



**Licensing and Regulatory Group
Table Games Department**

REGULATORY MANUAL FOR POKER OPERATIONS

APPLICATION AND OPERATION GUIDELINES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PAGCOR's role in the regulation of the Philippine gaming industry assumes careful consideration of all aspects of gaming operations, in this case poker operations, from the application process of interested investors to the procurement of gaming items, the gaming establishments' operations, up to the disposal of regulated items when the gaming facility closes shop. In all these, PAGCOR must ensure that gaming establishments positively contribute to the nation-building mandate of PAGCOR. To achieve these, PAGCOR needs to:

- Ensure a level playing field among industry Operators;
- Maintain an orderly and predictable regulatory environment;
- Enforce license terms and conditions;
- Promote fairness and integrity in the conduct of games;
- Provide an underlying platform for responsible gambling;
- Disallow access to gaming venues by minors and financially vulnerable persons; and,
- Prevent licensed gaming venues from being used for illegal activities.

This revised Regulatory Manual for Poker Operations (from the Gaming Site Regulatory Manual for Poker Games v.2) standardizes policies and guidelines for the establishment and operation of onsite and offsite poker rooms to achieve the above objectives. For prospective Operators seeking a gaming license to set up and operate a poker room, it shall be used as a roadmap to guide them through the process of application. For existing poker Operators, this manual will serve as a guide for their day-to-day operations to which they may refer whenever they have questions on PAGCOR's regulations.

The Table Games Department acknowledges the dynamism of the gaming industry and that while regulations contained in this manual may be applicable at the time of its development, they may not be so in the future. Thus, this manual shall be regularly updated accordingly to provide optimal regulations to achieve PAGCOR's mandate.

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ABBREVIATION DEFINITION

AD	Accounting Department
ADD	Acquisition and Disposal Department
AFP	Armed Forces of the Philippines
AFS	Audited Financial Statement
AML	Anti-Money Laundering
AML/CFT	Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism
AMLA	Anti-Money Laundering Act
AMLC	Anti-Money Laundering Council
App/s	Application/s
ASC	Ads Standard Council
BBJ	Bad Beat Jackpot
BFP	Bureau of Fire Protection
BIR	Bureau of Internal Revenue
BOD	Board of Directors
BRP	Breach Reporting Protection
BSP	Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CDD	Customer Due Diligence
CDS	Company Disclosure Statement
CCEO	Chairman and Chief Executive Officer
CF	Casino Filipino
CHED	Commission of Higher Education
CMCI	Cities and Municipalities Competitive Index
DepEd	Department of Education
DOF	Department of Finance
DPA	Data Privacy Act
DPO	Data Protection Officer
DSA	Designated Smoking Area
ECMS	Enterprise Content Management System
ED	Evaluating Department
ERP	Emergency Response Protocol
FMD	Fund Management Department
FT	Franchise Tax
GEL	Gaming Employment License
GGR	Gross Gaming Revenue
GIS	General Information Sheet
GL	Gaming License

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ID	Identification Document
IRG	Implementing Rules and Guidelines
ITD	Information and Technology Department
ITR	Income Tax Return
KYC	Know Your Customer
LGU	Local Government Unit
LMD	Logistics Management Department
LOI	Letter of Intent
LVP	License Validity Period
MGF	Minimum Guarantee Fee
NDRP	National Database of Restricted Persons
NVRs/DVRs	Network Video Recorders/Digital Video Recorders
OCCEO	Office of the Chairman and CEO
OPC	One Person Corporation
OR	Official Receipt
P2P	Player-to-player
PCD	Performance Cash Deposit
PDP	Privacy and Data Protection
PDS	Personal Disclosure Statement
PIA	Privacy Impact Assessment
PMP	Privacy Management Program
PNP	Philippine National Police
PRC	Professional Regulations Commission
PRORG	Poker Room Operational Rules and Guidelines
PTZ	Pan-Tilt-Zoom
RG	Responsible Gaming
SEC	Securities and Exchange Commission
SSS	Social Security System
TGD	Table Games Department
TD	Treasury Division
TIN	Tax Identification Number
UMID	Unified Multi-purpose ID
UPS	Uninterruptible Power Supply

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REGULATION 1. BASIC APPLICATION QUALIFICATIONS

SECTION 1. Qualifications of a Poker Room Applicant

1. Only Corporations duly registered in the Philippines, including One Person Corporation (OPC), are allowed to apply for a Gaming License (GL) to operate a poker room.
2. Corporations with foreign nationals as shareholders may apply for a GL, provided that its foreign ownership complies with the Regular Foreign Negative List B of the Republic Act No. 7042, otherwise known as Foreign Investment Acts of 1991, as amended.
3. The Applicant must pass PAGCOR's standard probity check to examine its suitability as a Poker Operator and comply with the submission of documentary requirements.

SECTION 2. Site Location Requirements

1. Zoning policies
 - a. PAGCOR implements restrictions on the maximum number of poker rooms to be approved based on the Department of Trade and Industry's ranking of Cities and Municipalities Competitive Index (CMCI)¹ which was computed from the sum of their scores on 4 Pillars: Economic Dynamism, Government Efficiency, Infrastructure, and Resiliency 2023 rankings:

Classification	Max No. of Poker Rooms*
a. Highly Urbanized Cities	5
b. Top 50 Component Cities	3
c. Top 50 1st to 2nd Class Municipalities	1

**Includes poker rooms inside casinos.*

¹ <https://cmci.dti.gov.ph/rankingsdata.php?unit=Highly%20Urbanized%20Cities>

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- b. These restrictions shall be subject to review considering developments in the poker market.

2. Acceptable establishments

a. Malls

- i. A building where most of the establishments located therein provide retail sales, leisure, and entertainment.
- ii. Within the compound's general premises. This may include non-connected annexes belonging to the same complex which shares the same parking area/s.

b. Hotels/ Resorts

Located inside the hotel or within the same complex classified as a three (3)-star hotel and resort accredited by the Department of Tourism/Local Government Unit (LGU).

c. Cockpit arenas/Horse racing tracks

d. Commercial buildings

- i. Must be a multi-door building providing commercial services (i.e., retail, distribution, services, banking/ financial service, food, leisure).
- ii. For site under mixed-use commercial/residential condominium shall be classified as commercial by LGU Zoning Body.
- iii. The building should not be located beside or across informal settler dwellings.

e. Inside PAGCOR-operated gaming establishments.

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3. Distance restrictions

a. Proposed sites situated in a commercial building must comply with the following distance requirements:

i. Not less than three hundred (300) meters radial distance from:

(a) Schools are educational institutions duly registered with the Department of Education (DepEd) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

(b) Church or places of worship.

ii. Distance from another poker room must be at least five (5) kilometers.

b. Other proposed sites are exempted from distance restrictions.

c. Measurement of distance

i. Distance will be measured using radial or point-to-point straight distance from one site to another.

ii. In measuring distance, Google Maps' "Measure distance" or other online applications (apps) may be used.

4. No stand-alone poker room shall be allowed. This refers to poker room located in a solitary building or establishment and is not part of any commercial complex or compound.

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REGULATION 2. APPLICATION PROCESSES AND REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1. Application Process

1. Pre-application process

a. Letter of Intent (LOI)

- i. The Applicant shall submit an LOI addressed to the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CCEO) with attached copy of the corporation's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Certificate and notarized Board Resolution and Secretary's Certificate designating the corporation's authorized representative/s to transact with PAGCOR.

The LOI shall indicate the following:

- (a) Exact address of the proposed site;
 - (b) Details of the corporation/Company Profile; and
 - (c) Authorized Representative's name, contact number, and email address.
- ii. For proposed site inside PAGCOR-operated casinos, the LOI shall be coursed through the Branch Manager of the prospective Casino Filipino (CF) branch.

b. Exploratory meeting

- i. An exploratory meeting will be set between PAGCOR and the Applicant after the LOI is endorsed from the Office of the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (OCCEO),
- ii. The Applicant shall be oriented on the application process, fees and regulations on poker operations.

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2. Application Proper

- a. After the exploratory meeting, the Applicant shall fully accomplish **TGD-1525 Application Form for the Establishment of Poker Room Part I** and submit the same with the screenshots of Google Maps or other available online apps showing the proposed site and its distance from nearest establishment/s (i.e., school, place of worship, another poker room or another gaming establishment).
- b. The Applicant must ensure that the proposed poker room location is compliant with LGU requirements and regulations on the establishment and conduct of gaming operations and issuance of a business permit.
- c. Together with the application form, **TGD-1555 Poker Applicant's/Operator's Billing Notification Form** for the application fee shall be issued to the Applicant.
- d. Payment of Application Fee
 - i. Payment shall be made to PAGCOR Fund Management Department (FMD) Cashier located at 9F MET Live Building CBP I-A, Macapagal Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension, Pasay City.
 - ii. Once payment is made, proof of payment with an attached **TGD-1498 Poker Applicant's/Operator's Payment Form** shall be submitted to Table Games Department (TGD).
 - iii. Payment of the aforementioned fee is not transferable, not refundable and does not guarantee approval of the application.
- e. TGD representative/s shall validate the information indicated by the Applicant in **TGD-1525** via physical inspection. The Applicant shall be notified on the conduct of inspection through the contact details provided in **TGD-1525**, via email and phone.

