



Request to Conduct of Raffle Using Alternative Method of Selecting Winners

"Mouse Hole" Raffle – DENIED

July 17, 2006, Board Meeting

Proposed conduct of the game

The proposed game includes a game board measuring approximately four feet square with 36 holes surrounding the perimeter of the board. Outside the game board area is a corresponding "bet placement" board for players. Players purchase raffle tickets (betting slips) and place up to five tickets per event on any of the designated holes. Each designated hole includes a payout limit (20-to-1; 10-to-1; etc.). There are also four holes in each corner of the game board considered to be "house holes" (where the player is not allowed to bet and the organization keeps all of the money if selected). Once all of the bets are placed on the bet placement board, a live mouse is released on the game board – whatever hole the mouse crawls into designates the winning hole. Whatever bet slips are on the winning hole wins the designated payout (i.e., a \$1 bet on a 20-to-1 hole would pay \$20; a \$5 bet on a 20-to-1 hole would pay \$100). If the mouse enters one of the "house holes" no prizes are awarded to the participants.

The alternative raffle request was denied for the following reasons:

- Minnesota Statutes, section 349.12, subdivision 33, defines raffle as "a game in which a participant buys a ticket or certificate of participation in an event where the prize determination is based on a method of random selection and all entries have an equal chance of selection." Using live animals as a method of selecting a winning entry in a raffle has never been recognized by the Gambling Control Board as an acceptable method due to the ability to manipulate the animal or affect the random selection process (scented hole/baited/etc.).
- The proposed layout of the game board shows that the "house holes" are in each corner. The Board is not aware of any statistical analysis to prove/disprove the theory, but randomness of the game board and the "equal chance of selection" cannot be assured (mice might generally gravitate to the corner and that is probably why the odds for those particular holes favor the house).
- Minnesota Statutes, section 349.173 (a), states in part that "raffle tickets or certificates must list the three most expensive prizes to be awarded". Given the proposed design of the game, the winning prizes vary based on predetermined odds for each hole and in some cases no prize awarded if the mouse enters a "house hole". Legal raffle prizes by design have never been based on odds. The only form of lawful (charitable) gambling where odds are allowed involves a paddlewheel game when used with an approved wagering table.
- Minnesota Statutes, section 349.173 (b) (5), states in part that "physical presence at the raffle is not a requirement to win". Based on the proposed conduct of the game, physical presence at the raffle would be required in order to complete the entry in the raffle by placing the ticket on the bet placement board.
- Based on the proposed design, the organization is not assured of achieving net proceeds for the raffles. There is no limit to the number of participants, only the number of tickets per participant. If multiple tickets (bets) are placed on a winning hole with the long odds, the payout could exceed the gross receipts.