

Subject Line: A Message from Charitable Bingo Operations Director

A Message From

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Director, Charitable Bingo Operations Division (CBOD)

January 2020

The purpose of this message is to provide an update for the start of the new year, 2020. (Can you believe it is 2020?)

Rule Changes

At the Dec. 12 Commission meeting, the commissioners approved the rule changes with respect to Unit Accounting; Pull-Tab Bingo; Registry of Bingo Workers; General Records Requirements; Bingo Gift Certificates; Required Inventory Records; Disqualifying Convictions; and Schedule of Sanctions. The primary purpose of the rule amendments is to implement statutory changes required by House Bill 914. The rules that were approved and adopted included modifications from the proposed rules to address public comments the Commission received from the bingo industry. The rules can be found on the agency's website, www.txbingo.org under *News and Publications*. A link to the Secretary of State's posting of the Rules is also available on the Bingo Division's website. That site should be updated with the new rules mid-January.

House Bill 914 and Prize Fees

As a reminder, **beginning Jan. 1, 2020**, bingo organizations that file a quarterly report after Jan. 1, 2020 are required to properly distribute prize fees to their local government(s) within 25 days of the end of each fiscal quarter. This includes those prize fees for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2019.

As of Jan. 1, 2020, the TLC will only accept the amount due to the state. We will be returning checks that exceed the exact amount due to the state. TLC will not accept prize fees due to a county or municipality.

Each conductor should have received or will be receiving notification from the appropriate local governing bodies, as applicable, of the continued imposition of the fee and how and where you, the conductor, is to remit that fee. The result of those votes is posted on txbingo.org. We will be posting an updated list this month. This posting is for informational purposes only. Licensed organizations should not be making the final decision on the distribution of prize fees based upon this list.

Any issues concerning the payment of prize fees to local governments will need to be coordinated through those entities. We recommend seeking independent legal advice if you have any questions concerning the allocation of prize fees.

Updated quarterly report forms will have been mailed with the quarterly report reminders and should be also available on our website. You can now file electronically through the Bingo Service Portal.

Bingo Hall Meetings

CBOD conducted bingo hall meetings where we discussed changes to the BEA, reviewed draft forms and answered questions concerning charitable bingo. We visited Lubbock, Duncanville (Dallas area), San Antonio, Austin, Houston, McAllen and Killeen.

Quarterly Report Deadlines

As we presented in previous messages, CBOD implemented adjusted dates for filing calendar year 2019 quarterly reports. The following is a reminder of those dates. For the explanation as to why, please refer to the *86th Texas Legislature Update – A Message from Charitable Bingo Operations Director October 2019* posted on our website under *News & Publications*.

Oct. 26, 2019 Disabled electronic filing with coupon payment of prize fees.

Oct. 27, 2019 Enabled only exact amount payments for prize fees for electronic quarterly report filing.

Dec. 13, 2019 Recommended mailing date for paper quarterly report filing. This should have provided enough time to process to prevent return of the payment and/or recalculation due to HB 914.

Dec. 20, 2019 Deleted all partial/incomplete electronic quarterly reports to eliminate the possible use of the wrong form and prevent return of the payment and/or recalculation after Jan. 1, 2020.

Disabled electronic filing at noon to eliminate the possible use of the wrong form to prevent return of the payment and/or recalculation due to HB 914.

Jan. 1, 2020 **Began use of revised** quarterly report forms on both BSP and paper forms. Organizations reporting multiple locations or filing an amended report will need to file using a paper form.

Jan. 25, 2020 Fourth quarter calendar year 2019 quarterly reports due.

Finally (for now)

I strongly encourage you to visit the Charitable Bingo website, www.txbingo.org, as we post items there regularly. You can also find transcripts of Commission Meetings and Bingo Advisory Committee meetings.

If you have questions, please contact us via e-mail at bingo.services@lottery.state.tx.us or by phone at 800-BINGO-77 (800-246-4677) and follow the prompts.

I and the rest of the Charitable Bingo Operations Division hope that you and yours had a very happy holiday season.