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f. Based on the inspection report, if the proposed poker site is found in order, TGD shall issue notice to proceed to Application Part II with the attached form, **TGD-1526 Application Form for the Establishment of Poker Room Part II**, to the Applicant for the list of documentary requirements. Otherwise, TGD will issue notice of discontinuance of application.

g. All submitted documents shall be evaluated by TGD. Should any document be found incomplete, deficient or not in proper order, TGD shall inform the Applicant of the specific documents that need to be remedied, revised or corrected.

h. Probity Check

Simultaneously, the Applicant must undergo and pass the probity check to be conducted by a third-party PAGCOR-accredited probity checker.

i. The probity checker shall be accountable for the veracity of the probity result/s provided to PAGCOR. All information and documents acquired and provided during the conduct probity check shall remain privileged, confidential, and exclusive for PAGCOR's use only.

ii. Applicant shall submit properly filled out **TGD-1679 Waiver and Authorization Form for Probity Check**.

iii. All expenses/fees incurred during the conduct of probity check shall be for the account of the Applicant.

iv. The probity report shall form part of the evaluation of the application.

3. Endorsement for Approval

a. If there are issues of concern in the submitted document and/or probity report, the Applicant shall be notified of the same and shall be required to present/provide document and/or certifications to clear such issues of concern.

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- b. Once probity report and required documents are found in order, the application shall be recommended to the PAGCOR Board of Directors (BOD) for approval. Otherwise, TGD will issue notice of discontinuance of application.

4. Post-BOD approval process

- a. Upon approval of the application by the PAGCOR BOD, TGD shall issue a Notice of Approval to the Applicant with the attached **TGD-1555** for the following payment upon receipt:
 - i. Approval Fee (for offsite only) - must be settled within fifteen (15) days upon receipt of **TGD-1555**.
 - ii. Performance Cash Deposit (PCD) – to be settled within one hundred twenty (120) days upon receipt of Notice of Approval or before commencement of operations whichever comes first.
- b. The Applicant must comply with the following pre-operational requirements/documents prior to being given a notice to commence.
 - i. Undergo the following:
 - (a) Construction of poker room/renovation notice – by submitting **TGD-1511 Poker Room Establishment Compliance Notification Form**;
 - (b) Acquisition/Procurement of poker gaming equipment and paraphernalia through PAGCOR-registered suppliers and/or duly licensed Operators;
 - (c) Hiring, training and securing of the required **Gaming Employment License (GEL)** from PAGCOR of all personnel;
 - (d) Develop and establish a player registration system conforming with the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001 (AMLA) requirements;

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(e) Apply for access to PAGCOR's National Database of Restricted Persons (NDRP);

(f) Creation of official email address; and

(g) Subscribe to a service provider handling risk intelligence database for Know Your Customer (KYC) screening and customer due diligence (CDD), such as but not limited to, World-Check, Acuris Risk Intelligence, Dow Jones and other open-source verification/avenues.

ii. Submit the following:

(a) Business permit for the current year;

(b) Poker Room Operational Manual to include but not limited to:

- Players' registration process;
- Poker room house and game rules, including tournament and progressive jackpot guidelines/mechanics;
- Cage and cashiering processes/ procedures;
- Playing cards handling procedures (record keeping from storage room, issuances/retrieval to/from tables, up to destruction);
- Handling and resolution of player dispute/s;
- Security, health emergency, and disaster preparedness and response protocols/plans; and
- Employees duties and responsibilities.

(c) List of employees with a valid GEL;

(d) Poker room final floor layout with properly labeled surveillance layout, offices, and ancillary areas;

(e) Inventory of gaming equipment and paraphernalia;

(f) Anti-Money Laundering Council (AMLC) Certificate of Registration; and

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(g) TGD-1497 Operator's Authorized Signatory and Contact Information.

- c. Once the above-undertakings has been complied with, the Applicant shall notify TGD of its target opening date using **TGD-1515 Notification of Target Opening Date of Poker Room**. A pre-operational inspection shall be scheduled and conducted, to validate compliances with the prescribed requirements.

The Applicant shall be notified on the conduct of pre-operational inspection through the contact details provided via email and phone.

- d. During the pre-operational inspection, TGD shall also conduct initial inspection and inventory of procured gaming items and proper tagging of gaming equipment (where applicable) using TGD generated Quick Response (QR) codes.

Subsequent inventory, inspection and tagging shall be conducted on future procurement of additional gaming items.

5. Commencement of operations

- a. The Applicant shall commence operations within one hundred eighty (180) days upon approval of the application. Failure to commence as stated herein shall result in the revocation of the approved application and shall be disqualified from reapplying.
- b. Once the TGD has validated the Applicant's compliance with prescribed pre-operational requirements, it shall be issued a Notice to Commence.
- c. The Applicant shall accomplish **TGD-1545 Poker Room Operating Status Report** to evidence its actual opening date.

SECTION 2. Poker Room Applicant Documentary Requirements

1. All documents shall be sent together with the following required attachments:

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- a. For physical and printed version, sealed in a brown envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL" addressed to:

Table Games Department

c/o Central Receiving – Records Management Department
Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation
G/F Lobby, MET Live Building, Central Business Park 1-A
Macapagal Boulevard cor. EDSA Extension Pasay City 1300

- b. For scanned copies, via the PAGCOR Enterprise Content Management System (ECMS) URL: ***www.ecms.pagcor.ph***

2. Corporation documents

- a. Company profile
- b. Organizational Structure
- c. Notarized Secretary's Certificate and Board Resolution designating an Authorized Representative of the corporation to transact business with PAGCOR and sign documents on behalf of the Applicant/Operator.
- d. **TGD-1082 Company Disclosure Statement (CDS)**
- e. For each Shareholder/BODs/Key Officers:
 - i. **TGD-834 Annual Personal Disclosure Statement (PDS) for Incorporators/Directors/Key Officers**
 - ii. Copy of any valid government-issued Identification Document (ID)
 - iii. Copy of filed Income Tax Return (ITR) (duly stamped by Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) for the previous year)
 - iv. Copy of Alien Certificate of Registration – for foreign nationals only
- f. Feasibility Study

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3. SEC documents duly received
 - a. SEC Registration
 - b. Articles of Incorporation
 - i. Must reflect that "Poker Gaming" or "Gaming" is one of its primary purposes of business.
 - ii. Must have an authorized capital stock of at least Twenty Million Pesos (₱20,000,000.00) per poker room.
 - iii. If a stockholder is also a corporation, a copy of its SEC Registration and Articles of Incorporation should also be submitted.
 - c. By-Laws
 - d. Latest General Information Sheet (GIS) duly received by SEC. If a stockholder is also a corporation, a copy of the latest GIS of the said corporation should likewise be submitted.
 - e. Latest Audited Financial Statement (AFS)
4. BIR Documents
 - a. BIR Certificate of Registration
 - b. Latest ITR
5. Building/structure floor plan from the Lessor including the exact area where the proposed poker room will be set up.

SECTION 3. Application Monetary Requirements

1. General guidelines

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Applicable fees shall be paid by the Applicant relative to the application for a Gaming License to setup and operate a poker room. Fees payable to PAGCOR are non-refundable and non-transferrable.

2. Summary of fees

a. For **Offsite Poker Rooms**

- i. Application Fee – shall be paid and submit together with duly completed Application Form and required attachments.

Application Fee – One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00)

- ii. Approval Fee – shall be paid after the approval of the application by the PAGCOR BOD and prior to commencement of the poker room operation.

Approval Fee – One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00)

b. For **Onsite Poker Rooms**

- i. Application Fee – shall be paid upon advice of TGD if duly completed Application Form and required attachments are found in order.

Application Fee – One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00)

3. PCD – posting shall be done before the commencement of the operations but not later than one hundred twenty (120) days upon receipt of Notice of Approval. Failure to post within the required period may result in cancellation of the approved application.

a. PCD Amount

- i. For **Offsite Poker Room** – Three Million Pesos (₱3,000,000.00)

- ii. For **Onsite Poker Room** – One Million Pesos (₱1,000,000.00)

- b. The PCD shall be interest-free and refundable (net of arrears) upon cessation of the poker room's operation and full undertaking of required post-operational activities of the Poker Operator subject to final audit.

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- c. The PCD amount shall be subject to change as deemed necessary by PAGCOR.

REGULATION 3. THE GAMING LICENSE

SECTION 1. The Gaming License (GL)

1. The GL is a document issued by PAGCOR authorizing a Poker Operator to set up and operate a poker room and host poker games.
2. The operation of a poker room without a valid GL is strictly prohibited.
3. The GL grants the Poker Operator the privilege to establish, set-up, maintain, and operate a poker room, as approved by PAGCOR.
4. The GL's terms and conditions that govern its issuance are contained in this manual as well as the rules and guidelines in setting up and operating a poker room.
5. Existing, new, or amended regulatory policies disseminated through any of the following electronic channels shall form part of the terms of the GL
 - a. Poker Operator's official e-mail address;
 - b. Regulatory page in the PAGCOR website; and
 - c. Regulatory issuances through poker@pagcor.ph.
6. The initial GL is valid for two (2) years and for renewal is three (3) years.
7. The GL is non-assignable and non-transferable.
8. The GL of the new poker room shall be released only upon compliance with the pre-operational requirements.

