

Gambling, Raffles, and Games of Chance

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SECTION I. PURPOSE

Most gambling activities are unlawful under Minnesota law. There are limited exceptions for charitable gambling activities conducted by non-profit organizations. The purpose of this policy is to restrict gambling on St. Thomas property and at St. Thomas activities and events consistent with Minnesota law and the provisions below.

SECTION II. SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all students, employees (faculty, staff, and student workers), volunteers, contractors, and visitors (collectively “Covered Persons”).

SECTION III. DEFINITIONS

When used in this policy, the following term has the following meaning:

- **Gambling** means the staking or risking by any person of something of value upon the outcome of a contest of others, a sporting event, or a game subject to chance, upon an agreement or understanding that the person or another person will receive something of value in the event of a certain outcome. It includes those activities defined as gambling or betting that are regulated by the Minnesota Gambling Control Board or made unlawful under the law.

SECTION IV. GAMBLING PROHIBITED

Covered Persons may not engage in unlawful gambling on property owned, rented, or leased by St. Thomas (including vehicles), using University-owned technologies or facilities (including University networks and email), or at off-campus University activities or events.

Additionally, under NCAA rules, Athletic Department staff and student-athletes are not permitted to participate in any wagering activities that involve an NCAA-sponsored sport or professional athletic contest, even if such activity is permitted under Minnesota law.

SECTION V. PERMISSIBLE GAMBLING

A. St. Thomas

St. Thomas, as an institution, may conduct lawful gambling activities deemed permissible for non-profit entities by Minnesota law or rule.

B. Student Clubs and Organizations

Student clubs are not permitted to conduct fundraising activities considered gambling unless they first obtain permission from the Director of Campus Life or designee (which permission may be denied for any reason), agree to abide by all applicable gambling laws, and provide the following:

- copy of the IRS letter showing that the club's national organization is a nonprofit organization and carries a group ruling;
- copy of the relevant national organization's charter or similar governing document recognizing the student club as a subordinate organization;
- copy of the government permit or exemption permitting the club to conduct the lawful gambling activity; and
- any other information or verifications requested by Campus Life.

Student clubs seeking to fundraise may engage in activities not considered gambling under Minnesota law, such as:

- **Games of Skill** – An activity based on skill where the participant may pay for a ticket or a chance to compete to win. As an example, guessing the number of marbles in a jar is a game of skill, so long as participants can arithmetically and logically arrive at an answer and the item used (i.e. jar with marbles) is sealed and in plain view.
- **Silent Auction** – Participants silently suggest a price for an item on auction and the item goes to the highest bidder. Individuals may not be required to pay for a chance to bid. Bids can either be posted on paper or concealed on a slip of paper and submitted.

Student Clubs should consult with Campus Life if they have questions about permissible fundraising activities.

C. Other Organizations

St. Thomas may permit outside non-profit organizations to engage in lawful gambling on University premises or at University activities or events. Organizations seeking to conduct lawful gambling must provide proof of non-profit status and a copy of the government permit or exemption permitting the organization to conduct the lawful gambling activity. They must also agree to abide by all applicable gambling laws. St. Thomas may require additional information or verification and reserves the right to deny requests to conduct lawful gambling for any reason.

D. Private, Social Bets

Private, social bets, as that term is interpreted by the Minnesota Gambling Control Board, are not unlawful under Minnesota law and, except as specified below, are not prohibited by this policy. Examples of private, social bets include low-stakes card games between friends; small, spontaneous wagers among acquaintances; and other spur-of-the-moment private transactions not involving organized, commercial, or systematic operations.

Athletic Department staff and student-athletes are not permitted to participate in any wagering activities that involve an NCAA-sponsored sport or professional athletic contest, even if such wager could be considered a private, social bet under Minnesota law.