



Bell Jar - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What additional license fees must I pay in order to sell bell jar tickets?

Five percent (5%) of the "Ideal Net Proceeds", which must be remitted to the Gaming Commission within fifteen days of the end of each calendar quarter.

2. What are ideal net proceeds?

Ideal net proceeds are computed by taking the "ideal handle" (the total cash value of tickets in the deal, which is determined by multiplying the number of tickets in an unopened deal by the cost per ticket); minus the total value of the prizes awarded in the deal; minus the cash value of the unsold tickets, if any, left in the deal at the close of sales (which is determined by multiplying the number of unsold tickets by the cost per ticket).

3. When can a bell jar deal be removed from play?

A bell jar deal can be closed and removed from play after seventy-five percent (75%) or more of the total winning prizes in that deal have been awarded.

4. What if the end of the quarter arrives and I have only sold a partial deal.

Only report the sale of a deal in the quarter in which it has been completely sold (or was removed from play, per the answer to Q-3, above). If none of your deals has been completely sold or taken out of play during a calendar quarter, you are still required to file a GC-7Q financial statement for that calendar quarter. However, in such cases, the back of the GC-7Q form is left blank; zeros are entered into Sections A and B of the statement; the remainder of the form must be completed and signed by the appropriate officers; and the form must be submitted.

5. To whom do I pay the additional license fee? When do we pay the fee?

Checks must be made payable to the NYS Gaming Commission. Additional license fees must be paid quarterly and are due fifteen days after the close of each calendar quarter. If it is necessary to remit additional license fees for more than one calendar quarter at the same time, please write a separate check for each quarter.

6. What forms are filed with the NYS Gaming Commission by licensed authorized organizations?

The GC-7Q quarterly financial statement and, if applicable, Form GC-317, when seeking approval to disburse bell jar proceeds.

7. What forms are filed with the municipal clerk?

The licensing forms, GC-2, 2A, 2B and, when amending an existing license, Form GC-6.

8. Do I make any payments to the county clerks?

No. Your bell jar license fee of \$25.00 is remitted to the municipal clerk in the city, town or village that licensed the authorized organization, and your 5% additional license fee is remitted to the Commission.

9. We used to sell bell jar tickets, but have not sold a ticket in more than a year. How do we become eligible to sell bell jar tickets again?

An authorized organization that has not been licensed to conduct any type of games of chance within one year must file Form 1-A with the Commission to update its Games of Chance Identification Number prior to applying to the municipal clerk for a license. There is no fee for this process.

10. From whom can I purchase bell jar tickets?

Bell jar tickets can only be purchased from Commission-licensed Games of Chance Suppliers. A list of suppliers licensed by the Commission is available on the website.

11. When and where can bell jar tickets be sold?

Bell Jar tickets can be sold twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week (excluding Christmas Day and Easter Sunday), on the premises of the licensed authorized organization, and on the premises that the licensed authorized organization conducts its licensed bingo and/or Las Vegas Night license periods.

12. Can a person who is not a member of the licensed authorized organization sell bell jar tickets?

Only licensed, bona-fide, active members of a licensed authorized organization or bona-fide, active members of an auxiliary or affiliated organization that has been issued a Games of Chance Identification Number; is listed on the parent organization's license application as an assisting affiliated organization; and whose members are listed on the parent organization's license application as assistants to persons in charge are authorized to participate in the operation of bell jar tickets.

13. *Can we sell Bell Jar tickets on New Year's Eve?*

Yes. The General Municipal Law was amended to allow the conduct of Games of Chance on New Year's Eve. However, please note that no Game of Chance, including bell jar, can be conducted on Easter Sunday or Christmas Day.

14. *What are the penalties for selling unauthorized bell jar tickets?*

Selling unauthorized bell jar tickets is a criminal offense (Class A misdemeanor). In addition, organizations selling unauthorized bell jar tickets may be fined up to \$1,000 and may have their Games of Chance License and Identification Number suspended or revoked after a hearing.

15. *Is an organization required to load an entire deal of bell jar tickets into a bell jar vending machine?*

No. There is no rule or regulation requiring it.

16. *Can we sell multiple bell jar deals simultaneously?*

Yes, provided separate records are kept to ensure accurate reporting of each deal.

17. *Are bell jar ticket workers/sellers/MICs required to wear photo identification badges?*

Yes. Every person involved in the management or conduct of any type of game of chance, including bell jar ticket operations, must wear an identification badge pursuant to Rule 4622.19.

18. *Is it a violation for bartenders to buy tickets when they are not working?*

Yes. Pursuant to Rule 4622.20, all licensed persons who participate in the management or conduct of games of chance during a license period are prohibited from participating in such games as players, including purchasing bell jar tickets, during that same license period:

No licensee shall permit any person who has participated or assisted in the management or conduct of the games of chance license period to participate as a player or purchase bell jar tickets at any time during such license period.

Since Section 186(15) of the General Municipal Law defines a bell jar license period as a calendar year, no person who participates in the management or conduct of bell jar games during a calendar year shall purchase bell tickets during that same calendar year:

"License period" shall mean a period of time not to exceed fourteen consecutive hours and, for purposes of the game of chance known as a bell jar and a raffle, "license period" shall mean a period of time running from January first to December thirty-first of each year.

19. What if someone else buys them for the off-duty bartender and the bartender opens them?

Permitting someone else to purchase tickets and allowing the bartender to open them is an obvious attempt to circumvent the rule, and must be prohibited by the Members In Charge of the licensed authorized organization. The bartender's opening of a bell jar ticket constitutes "participating as a player in a game of chance" even though he or she did not purchase the ticket.

We strongly recommend that all officers, directors and persons associated with the management or operation of a licensed authorized organization be prohibited by the licensee from buying bell jar tickets, even if they not listed on a bell jar license, to avoid the appearance of impropriety if they should win.

20. Do organization members have access to the organization's bell jar financial records?

Yes, at every monthly meeting, pursuant to Rule 4624.15:

21. Can we mark the bell jar flare by crossing-off prizes when they are awarded to let the players know that those prizes have already been won?

Yes, pursuant to Rule 4620.19 (b)(3) an organization may mark the winning prizes appearing on the flare as they are awarded.

22. What is the procedure when a player purchases all remaining tickets in a deal with the anticipation of winning a prize supposedly not yet awarded based on the marks crossing off winners reflected on the flare, and the winning ticket is not among the tickets purchased?

Rule 4620.19(c)(9), prohibits awarding payment for a missing winning ticket. The missing tickets can be attributed to one of three possibilities:

1. The winning ticket was not included in the box by the ticket manufacturer and the deal is defective; or
2. The winning ticket was purchased, and the seller forgot to cross that prize off the flare; or
3. The ticket was opened and discarded by a player who didn't recognize that it was a winning ticket.