REGULATION 4. THE POKER ROOM

SECTION 1. Setting up the Poker Room

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1. The proposed poker room should be in one room or in contiguous rooms sharing a common border. It can be co-located with another gaming site in one establishment, provided that it must have a separate ingress/egress. For rooms on multiple floors, they should be connected by stairs or escalator/ elevator.
2. The Poker Operator shall notify TGD of the start of the construction of its poker room using **TGD-1511** within thirty (30) days from receipt of the Notice of Approval of application.
3. The Poker Operator shall ensure that the poker room is constructed in conformity with the specification guidelines as enumerated under this Regulation.
4. The designated gaming area shall be installed with a surveillance monitoring equipment with a minimum of one and one-half (1.5) Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) cameras per table and other identified areas ensuring that all sections of the poker room are covered and unobstructed.
5. Air-conditioning and ventilation: the Poker Operator must provide sufficient air-conditioning to the poker room and must also have available Emergency lights.

SECTION 2. Poker Room Area Requirements

The poker room shall be composed of at least the following areas with below specifications and regulations/ signages must be prominently displayed per area, as applicable:

1. Registration Area
 - a. Minimum set-up
 - i. Computer set with installed player registration system
 - ii. Membership card printer (if applicable)
 - iii. Access to NDRP
 - iv. Cabinet/drawer with lock for records' storage
 - b. Post the following Signages:

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- i. Player Registration Guide (standee);
- ii. AML Minimum Customer Information poster;
- iii. Blinds/Buy-in and Rake Schedule;
- iv. Data Privacy Registration Sticker; and
- v. Self-Exclusion poster.

2. Gaming Area

- a. The gaming area shall be determined by the following formula:

$$\text{Gaming area} = (\text{Poker table footprint}) \times (\text{quantity of tables})$$

- b. The poker table footprint shall be at least twenty-five square meters (27m²), with total gaming floor area of at least one hundred eight square meters (27 x 4 = 108 m²).
- c. The footprint is inclusive of aisles which shall be at least one (1) meter back-to-back between chairs when seated on.
- d. The minimum number of installed/set-up poker tables is four (4).
- e. Post the following Signages/Regulations
 - i. General House Rules and Poker Etiquettes (readable from any point of the room);
 - ii. Cash and Tournament Game Rules/Mechanics;
 - iii. Bad Beat Jackpot (BBJ) Guidelines and Mechanics and BBJ Amount (if applicable);
 - iv. PAGCOR Responsible Gaming Posters; and
 - v. Directional signages (e.g. "Emergency Exit"/"Fire Exit").

3. Cage

- a. Minimum set up
 - i. Counter type with enclosure up to the ceiling;

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- ii. With cash drawer/s, vault, cash box and chips cabinet;
 - iii. Ultraviolet money detector; and
 - iv. Playing cards' vault (if there's no dedicated/separate storage room).
- b. Post the following Signages/Regulations
 - i. PAGCOR-issued logo sticker QR code;
 - ii. "No Credit Policy";
 - iii. "No Cash No Chips";
 - iv. Buy-in and Rake Schedule;
 - v. Self-Exclusion poster;
 - vi. Gaming License;
 - vii. Business Permit;
 - viii. BIR Registration;
 - ix. AMLC Certificate of Registration; and
 - x. Access prohibition signage (e.g. "Authorized Personnel Only").
- 4. CCTV/Server room
- 5. Toilets (separate for players and employees)

Separate toilets for male and female players are recommended.
- 6. Lounges (Players and Employees)

Customer's lounge with chair/sofa, table/s, and snack bar
- 7. Offices
- 8. Dedicated phone (landline or mobile)
- 9. Storage room/area
- 10. Designated Smoking Area (DSA)

An exhaust system must be installed in the smoking room.

SECTION 3. Signages Outside the Poker Room

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1. The Poker Operator shall install signage/s indicating the Poker room brand name following any dimensions below:
 - a. Horizontal signage dimensions should follow a 3:1 ratio for the width and height, respectively.
Example Dimensions:
 - Three (3) meters x One (1) meter
 - Three (3) feet x One (1) foot
 - b. Vertical signage dimensions should follow a 1:3 ratio for the width and the height respectively.
Example Dimension:
 - One (1) meter x Three (3) meters
2. Façade – players and gaming site personnel should not be seen from the outside.
3. Entrance specifications
 - a. Poker room name
 - b. PAGCOR-issued logo sticker QR code to be posted at the entrance door.
 - c. PAGCOR Responsible Gaming Posters (content to be provided and to be printed in 3 feet x 5 feet or 2 feet x 3 feet poster size)
 - d. Sticker notice: "This Establishment is Protected by 24 Hour Video Surveillance."
 - e. Marketing Collaterals (if any)

SECTION 4. Poker Room Personnel and Manning

1. The Poker Operator shall provide personnel who must pass the qualifications listed below:

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- a. Should be twenty-one (21) years old and above.
 - b. The Poker Operator shall ensure that their employees have obtained a GEL.
2. Must have a poker floor supervisor who is responsible in supervising the poker gaming area, its personnel and all activities within the poker room at any given time.
3. Employee/manpower related matters
 - a. The Poker Operator shall only hire poker personnel who have desirable backgrounds and competencies.
 - b. The Poker Operator shall observe existing laws and regulations related to the employment of its personnel including non-discrimination, respect the right to privacy, and applicable minimum wage, among others.
 - c. No poker personnel shall be allowed to report to work under the influence of alcoholic beverages.
 - d. The Poker Operator shall maintain a database of its employees (active, resigned, and terminated).
4. Updating of the List of Employees shall be done on a quarterly basis using the prescribed format.
5. Employee Uniforms
 - a. Poker Operators must develop and enforce the wearing of uniforms on all its poker employees.
 - b. Uniforms must be unique and distinct from other gaming sites.
 - c. Uniforms must be presentable and not too revealing of the skin of the wearer (especially females).
 - d. Gaming and Cage personnel shall wear pocketless and beltless uniforms.

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6. The Poker Operator is solely responsible for the actions of its employees, its players, and other individuals inside the poker room that would result in damage to property and/or injury to other employees, individuals, players/customers, and/or to PAGCOR.

SECTION 5. Poker Room Security

1. The Poker Operator shall have its security guidelines, safeguards, and/or procedures in place, including Emergency Response Protocols (ERP).
2. The poker room must have at least one (1) security personnel on duty responsible for manning the entry/exit point.
3. The poker room shall adhere to the fire and safety standards set forth by the LGU and/or Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) that has jurisdiction over the poker room's location. This includes the following but is not limited to:
 - a. Fire suppression and extinguishing devices;
 - b. Emergency fire exits directional signage and indicators; and,
 - c. Emergency lighting and its placement.
4. The Poker Operator's security personnel shall be responsible in monitoring and preserving a safe and secure environment in the poker room for its players, employees, and visitors alike. Any untoward incident at the poker room is the sole responsibility of the Poker Operator.
5. For onsite poker rooms, the Poker Operator, its personnel, and players shall adhere to the security procedures and protocols of the host Casino Filipino branch.

SECTION 6. Poker Room Surveillance

Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) Surveillance system is primarily used for security, crime prevention, and monitoring activities. Also, it enhances public safety and helps monitor business operations and staff productivity.

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1. Poker Operators are responsible in the installation of sufficient CCTV Surveillance cameras and other instrumentalities at their respective poker room, ensuring total coverage and tracking of all gaming activities, or the gaming site in its entirety, including carpark, driveways, stairs, etc., i.e. "no blind spot".
2. Whenever there are additional installation and/or reduction or relocation of tables, the Poker Operator shall submit to TGD the updated gaming and Surveillance layout plan.
3. The Poker Operator's Surveillance system must have the following instrumentalities
 - a. An auxiliary or backup power source, i.e. Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS);
 - b. Recording devices, i.e. Network Video Recorders/Digital Video Recorders (NVRs/DVRs), capable of at least 60-day data storage or retention;
 - c. Sufficient monitoring panels that correspond with the installed number of CCTV cameras; and
 - d. Video footages must have a stamped date and time.
4. Minimum requirements for surveillance system
 - a. Installed CCTV cameras are Hi-Definition with face recognition.
 - b. One (1) fixed camera for each poker table and one (1) high-speed Pan-Tilt-Zoom (PTZ) camera for every two (2) poker tables.
 - c. CCTV cameras must be operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, regardless of the poker room's operating hours.
 - d. Additional number of CCTV cameras may be required by PAGCOR based on evaluation during the conduct of pre-operational and/or compliance inspection.

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5. Surveillance Records Management

- a. All video footages/recordings shall be retained for a minimum of sixty (60) days.
- b. Upon request by PAGCOR and/or by any law enforcement agency (with prior coordination from PAGCOR), the Poker Operator shall provide recorded video footages of the poker room activities without prejudice to Republic Act No. 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012.

6. For Onsite Poker rooms, the CCTV operation, supervision and control of all Surveillance equipment and its personnel, shall be the sole responsibility of the Surveillance Division of the host branch.

REGULATION 5. GAMING ITEMS

SECTION 1. General Guidelines

1. Only Poker Operators may legally acquire and possess gaming items necessary for the conduct of their operations.
2. Gaming Items that are intended to be used/procured shall be subject for the approval of PAGCOR. These include tables and layouts, playing cards, chips and plaques, and lammers.

SECTION 2. Approval of Gaming Item Design

1. For procurement of gaming items such as gaming layouts, playing cards, gaming chips and plaques shall only commence after the approval of its design by an appropriate PAGCOR Evaluating Department (ED).
2. Requests for the approval are made using **TGD-1554 Gaming Item Design Request and Approval Form** with required attachments as indicated in the said Form.

