



OPERATING STANDARDS TOURNAMENTS EFFECTIVE DATE: JULY 1, 2021

OVERVIEW

As set forth in 3770:2-10-60 (H) of the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) the director shall adopt management regulations for video lottery games and associated promotions. This document is intended to provide general guidance for conducting a VLT tournament.

REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

Ohio Administrative Code [3770:2-10-60 \(H\)](#)

DESCRIPTION

The lottery recognizes that venues use tournaments to reward loyal players or as a marketing tool for players. If a tournament has an entry fee it can range from minimal to several hundred dollars. Some venues offer free tournaments that are open to the general public. They hold weekly or sometimes daily tournaments as a way to attract players to the venue. There also are a number of venues that offer invitation-only, private tournaments. Invitational tournaments are usually held as a reward or comp for loyal or high limit players. VLT tournament mode is when VLTs do not accept money or vouchers for play and game meters do not increment but still allow the patron to play.

STANDARDS

The VLSA shall submit all tournament rules to the OLC for review and approval at least 30 days in advance of the event. The tournament rules should include, but are not limited to, the description of tournament length, buy-in pattern, audience and which bank of VLTs will need to be approved to be turned into “tournament mode”.

The VLSA shall include promotional and buy-in tournaments within its annual marketing plan if prizes awarded include restricted promotional credits.

Contact

Before putting machines into tournament mode the VLSA must contact Intralot VLT operations in advance via email at the following address: OHVLT@intralot.us.

Approval

Before a tournament begins the VLSA must provide the breakdown of prizes and demonstrate to OLC that all scheduled prizes and disbursements will be awarded in a timely manner and that the VLSA has in place a procedure to confirm the timely award of all scheduled prizes and disbursements.



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Types of tournaments may include the following:

- **Promotion Tournaments:** Patrons are awarded a seat to play in a tournament based on their rated play. VLSAs may pay out tournament winnings with restricted promotional credits, merchandise prizes, cash, or any combination thereof.
- **Buy-in Tournaments:** Described as a patron paying an entrance fee to play in a tournament. The payouts must equal the total of all collected entrance fees. This can occur with one hundred percent of the total of all entrance fees awarded as a prize to the participants or a combination of cash and prizes to participants.
- **Charitable Buy-in Tournaments:** Described as a patron paying an entrance fee to play in a tournament. The charitable donation must equal the total of all collected entrance fees. A charity is defined as any verified 501(c)3 organization.

VLSAs shall not receive any profits from tournaments.

CONTACT

Questions regarding the OLC program may be directed to:
vlt@lottery.ohio.gov