

You CANNOT improve the odds of winning at bingo by

- selecting specific bingo cards or playing a certain number of cards per game
- playing with lucky charms or lucky dabbers
- playing at certain times of the day, night, week or month. Wins or losses are not related to when bingo is played.
- playing for a longer or shorter period. The longer you play the more money you will spend over time.

Gambling Responsibly

Most people who play games of chance, such as bingo, do not experience problems. However, some people do, and here are a few tips that may help players manage their gambling behaviour:

- Understand that playing games of chance involves spending money over time, just like any other form of entertainment.
- Before you start playing, determine the amount of time and money that is appropriate for you to spend. Always play within your limits.
- Set a budget and stick to it.
- Do not chase your losses. Accept them as a cost of entertainment.
- Do not use money intended for everyday expenses or borrow money to play games of chance.
- Only spend what you can afford to lose.

Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission (AADAC)

AADAC operates and funds information, prevention and treatment services for Albertans concerned about alcohol, tobacco, other drugs and gambling. AADAC provides gambling-related programs and services to adults and youth, including

- information
- prevention and education
- community outreach
- assessment and referral
- outpatient counselling
- Problem Gambling Stabilization Program
- residential treatment
- 24-hour Help Line, 1-866-332-2322

For more information visit aadac.com



Help Is Available

Are you concerned that you or someone you know may have a gambling problem? Contact your nearest AADAC office, visit aadac.com, or call the 24-hour, toll-free AADAC Help Line at **1-866-332-2322**.

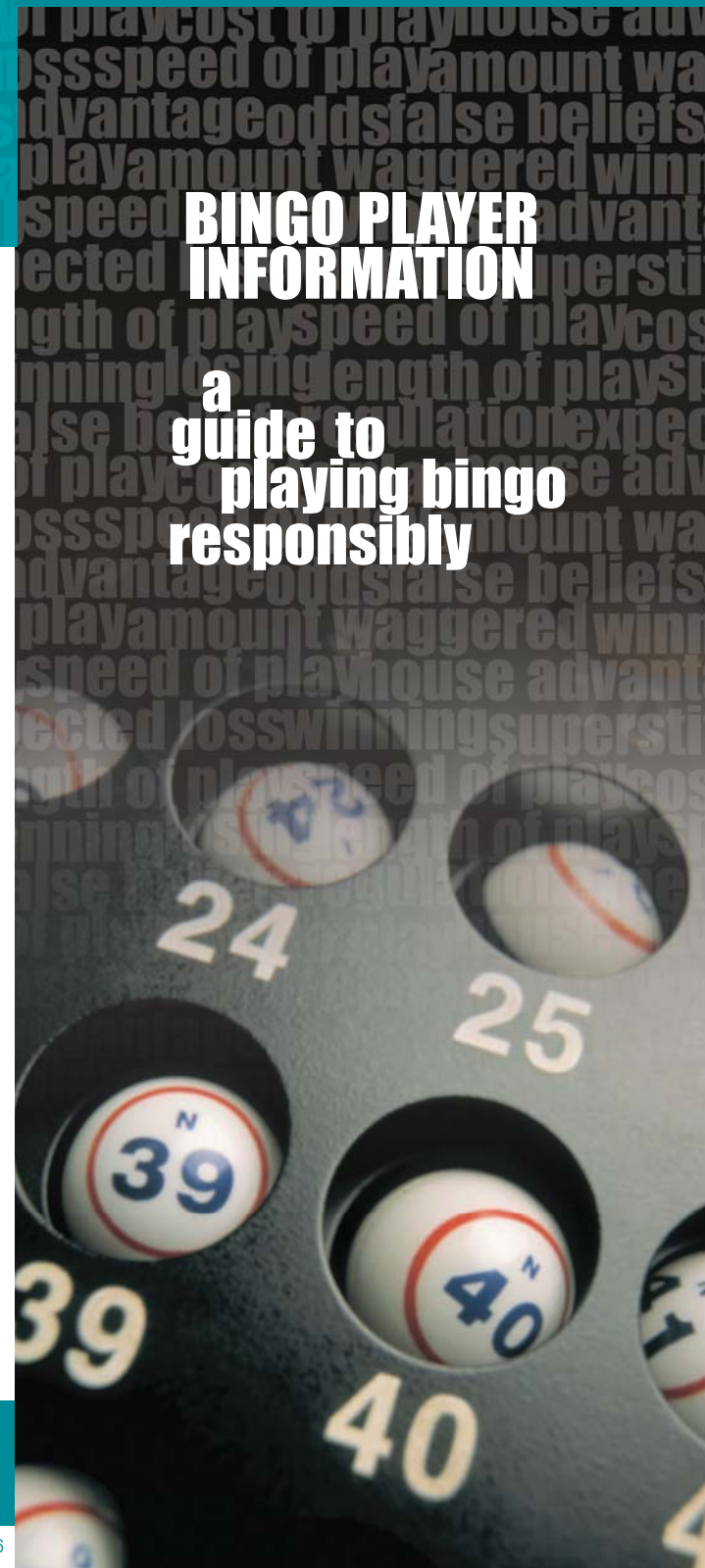
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GAMBLING
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Alberta
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AADAC
ALBERTA ALCOHOL AND
DRUG ABUSE COMMISSION