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3. Upon approval, TGD shall send the approved **TGD-1554** to the Poker Operator concerned.

SECTION 3. Poker Table and Gaming Layout

1. Poker table

- a. Poker games shall be played on a usually oval-shaped poker table with up to nine (9) players sitting around the curve of the table with a dealer facing them in an indented area.
- b. The edge of the poker table called the "rail" shall be padded and raised slightly for the players to rest their arms.
- c. Each poker table shall have a house rake drop box with a rake slider positioned on the right of the dealer and a jackpot rake drop box (if applicable) to the left of the dealer.

2. Gaming layout

- a. The Poker Operator shall ensure that the gaming layout artwork design is duly approved by PAGCOR before procurement.
- b. Attached to the request of the design approval, i.e. TGD-1554, is a true-to-scale artwork in colored printout with specifications of the gaming layout ensuring that the artwork, logo design, and other markings are readable.
- c. It shall be made with felt or speed cloth to enable the cards to slide easily across the surface.
- d. The brand name and/or logo of the poker room shall be featured on the layout.

SECTION 4. Playing Cards

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1. The Poker Operator shall attach in the TGD-1554 the colored print out of the playing card, showing the exact illustration and artwork design which is drawn to actual size and in scale (length and width).
2. The playing cards for poker shall have a standard length of 3.5 inches (88.5 millimeters) by a width of 2.25 to 2.5 inches (57.15 - 63.5 millimeters).
3. The numbers, figures, and all designs on the front and back of a playing card shall be printed in portrait mode.
4. The cut of each playing card shall be identical to every other playing card in the same deck.
5. The front of each playing card shall indicate the value of the card even when only a third of the card is visible.
6. The back of each playing card shall bear the Poker room brand name or logo, or any other form of artwork that would indicate that the playing card belongs to a particular Poker Operator.
7. The manufacturer's name or a distinctive logo and/or other markings identifiable with the manufacturer shall be inscribed on the Ace of Spades.
8. The material of each playing card shall allow the playing cards to be stacked and placed on a flat surface without the playing cards falling from the stack.
9. The suit and value of each playing card shall be visible and identifiable to poker room employees (including when viewed using any surveillance system of a Poker Operator).

SECTION 5. Gaming Chips and Plaques

1. Gaming chips and plaques should be unique and for the exclusive use of the specific poker room.
2. The Poker room brand name or logo, or any other form of artwork shall be marked on each side of the gaming chips and plaques, indicating ownership of these gaming items belong to a particular Poker Operator.

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3. The value of the chip or plaque shall be marked on each side of the chip and plaque; and
4. Each chip shall be designed uniquely so that they can easily be distinguished when stacked with other chips and plaques as viewed on a CCTV.
5. Gaming chips normally shall be disc-shaped, at least 3.0 millimeters (0.118 inches) thick, and have a diameter of:
 - a. Thirty-Eight millimeters (38 mm) to Forty-Five millimeters (45 mm) for Five Pesos (₱5.00) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00).
 - b. Forty millimeters (43 mm) to Fifty millimeters (50 mm) for One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) and up.
6. Gaming plaques
 - a. Each gaming plaque shall be a solid, one-piece object constructed entirely of plastic or any other comparable material and shall have smooth surfaces, the plane surface known as the "face," while the other surface as the "edge."
 - b. Each face of a gaming plaque shall measure no smaller than 3.75 square inches or at least 2.5 inches in length by 1.5 inches in width. In the case of an elliptical gaming plaque, the length and width of the plaque shall be measured at its axes.
 - c. Each gaming plaque issued by a poker room shall be designed and manufactured with sufficient graphics or other security measures to prevent the counterfeiting of such gaming plaques.
 - d. Each gaming plaque shall contain a unique serial number.

SECTION 6. Procurement of Gaming Equipment and Paraphernalia

1. Procurement of gaming equipment and paraphernalia can either be from local or foreign PAGCOR-registered suppliers.

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- a. Procurement from a local supplier
 - i. Poker Operator submits to TGD a duly completed Form No. **TGD-824 Local Purchase Clearance Request and Approval Form** with attached copy of commercial invoice or sales invoice and a copy of approved **TGD-1554** (for playing cards, gaming chips and plaques, and gaming layouts).
 - ii. TGD evaluates and approves the request if found in order.
 - iii. TGD shall send the approved **TGD-824** to the Poker Operator concerned.
- b. Procurement from a foreign supplier
 - i. The Poker Operator presents a duly accomplished **TGD-823 Shipment Clearance Request and Approval Form** together with approved **TGD-1554**, if necessary, and the supplier's commercial invoice to PAGCOR cashier for payment of the non-refundable shipment processing fee.
 - ii. The Poker Operator submits the abovementioned documents together with a copy of official receipt (OR) of the shipment processing fee to TGD.
 - iii. TGD/ED evaluates and approves **TGD-823** with attached certification.
 - iv. Upon approval, TGD shall forward the same to the Poker Operator.
 - v. The Poker Operator, through its designated registered broker, submits the approved request and certification, among others, to the Logistics Management Department (LMD).
 - vi. The Poker Operator shall abide by the following terms and conditions hereunder when importing gaming items.
 - (a) Customs and duty taxes of imported items that are not classified as gaming equipment and paraphernalia shall be shouldered by the Poker Operator.

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(b) The Poker Operator shall designate a PAGCOR registered broker who shall be responsible for securing the taxes and duties exemption from the Department of Finance (DOF) claiming the items at the port, and delivery of items to the Poker Operator.

(c) A shipment clearance request covering an importation from a supplier who is not registered with PAGCOR shall be rejected.

2. Modification of any previously approved gaming items shall be subject to evaluation and approval.
3. A Poker Operator may use dedicated gaming items previously utilized in another poker room subject for approval.

SECTION 7. Delivery of Procured Gaming Items

1. Poker Operator shall coordinate with TGD at least three (3) days prior to schedule of delivery by submitting duly filled-out **TGD-321 Gaming Items Delivery and Inspection Report**.
2. TGD shall witness and inspect the delivery, and ensure that the **TGD-321** is signed by the Poker Operator's representative with the required shipment documents:
 - a. Shipment documents such as DOF and Bureau of Customs (BOC) Indorsements, Bill of Lading/Airway Bill; and
 - b. Delivery Receipt

SECTION 8. Movement of Gaming Items

1. Any movement of gaming equipment and/or paraphernalia whether for repair or replacement, use in exhibitions, remote tournaments, and similar activities, as well as storage to remote facility requires prior notification and approval from TGD.
2. Poker Operator shall submit a duly accomplished **TGD-1209A Gaming Items Movement Request and Approval Form** with attached required documents.
 - a. Repair/Replacement

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- a. Commercial Invoice;
 - b. Supplier's Acknowledgement;
 - c. Delivery Receipt; and
 - d. **TGD-321.**
- b. Exhibition, Show, Tournament, Event, etc.
 - a. LOI with supporting documentation;
 - b. Shipment documents (if applicable);
 - c. Delivery Receipts; and
 - d. **TGD-321.**
- c. Storage (Remote)
 - a. LOI with supporting documentation (photos of the storage facility, location map, brochure, etc.);
 - b. Notarized Waiver of Rights;
 - c. Shipment documents (if applicable); and
 - d. **TGD-321.**
3. Upon evaluation and approval, TGD shall forward the same to the Poker Operator.
4. The Poker Operator shall coordinate with TGD of the scheduled movement of the gaming items. The actual activity shall be witnessed by TGD.

SECTION 9. Disposal of Gaming Items

1. The Poker Operator shall dispose of its gaming equipment or paraphernalia due to permanent cessation of poker operations, or when the gaming equipment/paraphernalia are obsolete, unserviceable or worn out.
2. Generally, the Poker Operator must have full ownership over the gaming items which are due for destruction and shall be at the expense of the same.

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3. Other Poker room instrumentalities like Information Technology (IT) equipment (non-regulated items), Surveillance servers, as well as audio/video recorders/devices shall be purged by authorized representatives of PAGCOR Information and Technology Department (ITD) and/or the Surveillance Department (SD).
4. Poker Operators shall notify and request from TGD for approval of the disposal and purging, using **TGD-1209B Gaming Items Disposal Request and Approval Form**, specifying therein the chosen mode of disposal and attaching required documents.
 - a. Destruction
 - i. All imported regulated commodities after undergoing the processes of the TGD and LMD must likewise secure approval from the DOF and the BOC. Similarly, their destruction requires processing through TGD and the Acquisition and Disposal Department (ADD), as well as approval and witnessing by the DOF.
 - ii. For locally purchased gaming items, destruction shall be witnessed by TGD and ADD (where applicable).
 - iii. After destruction, the Poker Operator shall accomplish, sign, and notarize **TGD-1539 Certificate of Gaming Equipment and Paraphernalia Destruction Form** to be acknowledged by TGD representatives.
 - b. Transfer of Ownership

Gaming Items that remain usable may be transferred to another Poker Operator and/or Licensee, subject to PAGCOR's approval and compliance with established rules and regulations.
 - c. Donation to PAGCOR

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Operators may donate their gaming items to PAGCOR after payment of Donor's Tax and all other applicable fees, subject to PAGCOR's approval and acceptance.

- d. Return to supplier

Gaming items shall be returned to its local or foreign original supplier.

5. Upon approval, TGD shall forward the same to the Poker Operator.
6. Disposal procedures shall be witnessed by representatives of PAGCOR and the Poker Operator.

