

Guidelines for Event Games

A bill to amend Article 9-A of the General Municipal Law (also known as the Games of Chance Licensing Law) was recently passed by the New York State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo (**Chapter 531 of 2011**), authorizing the play of a specific type of bell jar game called Event Games. Event Games are defined as follows:

“Event game” shall mean a bell jar game in which certain winners are determined by the random selection of one or more bingo numbers, the use of a seal card or by another method approved by the Racing and Wagering Board.

Event Game deals may contain instant winners which are determined when a player, after purchasing an Event Game bell jar ticket and upon the opening of the ticket’s tabs or windows, uncovers designated winning numbers, colors or symbols on such ticket. Event Games may also be conducted in conjunction with a seal card where winners are determined by a player’s matching of a particular number, color or symbol reflected on his or her bell jar ticket with a color, number or symbol revealed upon the opening of the designated seal on the applicable seal card.

Additionally, Event Games may be played in conjunction with bingo, where winners are determined by the matching of a particular number or numbers appearing on a bell jar ticket with the random selection of one or more bingo balls during the conduct of a regular licensed bingo game. Prior to the commencement of sales of any particular Event Game deal, the licensee will announce the particular method of play used to determine the bingo event winner (if applicable).

Progressive Event Games are not permitted.

Normal bell jar rules apply to the conduct of Event Games including the following:

- Event Games may be sold only by authorized organizations that possess a valid bell jar license from their municipal clerk.
- Organizations licensed to sell bell jar tickets must report to the Board on form GC-7Q every Event Game bell jar deal closed during the applicable calendar quarter and remit to the Board an 5% additional license fee of the reported net proceeds for each such Event Game bell jar deal.
- Licensed authorized organizations may purchase only Event Games that have been approved by the NYS Racing and Wagering Board.
- Event Games may purchased by licensed authorized organization only from games of chance suppliers licensed by the NYS Racing and Wagering Board.