BINGO PLAYER INFORMATION

a guide to playing bingo responsibly



Charitable Gaming Model

Alberta's distinctive Charitable Gaming Model is in place to ensure that charities receive maximum benefit from gaming activities. Charities include schools, youth sports, service clubs and religious groups. Each year over 6,000 charities and religious groups throughout Alberta conduct charitable gaming activities, which raise millions of dollars used to fund community projects sponsored by these groups.

Charitable gaming refers to bingo, casino table games, raffles and pull-ticket sales conducted by eligible groups. The Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (AGLC), as the agent of the Government of Alberta, is responsible for regulating charitable gaming activities and issuing gaming licences to eligible charitable and religious organizations to conduct gaming activities. Licences are also issued for bingo events and bingo facilities. For more information on the Charitable Gaming Model, the licensing process and charity and facility operators' responsibilities, visit the AGLC website at www.aglc.ab.gov.ca



Charitable Gaming Profits

The revenue from bingo, casino, raffle and pull-ticket sales is used to pay for prizes and expenses related to the operation of the charitable gaming event. The balance of the revenue, gaming proceeds, is pooled and shared with other charities working bingo events at the same bingo facilities that month. Charities participating in electronic bingo games also receive a portion of the net revenue generated from electronic bingo and Keno during their event from the Alberta Lottery Fund. Visit www.albertalotteryfund.ca for more information. Information on charitable gaming profits is available on the AGLC website in the annual report *Charitable Gaming in Review*.

Basic Bingo Information

How to Play

Bingo is played by randomly selecting a ball from 75 ping-pong type balls with a letter/number combination as follows:

B1–15; I16–30; N31–45; G46–60; O61–75

Players purchase bingo cards, each having 25 squares (5 squares down x 5 squares across). One letter from the word BINGO appears over each vertical column and each square contains a number (from those listed above) except the free centre space. The player matches the letter/number combination called by the caller to a square on the bingo card, and marks that square to indicate that the number was called. The game is won when the marked squares on the player's card completes the required pattern for the game (e.g., a straight line pattern). Once the pattern is completed the player calls "BINGO" to stop the game and have their bingo verified by the caller.

As an alternative to paper cards, players may also play bingo cards on a hand-held electronic device called a DIGI. The DIGI unit can hold up to 42 bingo cards; players enter the called number into the DIGI unit, which automatically marks all the bingo cards containing that number.

The DIGI unit screen displays the player's best four cards and when only one more number is needed for a BINGO, the unit will flash that number on the appropriate bingo card displayed on the screen.



Cost to Play

The cost to play bingo will vary depending on the rules of the bingo hall; usually a minimum purchase of regular game cards is required. Bingo cards can range in price from 50 cents per card to \$3.00 per card.

Whether you play bingo, slot machines, roulette or lottery tickets it is important to remember that games of chance are based on random outcomes. Games of chance are a form of entertainment, at a cost to you, the player. Playing bingo should be viewed not as a way to make money, but as a way for you to spend a few hours in the company of others playing a game.

Chances of Winning

There are many patterns that can be played in bingo: a full card, an X, a straight line and many more. However, every bingo game outcome is based on the random drawing of numbered bingo balls; each bingo number has the same chance as any other of being drawn. Although there must be a winner every game, the chances of winning a bingo game depend on

- the luck of the draw
- the pattern being played
- the number of balls needed to be called for the pattern
- the number of cards that have been purchased for the game being played

Prize Payout: The Basics

Prize payout for regular games is based on attendance, cards sold or a percentage of cards sold. The prize payout for regular games is announced by the caller at the beginning of the event. In licensed bingo facilities a minimum prize payout is determined in the case of multiple winners. The maximum overall prize payout for all games at a bingo event is 65% of total sales.

Gambling Myths

Can you improve your odds of winning? The answer is no. It might be fun to imagine that rubbing a rabbit's foot improves your chances of making a bingo, but the reality is that this "magical thinking" has no impact whatsoever on the outcome of the game. There is nothing you can do, no ritual or lucky charm, that will influence the outcome of any bingo game.