REGULATION 6. CONDUCT OF POKER ROOM OPERATIONS

SECTION 1. Play in the Poker Room is Exclusive for Members Only

1. All prospective players shall be required to complete registration prior to being permitted to participate in any gaming activity.
2. The Poker Operator shall post at the entrance of its poker room an appropriate signage (e.g. *"This Gaming Establishment is for Registered Members Only. To register, please inquire inside at the reception counter/ booth"*).
3. Restricted access
 - a. The following shall not be allowed to enter, stay, and play:
 - i. Government officials connected directly with the operation of the Government or any of its agencies;
 - ii. Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including the Army, Navy, Air Force or Philippine National Police (PNP);
 - iii. Persons under twenty-one (21) years of age or students at any school, college, or universities in the Philippines; and

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iv. Persons listed under the NDRP – for this purpose, please refer to the latest version of the Responsible Gaming (RG) Code of Practice. An entire section of the RG Code of Practice is dedicated to player exclusion.

b. Holders of GEL are prohibited from playing in any gaming establishment in the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Player Registration

1. Player registration system

The Poker Operator shall establish and maintain a player registration system capable of supporting effective player management and regulatory compliance, with the following functionalities:

- a. A database where player information, as provided in the filled-out registration form including copy of presented Information Document (ID) are stored.
- b. As prescribed, has access and utilizing the NDRP of PAGCOR in screening/ verifying prospective players.
- c. If required or applicable, the Poker Operators shall subscribe to an available app or service provider handling risk intelligence database for KYC screening and CDD such as World-Check, Acuris Risk, etc.
- d. If requested, the Operator shall provide to PAGCOR its player registration/ membership files.

2. Minimum requirements of player registration

Prospective Player/s must adhere to the following:

- a. Twenty-one (21) years old on the date of application.
- b. Present one (1) valid government-issued ID card, containing a photograph, name and date of birth.

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- c. Must undergo verification using the NDRP or any available app and/or subscribed service provider handling CDD screening.
- d. All player information must be encoded in the registration system/database.

SECTION 3. Poker Game

1. Poker game/s is/are the authorized variants being offered and available for play in a licensed poker room. This is commonly known as “player-to-player” (P2P) type of game.
2. The following are the authorized P2P game variants which may be offered at the poker room. Poker Operators are required to submit the corresponding game rules and mechanics to PAGCOR.
 - a. Texas Hold'em;
 - b. Omaha Hold'em;
 - c. Badugi;
 - d. Seven-Card Stud; and
 - e. Chinese Pineapple.
3. New poker game proposal

Poker Operators may offer other poker variants using **TGD-1582 New Poker Game Request and Approval Form**, with attached game rules, mechanics, odds, and payouts, which shall be subjected to evaluation and approval of PAGCOR.
4. Rake
 - a. For cash games, the rake from the pot of every poker hand/ deal shall be an amount equivalent to a minimum of five percent (5%) to a maximum of ten percent (10%) provided that it shall not exceed the PAGCOR-approved rake

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schedule/structure amount ceiling as prescribed in the **TGD-1583 Poker Buy-in Limits and Minimum Rake Notification Form**.

- b. The approved rake schedule/structure shall be posted at the:
 - i. Registration counter; and
 - ii. Cage window.

5. Buy-in limits

The Poker Operator shall notify TGD of buy-in limits for poker cash games using **TGD-1583**.

SECTION 4. Active Tables Report (For Offsite Poker Rooms Only)

1. Whenever a poker table is opened for a cash game action, a **TGD-1494 Poker Daily Active Table, Rake and Jackpot Rake Collection Report** shall be accomplished by the Dealer noted by the Floor Supervisor/ Manager.
2. The TGD-1494 shall contain the following information:
 - a. Poker table number;
 - b. Date and time the poker table opened (and re-opened) and subsequently closed; and
 - c. Name and signature of the assigned dealer (for each of the opening and closing of the table).
3. The Poker Operator shall prepare a summary of Daily Active Table Report using **TGD-1508 Poker Monthly Active Table, Rake and Jackpot Rake Collection Report**. The report shall contain the number of active tables operating simultaneously at any point in time within the day.

SECTION 5. Conduct of Poker Games

To commence a poker game, there must be a quorum (i.e. five (5) players, on each active table).

1. Placing of wagers

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- a. Before playing, the player shall be responsible for reading and understanding the following:
 - i. House Rules – posted within the premises; and
 - ii. Game Rules and Mechanics.
 - b. Wagering or betting shall be made by placing chips and/or plaques on the appropriate wagering areas of the poker table, with all accumulated wagers forming the “pot,” which shall be awarded at the end of a betting round or hand – upon all folds of completion of a final showdown – to the declared winning hand.
2. At the Cage/Cashier, payment of winnings shall be in the form of cash or other money instruments acceptable to AMLC.
 3. Payment of winnings in full
 - a. The Poker Operator shall ensure that every player who wins in any authorized game played within its poker room is paid/ gets his/ her share of the pot following the rules of the game.
 - b. Any unauthorized deductions by the Poker Operator from the pot/jackpot of the player shall be imposed a penalty and demerit as prescribed under Regulation 16.
 4. Players are to be notified of the dissolving/closing of a table
 - a. The Poker Operator shall ensure that all players in a particular table are informed prior to dissolving/closing of the same, due to:
 - i. Interest of public or private safety;
 - ii. Ensure that gaming is conducted honestly; or
 - iii. Maintenance, repair, gaming equipment, gaming machine, or non-functioning CCTV cameras to ensure game security and integrity.

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- b. In this regulation, "closure," in relation to a poker table, does not include a momentary stoppage of play from which the play can be resumed at the stage it was stopped.
5. The Poker Operator shall prohibit intoxicated individual/s to participate in gaming activities in the poker room.
6. Showdown of hands in all-in situations

To preserve the integrity of games and to stop the abuse of the rule that allows anyone at the table to see a called hand, all hands must be turned over and shown to the table in all-in situations when there is no further betting action.

SECTION 6. Expansion of Poker Room and/or Installation of Additional Poker Tables

1. A Poker Operator shall notify TGD of its plan for a poker room expansion and eventual setting up of additional poker tables at least three (3) months before its implementation, with the following attachments:
 - a. Number/quantity of poker tables to be set up using **TGD 1584 Poker Table Addition/Reduction Notification Form**;
 - b. Building layout plan pinpointing the specific unit, area and floor the poker expansion shall be situated, satisfying the contiguous outline of the whole poker room;
 - c. Updated poker room gaming layout plan (presenting the original set-up and expansion area);
 - d. Updated Surveillance camera layout plan of the whole poker room, highlighting the area involved; and
 - e. To submit **TGD 1515**, Target Opening Date of Poker Room (Expansion), fifteen (15) days before its intended commencement date.

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2. If warranted for the temporary suspension of poker operations or change in operating hours due to renovations, notify TGD using **TGD-1504 Request and Approval for Temporary Suspension of Poker Room Operations Form** and **TGD-1580 Change in Poker Room Operating Hours Notification Form**, respectively.
3. TGD will schedule a routine poker room pre-operational inspection of the expansion area.
4. If found in order during the inspection, TGD shall revert to the Poker Operator the signed **TGD 1515**.
5. The Poker Operator shall submit to TGD the completely filled out **TGD-1545**, Poker Room Operating Status Report upon commencement of expansion area, or the day after commencement.

SECTION 7. Credit

Credit is prohibited. No Poker Operator or employee shall provide loans or credit of currency, checks, or any representation of value to or for the benefit of any player. The Poker Operator shall post a "No Credit Policy" notice at the cage window for player's adherence.

SECTION 8. Proposition Players

1. The Poker Operator may utilize a proposition player or "prop" who is paid a predetermined amount to play in shorthanded games, but whose bankroll is not supplied by the house. The proposition player risks one's own money. The purpose of a proposition player is to ensure there are enough players in each game so that it can begin or continue.
2. The following guidelines shall apply to proposition players:
 - a. He/she is authorized to perform his/her duty as a house player in the poker room with which he/she has a contract.
 - b. He/she may play only at the table he/she is assigned to by the floor manager.

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- c. He/she may be transferred from one table to another.
 - d. No more than one (1) proposition player may be allowed to play at a three (3)- handed table wherein there is only one (1) customer.
 - e. A maximum of two (2) proposition players is allowed to play at any cash game table except in three (3)- handed games.
 - f. Proposition players are not allowed to sit beside each other during games.
 - g. If one (1) of the two (2) house players needs to be transferred to another table, the one nearest to the left of the button shall stay.
 - h. Once a player arrives in the card room and is ready to play, the house player at a nine (9)-handed table must give up his/her seat in favor of that player.
 - i. In case of any dispute, proposition players are not allowed to influence the decision of the floor person. When asked about the incident, he/she must impartially state the sequence of events that transpired.
 - j. Proposition players are only allowed to play in cash games to keep a game going. A proposition player may share in bad beat jackpots.
 - k. A proposition player must follow all house rules and shall still observe proper decorum and ethics.
 - l. A proposition player is not allowed to play with house money or borrow house money to be used for play.
3. The use of "shill" is prohibited. A shill is a house player who does not have any of one's own money at risk; he/she is a poker room employee who is paid a predetermined rate to play and who is bankrolled by the house.

