Gaming News
Minnesota Gambling Control Board
October
November
December
2026

Building Stronger Partnerships with Permitted Premises

A Message from the Executive Director

One of the things I've come to appreciate most in this role is how much charitable gambling depends on people who never sign a licensing application but who are essential to getting it right every day: the bartenders, servers, and other staff at your permitted premises who sell games, answer questions from patrons, and keep an eye on things during a shift. They are, in a very real sense, the front line of this industry, and their success is our success.

That's part of why this fall we're introducing a new informational guide that our field agents will hand out to permitted premises during routine site inspections. It's a plain-language resource built for the people actually behind the bar—covering what they're responsible for when it comes to selling and handling games, what good recordkeeping looks like, and who to call when something doesn't look right.

But I want to be clear about what this guide is, and isn't. It isn't a substitute for the relationship between a licensed organization and premises staff—it's meant to strengthen it. The organizations I see thriving under inspection are consistently the ones where the gambling manager has taken the time to actually train the people selling games on-site, not just hand them a stack of tickets and hope for the best. Compliance isn't something that happens to a premises from the outside; it's built through ongoing communication between your organization and the staff who are there every day, in the moments an inspector isn't.

I'd encourage every organization to treat this guide as a starting point for that conversation, not a replacement for it. Sit down with your premises staff. Walk through the guide together. Make sure new hires get the same grounding your longtime staff already have. The organizations that invest in this kind of partnership and training tend to see it pay off—not just in cleaner inspections, but in staff who feel confident and supported rather than caught off guard.

Charitable gambling works because a lot of different people—licensees, managers, sellers, premises owners—are pulling in the same direction. This guide is one more tool to help make sure everyone on that team has what they need. I'm grateful for the work you and your premises partners do every day, and I look forward to seeing this partnership continue to grow.

Executive Director
MN Gambling Control Board

https://bit.ly/GCB-Seller-Quick-Guide



Continuing Education: In Full Swing!

Fall continuing education (CE) is already underway, but there is still plenty of time to meet your requirement before the end of the year.

As a reminder, all gambling managers must complete at least one CE class conducted by the Board each calendar year.

While the hard deadline is December 31st, we strongly recommend completing your training early—managers who do not meet the requirement will receive a citation.

You have two flexible ways to complete your training:

- **Online Classes:** Find links to all online options on our website under Education / Continuing Education Classes, then select the “Online” tab.
- **In-Person Classes:** Courses are being taught across the state throughout the fall — see the website for current dates and site locations.

New Registration Requirement for In-Person Classes
Registration is now required for all in-person classes to reserve your spot. However, if space permits on the day of the class, walk-ins will still be welcomed at the door.

All classes are free, and anyone interested in lawful gambling is welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing you online or in person!

In-person CE Opportunities at ACM Conference

Join us at the 35th annual ACM Lawful Gambling Convention in St. Cloud on November 19-20, 2026, hosted by Allied Charities of Minnesota! Drop by one (or more) of our great breakout sessions to learn from our great specialists and check of your continuing education credit for the year. To learn more about ACM, visit: https://www.alliedcharitiesmn.org/acmconvention/

Check Out These Sessions at ACM this year:

What’s New at the Gambling Control Board–2026
Catch up on everything you missed over the past year in this dynamic agency recap.

How to Stay Off the Gambling Control Board Naughty List
This class will walk through the most commonly identified violations among licensed organizations during their compliance reviews and cover how to avoid making those same mistakes.

Best Practices for Lawful Gambling Inventory Management
This class will explain best practices for managing your inventory including maintaining records, site security, and how to destroy records after the required time has passed.

Internal Controls for Lawful Gambling Organizations
This class will review the Gambling Control Board’s expectations for internal controls, including membership oversight, monthly reconciliations, and theft prevention, to ensure your organization is on the right track.

What To Do When Anticipating or After Experiencing a Disaster



Recent events in Minnesota are a reminder that natural disasters can impact your organization's gambling operations. If your organization is anticipating a disaster or has experienced the loss of gambling equipment or records due to fire, flood or weather, please follow these steps:

1. Safety First: Your safety is the top priority. Ensure that you and those around you are safe before taking any protective action regarding gambling equipment or records or preserving gambling equipment or records.
2. If Possible: If you have ample warning and can safely get to your sites or locations, preserve cash and records as best as possible.

If you experience a disaster:

1. Immediate Reporting: Please contact the Department of Revenue at 651-297-1772 as soon as possible for instructions on how to report destroyed games.
2. Document: If you can, document the extent of the damage, including photographs, to assist with the reporting process.
3. Keep the GCB Informed: Please keep your compliance specialist informed so we can provide the necessary support and guidance. A list of compliance specialists by county is available here.
4. Fund Loss: If you experience the loss of funds, your organization is required to file Form LG250. Start the process as soon as practicable to ensure ample time for documentation and an easier process.

Keeping Your Premises Clear of Illegal Sports Boards



Football season is in full swing, and with it comes a seasonal reminder for licensed organizations: sports-themed tipboards are the only legal sports wagering allowed period.

Illegal sports boards can show up in a lot of familiar packaging—weekly "squares" grids, playoff bracket pools, and over/under boards. Regardless of how casual or well-intentioned they may seem, only sports-themed tipboards purchased through a licensed distributor that has gone through the Board's approval process are legal, and an organization that allows one to operate at their permitted premises can be held responsible right alongside whoever brought it in.

What Permitted Premises Should Do

- Know what's on your walls and behind your bar. Only games obtained through a licensed distributor and purchased by a licensed organization should be present.
- Ask questions about anything that looks like a sports pool, squares board, or bracket contest — even if someone says "it's just for fun" or "nothing's for sale."
- Talk to your organization's gambling manager or the Gambling Control Board if you're unsure whether something is a sanctioned game or an outside board that shouldn't be there.
- Remember that responsibility doesn't rest solely with whoever introduced the board. Licensed organizations and their permitted premises are accountable for what's operating on-site.

Learn more about Sports Tipboards at: https://mn.gov/gcb/manual/conduct-games/tipboards/



Stay Connected

Compliance and Licensing have had several staffing updates recently, leaving a number counties with a new point of contact.

To find your current specialist, visit the Gambling Control Board website and go to:
About Us > Contact Us or visit https://mn.gov/gcb/about-us/who-we-are/.

Compliance and licensing staff are listed by county, making it easy to find the right person for your organization.

Bookmarking that page is a good habit — it's the fastest way to stay current when coverage changes.

CRG
IN SESSION

Citation and CRG Activity Reports

The Citation and CRG activity reports are now located on our website. You can find them at:
mn.gov/gcb/publications/gaming-news/

PAID
CITATIONS

Gambling Control Board meetings are open to the public and may be attended either in person or online. Please check our website (mn.gov.gcb) to confirm the date, time, location, and for information on how to join online.

Upcoming meetings

Oct 19, 2026	10:00 a.m.
Nov 20, 2026	11:00 a.m.*
Dec 21, 2026	10:00 a.m.

*The November meeting is limited to in-person attendance at ACM. An audio recording will be made available following the meeting.

Board Members:

Doug Forsman, Chair (Shakopee)
Jim Nardone, Vice Chair (Grand Rapids)
Mike Sundin, Secretary (Esko)
Alan deJesus (Minneapolis)
Bill English (Plymouth)
Kate Luthner (Forest Lake)
Vacant