports pool;
- (b) name of the sports event or series of events covered by the card (ie: March Madness NCAA Multiple Competitor Sports Pool.)
- (c) name of the competitors in the sports event or series of events, if known (ie: Winning Team & Losing Team.)
- (d) date of the sports event or dates of the series of sports events;
- (e) total number of chances available in the pool;
- (f) cost to the participant for each chance;
- (g) total amount to be paid to each winner;
- (h) intervals that a pay-out will be made and the amount of each pay-out;
- (i) name of the person or business conducting the sports pool; and
- (j) amount or value of each individual prize and the total value of all prizes

Attachment #3

Bob's Bar & Casino
2015 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament
Multi-Competitor Sports Pool
Tournament Dates: March 19-March
64 Chances / \$___ Per chance/ Total Prize Money \$ ___
1st Place wins \$_____ 2nd Place wins \$_____

Player/Participant	NCAA Team (Randomly assigned)
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
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