SECTION 9. Operating Hours and Suspension of Operations During Holiday Breaks

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1. The poker room may operate twenty-four (24) hours for the whole year, and may request for special operations during the following holiday breaks:
 - a. Lenten Season;
 - b. Yuletide Season; and
 - c. Other holiday/s as may be declared by the National Government.
2. PAGCOR shall issue a memorandum regarding the time and dates of the declared break.
3. A Poker Operator may change the operating hours of its poker room by notifying TGD at least one (1) business day prior to its implementation date using **TGD-1580**.
4. For temporary suspension of operation, the Poker Operator shall request approval from TGD using **TGD-1504**.
5. The applicable GL Fee/PAGCOR Share shall continue to be billed and remitted notwithstanding any suspension of poker operations.

REGULATION 7. POKER ROOM OPERATIONAL RULES AND GUIDELINES (PRORG)

SECTION 1. General Guidelines

1. The Poker Operator shall formulate and submit its PRORG that will govern the day-to-day gaming operations of the Poker Operator following the regulations of this regulatory manual.
2. For onsite poker rooms, Operators shall have the endorsement of the Casino Filipino host branch management for all requests that influence the administration/ operations of the poker room.
3. The PRORG shall contain, among others, the following:
 - a. Poker room organizational structure which includes the organizational chart, duties, and responsibilities of each position, and sections and departments;

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- b. Operational guidelines and procedures containing the detailed and narrative description of policies, rules, and guidelines on the following, among others:
 - i. Opening and closing of the poker room;
 - ii. House rules;
 - iii. Cage procedures;
 - iv. Game offerings and their rules and mechanics;
 - v. Playing card procedures/ processes;
 - vi. Information on progressive jackpots (if applicable);
 - vii. Shift changes in the poker gaming areas;
 - viii. CCTV and security policies and procedures;
 - ix. Gaming equipment inventories;
 - x. Cash transactions reporting; and,
 - xi. Financial and gaming record retention.
- c. Customer support to outline policies, rules, and guidelines on the following:
 - i. Customer support facilities; and
 - ii. Dispute resolution guidelines on customer complaints
- d. Other minimum internal control standards for, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Cashier's booth
 - (a) Customer deposits and withdrawals
 - (b) Promotional payouts
 - (c) Accounting/ audit standards
 - ii. Gaming equipment
 - (a) Equipment standards
 - (b) Accounting/ audit standards
 - (c) Record retention

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4. The PRORG shall be made available at the poker room at any time.

SECTION 2. Poker Room Operations to be Consistent with Its PRORG

1. The Poker Operator shall operate the poker room including all other support facilities in a manner consistent with its PRORG and this Manual.
2. PAGCOR may conduct an inspection/walkthrough review of the Operator's internal control based on the submitted PRORG.

SECTION 3. Changes to PRORG

The Poker Operator shall not make any change/s in the approved PRORG unless it has been notified and sought prior written approval from TGD. A notification letter of proposed changes in the operational procedures shall contain:

1. Details of the changes, intended date and time of the change, reasons for the changes, location of the changes and if any, and other pertinent details.
2. Revised operational rules and guidelines showing proposed changes to Section 1 of this Regulation.
3. Details of any adjustments that would have to be made including surveillance monitoring, revised camera layout plan, and/or aspects of the poker room operations because of the changes.

SECTION 4. General House Rules for Poker Room

The following general house rules which shall be displayed in a conspicuous place inside the poker room for the playing public's full view shall apply to the actual conduct and operation of poker games:

1. Only registered players are allowed to play. All persons allowed entry are obliged to observe all the rules and regulations prescribed by the management.
2. The following are not allowed to enter, stay and/or play in the poker room:

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- a. Persons below twenty-one (21) years old or students at any school, college, or university in the Philippines;
 - b. Government officials and employees connected directly with the operation of the government or any of its agencies; and
 - c. Members of the PNP and AFP.
3. Holders of a valid GEL are prohibited from playing in the poker room.
 4. Management reserves the right to deny entry to any person.
 5. Players shall be held liable for any breakage or damage done, whether intentionally or unintentionally, on the poker tables, equipment, and/or paraphernalia.
 6. Bystanders are prohibited within the poker room gaming areas.
 7. Firearms or deadly weapons are strictly prohibited inside the poker room.
 8. No Cash, No Chips, No Play.
 9. Before playing, the player shall be responsible for reading and understanding the following:
 - a. House Rules – posted within the premises; and
 - b. Game Rules and Mechanics – should be available upon request.
 10. The Player should be fully aware that there is a risk of losing money by participating in any cash games.

REGULATION 8. MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS

SECTION 1. Marketing Activities and/or Promotions

1. The Poker Operator shall be required to develop, adapt, and implement monthly marketing activities and/or promotional programs to promote patronage and enhance the operational performance of poker room subject to applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

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a. Membership and Loyalty Programs

The Poker Operator may introduce membership and/or loyalty programs where points, credits, or rewards are earned through participation in poker games and may be redeemed within the poker room for gaming-related purposes.

b. Raffle Draws and Tournaments

The Poker Operator may conduct raffle draws and/or poker tournaments wherein prizes may be won, directly or indirectly, through visits to the poker room or participation in any poker cash game. Prizes may be redeemed for, or utilized in, poker gaming activities within the poker room.

c. Other Promotional Activities

The Poker Operator may implement other marketing activities, programs, incentives, or combinations thereof, designed to promote the poker room and/or participation in poker cash games.

2. The Poker Operator shall request approval of its marketing activities and/or promotions from TGD by submitting a duly accomplished **TGD-1507 Request and Approval of Poker Room Marketing and Promotion Form** signed by the Operator's authorized representative with attached Implementing Rules and Guidelines (IRG) of the marketing and/or promotion at least seven (7) working days prior to implementation.

- a. Requests with incomplete submissions shall not be processed and shall be returned to the Poker Operator.
- b. Promotional material/s shall be adherent with PAGCOR's RG Code of Practice and any applicable RG circular.

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- c. All marketing/promotional costs incurred shall be shouldered solely by the Poker Operator.

SECTION 2. Promotional Chip Vouchers

1. Promotional chip vouchers

- a. Promotional chip vouchers issued by the Poker Operator to redeem complimentary chips and plaques shall be original instruments and shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:
 - i. Name of the Poker Operator/ business/ brand name of the poker room;
 - ii. Promotion title;
 - iii. Serial number assigned to the voucher;
 - iv. Bar code which shall enable a system to verify voucher record, if applicable;
 - v. Value of the voucher, printed in both numbers and words;
 - vi. Date of issuance;
 - vii. The location or locations where the voucher may be redeemed;
 - viii. Voucher validity date, if any;
 - ix. Any restriction regarding the voucher's redemption such as being non-cashable and non-transferable; and
 - x. Signature of the Operator's duly authorized representative.
- b. Complimentary chips and plaque shall be designed and manufactured distinct from the cash game and tournament chips and plaque for easy recognition even when using the surveillance system.
- c. It shall be the responsibility of the Poker Operator to:
 - i. Ensure that promotional chip vouchers and complimentary chips issued and redeemed are genuine.

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- ii. Implement internal controls in the accounting and safeguarding of promotional chip coupons and complimentary chips.

2. Issuance and redemption of promotional chip vouchers

- a. The Poker Operator may, for specified marketing purposes, provide its players with promotional chip vouchers redeemable for complimentary chips and plaques.
- b. A floor person shall verify that the voucher has not expired or is otherwise void on its face.
- c. Promotional chip vouchers are non-cashable and non-transferable;
- d. Promotional chip vouchers shall only be redeemed in the poker room's cage/ cashier.
- e. Promotional chip vouchers are only redeemable once.
- f. At the end of each promotion, all unissued/ invalid vouchers shall be accounted and voided. The Poker Operator may either stamp the word "void" across the vouchers' face or punch a hole in it.

SECTION 3. Poker Tournaments

1. General guidelines

- a. The Poker Operator may conduct a poker tournament or be part of tournament circuits organized and/or identified by PAGCOR.
- b. PAGCOR shall set thresholds on tournaments based on the guaranteed prize pool. Depending on the tournament category, the Poker Operator shall submit a duly accomplished **TGD-1029 Poker Tournament Notification Form** for tournaments below the threshold. Tournaments that require prior approval, i.e. above the set threshold, a duly accomplished **TGD-1501 Request and**

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Approval of Poker Tournament Form together with necessary attachments shall be submitted.

- c. Scheduling of tournaments shall be subject to availability of dates and must be in accordance with the approved **Poker Tournament Scheduling Guidelines** (see **Annex L**) The same is also posted on the PAGCOR Regulatory webpage.
 - d. For cancellation/modification of tournaments, the Poker Operator shall submit **TGD-1502 Poker Tournament Modification/ Cancellation Form** and ensure that tournament details including modifications and/or cancellations will be published in appropriate publications, website or announced in the Operator's poker premises and other places where promotional materials were displayed to ensure that all stakeholders are properly notified.
 - e. Tournament modification and cancellation of categories above the set threshold are subject to penalties.
 - f. In case of tournament cancellation, if applicable, the Poker Operator shall submit to TGD a certification stating that all sold tickets have been refunded to and received by the respective ticket purchasers.
 - g. Poker Operators may utilize and/or integrate the **Radio Frequency Identification (RFID)** enabled Poker Set-up System during tournament/s and/or in their poker room as part of marketing campaign that may attract/entice additional players. For the complete guide of the said system set-up, refer to **Annex M**.
2. Conduct of tournaments outside the Operator's approved location
- a. The Poker Operator shall request and secure prior approval from PAGCOR the conduct of any tournament outside its poker room.
 - b. On tournament/s in collaboration/partnership with international organizer/s, the Poker Operator shall attach in its LOI the TGD-1501, Memorandum of Agreement between the Operator and collaborator, and other pertinent

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tournament-related documents, like Prize pool, IRGs, mechanics, calendar of events, marketing collaterals, etc.

- c. On tournament/s with online sponsorships, aside from the above item (b)'s attachments, the Poker Operator shall ensure that the online sponsor's Online Gaming Platform is approved and/or registered/accredited with PAGCOR.
 - d. For the duration of such tournament, the Poker Operator shall submit **TGD-1496 Additional Active Poker Table Notification Form** for the total number of cash game tables set up in the venue.
 - e. The Poker Operator shall be charged the daily rate of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00) for every active cash table operated in the tournament venue.
3. Tournament service/staff charge

- a. The Poker Operator may be allowed to deduct a service/staff charge from the tournament's actual prize pool in accordance with the following:

Actual Prize Pool	Applicable Maximum Service/Staff Charge Rate
₱800,000.00 and above	Three percent (3%)
Below ₱800,000.00	Ten percent (10%)

- b. For BOD approved tournament festivals in collaboration with an international tournament organizer, the Poker Operator may deduct a four percent (4%) service/staff charge.
 - c. PAGCOR shall not share in the tournament service/staff charge. However, the service/staff charge may be audited by PAGCOR at any time.
4. The Poker Operator shall adhere to the following tournament reporting guidelines:
- a. A duly accomplished **TGD-1503 Poker Tournament Report Form** shall be provided to PAGCOR. For frequency of submission of this report refer to Annex I (List of Regularly Submitted Reports and Deadlines of Submission).

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- b. Costs incurred by the Poker Operator associated with the holding of the tournament (i.e., cash prizes given away during a raffle draw held in conjunction with a tournament) shall not be deducted from entry fees before net gaming proceeds are calculated.
- c. Only cash prizes awarded in the tournament may be deducted as payouts from the prize pool.
- d. In cases where the Poker Operator proposes to award non-cash prizes (i.e. tournament seat certificate, tournament packages including air fare and hotel accommodation). The Poker Operator shall explicitly declare the cash equivalent value of these prizes.
- e. The Poker Operator shall prepare and submit **TGD-1509 Monthly Poker Tournament Report** consolidating all tournament data for a certain month not later than the second (2nd) day of the following month. The report shall include all tournaments that concluded for the month.
- f. Key employees of the Poker Operator may participate in PAGCOR- organized tournaments. However, said key employees shall not be allowed to play or participate in cash games.
- g. The Poker Operator may conduct a photo/video coverage of the tournament inside the poker room premises by following the prescribed guidelines set in Section 5 (Photo/Video Coverage of an Event) below.

SECTION 4. Poker Progressive Jackpot

The Poker Operator may offer poker progressive jackpots as marketing promotions which shall adopt the IRGs set forth in this Manual (see **Annex K**), and subject to the following:

1. BBJ is a type of progressive jackpot which specifically offered in Texas Hold'em games only.

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2. The Poker Operator shall seek the approval from TGD by submitting a duly completed **TGD-1581 Implementation of Poker Progressive Wagering Request and Approval Form** with attached
 - a. Bank account under the name of the Poker Operator and corresponding bank certification. Said bank account shall be used solely for the progressive jackpot.
 - b. Letter of authorization for PAGCOR to audit the progressive jackpot bank account.
3. Upon approval of the application, Poker Operator shall post a BBJ Cash Bond of Two Million Pesos (₱2,000,000.00) which shall be refundable net of the jackpot fund to be forfeited in favor of PAGCOR following cessation of BBJ.

SECTION 5. Photo/Video Coverage of an Event

1. A Poker Operator that wishes to have a photograph and video coverage of an event inside the poker room premises shall notify TGD by submitting a completed **TGD-1499 Poker Room's Photography and Video Coverage Notification Form** at least seven (7) business days prior to intended date of implementation.
2. There will be no tri-media coverage or documentation of cash games.
3. Players will sign waivers that they agree to include their faces in the documentation of the tournament.
4. The photo and/or video coverage shall not cause any disruption to poker operations.
5. The use of cameras other than that of the Poker Operator or its authorized photographer/videographer shall be prohibited.
6. For promotional purposes other than poker tournaments, photo and/or video coverage shall be allowed purely on "mock-up/production set-up" where actors/actresses portray poker room customers playing on poker tables.

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7. When shooting photos or videos of non-gaming events in the poker room (e.g., documentaries, et. al.), cameras shall not be allowed to focus at or point in the general direction of the cash table areas.
8. Actors/actresses who will be featured in the photographs and/or videos must be 21 years old and older.
9. PAGCOR reserves the right to prohibit the commercial use and/or conduct post-audit of any photograph or video footage taken during the shoot as it deems warranted.
10. Use of any photograph or video footage as advertising material shall be in accordance with PAGCOR's RG Code of Practice and any applicable RG circular which can be viewed respectively at "Responsible Gaming" and "Announcements" (www.pagcor.ph/regulatory/index.php).
11. PAGCOR and Ads Standard Council (ASC) will screen all promotional materials, including digital ads, print, out-of-home billboards, cinema spots, and broadcast placements.
12. Ad guidelines prohibit targeting minors, making misleading claims, or portraying gambling as glamorous, a solution to financial problems, or culturally acceptable based on superstition. Casino imagery is also restricted.
13. Billboards that promote the licensees' facilities and its activities must be located not less than a two hundred (200)- meter radius from schools and places of worship/churches, horse racing outlets, public markets, informal settlers, and resettlement areas.

REGULATION 9. OPERATOR'S INCOME, AMOUNTS DUE TO PAGCOR, AND FRANCHISE TAX

SECTION 1. Determination of GL Fees and PAGCOR Shares

1. OFFSITE POKER - Amounts due to PAGCOR from the operation of OFFSITE poker rooms.

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- a. GL Fee – the amount to be remitted by the Poker Operator to PAGCOR from operation of active tables, that is:
 - i. A standard fixed monthly GL fee with an amount equivalent to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱500,000.00) for the first four (4) active tables.
 - ii. Additional fees for every additional active table/s in excess of four (4), that is at a:
 - (a) Daily rate - Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000.00) per table, or;
 - (b) Monthly rate - One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) per table.
 - b. PAGCOR Share – additional amount payable to PAGCOR for the conduct of tournament and/or progressive jackpot.
 - i. Twenty-five percent (25%) of total tournament entry fees for regular tournaments.
 - ii. Ten percent (10%) of total tournament entry fees for BOD-approved tournament festivals in collaboration with international organizers.
 - iii. Twenty-five percent (25%) of total jackpot administrative fees, where jackpot administrative fee is equivalent to thirty percent (30%) of the total jackpot rake collection.
2. **ONSITE POKER** - Amounts due to PAGCOR from the operation of an ONSITE poker room shall be the higher amount between:
- a. **Monthly Minimum Guarantee Fee (MGF)** amounting to Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱300,000.00). The MGF shall be settled by the Onsite Poker Operator with PAGCOR without need of demand; or
 - b. **PAGCOR Share** refers to the twenty-five percent (25%) of the total Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR) composed of the following:
 - i. Total House rake collection from cash games;

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- ii. Total tournament entry fees; and
- iii. Jackpot administrative fees, where jackpot administrative fee is equivalent to thirty percent (30%) of the total jackpot rake collection.

SECTION 2. Manner of Remittance by the Poker Operator to PAGCOR

1. OFFSITE POKER ROOM

- a. The billing statement for a particular month shall be sent by PAGCOR to the Poker Operator within the first (1st) five (5) days of the following month indicating the amount due to PAGCOR.
- b. The Poker Operator shall have seven (7) calendar days from receipt of billing to contest the computation of the amount due to PAGCOR. Notwithstanding, the Poker Operator shall remit the amount due to PAGCOR within the said due date and manifest its dispute. Uncontested amounts beyond seven (7) calendar days are considered final.
- c. After receiving the billing statement, the Poker Operator shall remit to PAGCOR the GL Fee and PAGCOR share monthly by the tenth (10th) day of the following month, or the next banking day if it falls on a non-banking day via the following payment channels:
 - i. Deposit to PAGCOR designated bank account (via over the counter or online banking).
 - ii. Pay to the PAGCOR FMD Cashier.
- d. The Poker Operator shall be given five (5) days grace period beyond the due date to settle the amount due to PAGCOR before issuance of a notice of non-compliance which shall subject the Poker Operator to penalties and demerits following the Table of Penalties in Regulation 16 (List of Offenses and Corresponding Demerits and Penalties). The grace period is given only for purposes of imposition of non-compliance and not for the imposition of interests.

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- e. After payment of any applicable fees, the Poker Operator shall email the proof of payment (i.e. deposit slip) together with **TGD-1498** and a copy of OR requested from FMD to the email addresses of PAGCOR Accounting Department (AD), FMD and TGD (via poker@pagcor.ph). It is the Operator's responsibility to secure OR for any payments made to PAGCOR.
- f. After payment of any applicable fees, proof of payment (i.e., deposit slip/screenshot of online payment transaction) and OR shall be submitted to PAGCOR using the **TGD-1498**.

2. ONSITE POKER ROOM

Rake Counting and Remittance of GL fee

a. Safekeeping of rake drop box keys

The pullout and contents keys of rake drop boxes, and jackpot rake drop boxes (if applicable), shall be safe kept by the host CF branch and shall only be used during rake counting by the Operator's personnel.

b. Rake counting

The CF host branch shall assign a witness during rake counting and shall ensure that the Poker Operator accurately accomplishes **TGD-1623 Poker Daily Active Table, Rake and Jackpot Rake Collection Report (For Onsite Poker Room)** to be signed by the Operator's personnel and the host branch's witness.

c. Remittance to branch Treasury Division (TD)

Immediately after the rake counting, the Poker Operator shall remit the amount due to PAGCOR to the host branch's TD. The Operator's personnel shall fill out the acknowledgement receipt portion of **TGD-1623** and have it acknowledged by the host branch's TD personnel. The host CF branch shall issue an OR to the Poker Operator for any amount received.

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d. MGF reckoning

- i. At month end, the Poker Operator shall accomplish **TGD-1624 Poker Monthly Active Table, Rake, and Jackpot Rake Collection Report (For Onsite Poker Room)** to be concurred by the host branch personnel. The report shall compare the total PAGCOR share amount remitted by the Poker Operator for the month to PAGCOR with its MGF to identify if any additional amount needs to be collected from the Poker Operator.
- ii. Upon receipt of **TGD-1624**, TD remits/deposits the whole PAGCOR share to branch Finance Section or directly to the designated PAGCOR account. If any amount needs to be collected to complete an Operator's MGF, the host CF branch shall bill the Poker Operator its MGF shortfall for a particular month by the fifth (5th) day of the following month to fall due on the tenth (10th) day of the same month.
- iii. The Poker Operator shall have seven (7) calendar days from notice to contest the computation of the amount due to PAGCOR. In case the Poker Operator disputes PAGCOR's computation of the GL Fee and PAGCOR Share, the Poker Operator shall, nevertheless, remit the said amount to PAGCOR by its due date and manifest its dispute. Uncontested amounts beyond seven (7) calendar days are considered final.

e. Settlement of MGF

The Poker Operator shall settle the monthly MGF (if suspended) or MGF shortfall with the host CF branch by the tenth (10th) day of the following month. Using **TGD-1624**, the Poker Operator shall have the amount acknowledged by the host CF branch personnel. The host CF branch shall issue an OR to the Poker Operator for any amount received.

SECTION 3. Operator's share

1. For OFFSITE POKER, the Poker Operator shall be entitled to the following as its share for the operation of the poker room:

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- a. One hundred percent (100%) of the total rake collection of all cash tables;
- b. Seventy-five percent (75%) of the total of the following:
 - i. Tournament entry fees; and
 - ii. Jackpot administrative fees.
2. For ONSITE POKER, the Poker Operator shall be entitled to **seventy-five (75%) of the total of the following** as its share for the operation of the poker room:
 - a. Rake collection of cash tables;
 - b. Tournament entry fees; and
 - c. Jackpot administrative fees.

SECTION 4. Five Percent (5%) Franchise tax (FT)

1. The total collection (cash game rake, tournament entry fees, and jackpot admin fees) of the Poker Operator from its poker room operation shall be subject to FT.
2. Computation and remittance

Five percent (5%) of the **Operator's share** from the total collection of the poker room shall be remitted by the Poker Operator as FT directly to the BIR Revenue District Office on a quarterly basis by the twenty-fifth (25th) day of the month following a calendar quarter.

3. Submission of compliance documents

The Poker Operator shall submit **TGD-108 Gaming Site Tax Compliance Report Form** with attached corresponding BIR forms and ORs as proof of its remittance.

SECTION 5. Failure to Comply with Monthly Obligations to PAGCOR

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1. Failure of the Poker Operator to remit the amount due to PAGCOR on time will be charged an interest rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum up to the time of payment, pro-rated daily.
2. In addition to the imposition of interest charges, any delay or default in the remittance of said amount, after a five (5)-day grace period (from due date), shall result in the issuance of **TGD-1616 Notice of Non-Compliance to Poker Operators** which states:
 - a. Imposition of a Thirty Thousand Pesos (₱30,000.00) penalty and five (5) demerit points as prescribed in Regulation 16 (List of Offenses and Corresponding Demerits and Penalties).
 - b. A demand for the settlement of all arrears within thirty (30) days from due date; and
 - c. A warning that failure to settle arrears will result in the suspension of poker operation.
3. Issuance of a Notice of Suspension with PAGCOR BOD approval for the imposition of a thirty (30)-day suspension of operation and warning that failure to settle the arrears at the end of the suspension will result in the revocation of the GL.

(If arrears are settled within the thirty (30)-day suspension, operation may resume the following day after payment is made).
4. A final Notice of Revocation shall be sent to the Poker Operator.

REGULATION 10. REPORTS, ANNUAL SUBMITTALS DOCUMENTATION, AND RECORDS KEEPING

SECTION 1. Documentation and Records Keeping

1. The Poker Operator shall make and maintain complete, accurate and legible records of the following documents:
 - a. Company documents
 - b. Permits and clearances from LGU and other government offices

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- c. Report on rakes, active tables, tournament entry fees, administrative fees, PAGCOR shares, progressive jackpot payouts, taxes (if any) and other supporting documents related to poker operations.
 - d. Deposit slips/ proofs of payment and ORs, of all transactions pertaining to poker operations and the applicable taxes thereon.
2. The Poker Operator shall produce all necessary documents and allow the examination of such, take excerpts from them and/or make copies, whenever required by PAGCOR.

SECTION 2. Maintenance of Documents

1. The Poker Operator shall maintain and safe keep all records required and retain them for a period of at least five (5) years or such longer period as may be required by law.
2. The Poker Operator shall designate a documents keeper as the record keeping officer to store and retain documents for the required period. In the event of cessation of operation, a member of their BOD must be designated as the record keeping officer and must be available for inspection or compliance check.
3. Failure or refusal of the Poker Operator to permit inspection of such records, accounts, and reports in accordance with the provisions of the GL shall result in the imposition of penalty and demerits, as prescribed.

SECTION 3. Reports and submission

The Poker Operator shall submit to TGD reports as basis for determining its GL fee and PAGCOR share from tournament entry fees and jackpot administrative fees. It shall be the obligation and responsibility of the Poker Operator to regularly submit the correct, accurate, and pertinent reports and notifications to TGD duly signed by its authorized representative/s.

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1. Notification of additional active table/s, for offsite poker only
 - a. The Poker Operator shall notify TGD of any additional active table using **TGD-1496**.
 - i. **Monthly active table** – At least one (1) calendar day prior to implementation.
 - ii. **Daily active table** – the day after the implementation of the additional active table.
 - b. Non-compliance with notification and declaration procedure for additional active table shall be subject to demerit points and penalties in accordance with the Table of Penalties under Regulation 16 (List of Offenses and Corresponding Demerits and Penalties).
2. Standard operations reports
 - a. **TGD-1494** and **TGD-1623** - On the next day of operations. (requires daily submission to TGD with original Dealer's signature).
 - b. **TGD-1503** – second (2nd) day after the tournament.
 - c. **TGD-1508** and **TGD-1624** – second (2nd) day of the following month (covering the preceding month).
 - d. **TGD-1509** – second (2nd) day of the following month (covering the preceding month).

Note: Late or non-submission shall be covered by demerits specified in Regulation 16 (List of Offenses and Corresponding Demerits and Penalties).

SECTION 4. Submission of Annual Documents

1. The Poker Operator with an active GL shall submit to PAGCOR the following documents:

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a. On or before **March 31st** of each year:

- i. Business Permit for the current year with assessment and OR from the LGU – the nature of business must be Gaming and/or Amusement. However, a Business Permit with a quarterly validity, it shall be submitted within the first (1st) month of the quarter;
- ii. **TGD-1497**, with duly notarized Secretary's Certificate and Board Resolution;
- iii. Updated List of employees with corresponding details using the sample format; and
- iv. Poker room layout plan (outlining the actual number of tables setup), including offices and ancillary areas.

b. On or before **May 31st** of each year:

- i. A copy of the latest GIS of the said corporation, including the "Beneficial Ownership Declaration" page, should likewise be submitted;
- ii. Updated AFS;
- iii. ITR duly filed and received by the BIR.
 - (a) Company ITR; and
 - (b) Individual ITR of incorporators/directors/key officers or BIR-issued Certificate of Non-filing of ITR.
- iv. Notarized CDS; and
- v. Notarized PDS, with attached copy of valid Government issued ID of incorporators/directors/key officers.

2. Late or Non-Submission of documents

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- a. Poker Operators shall submit the required documents within a thirty (30)-day grace period. Non-compliance shall result in the imposition of penalties and demerits, applied every thirty (30) days thereafter until compliance.
- b. Non-Submission of valid Business Permit shall be ground for suspension of operation and eventual revocation of the GL.

REGULATION 11. SUSPENSION OF POKER ROOM

If a Poker Operator is to temporarily suspend operations of its poker room, the following procedures shall apply. Failure of a Poker Operator to comply with these procedures shall be taken into consideration in the renewal of GL for its poker room or other poker room/s, if any, or in future application with PAGCOR.

SECTION 1. General Guidelines

1. The Poker Operator shall still be billed and must remit the GL fees and PAGCOR share even if the poker room is under suspension or temporary closure, except for circumstances due to occurrence of a force majeure or until the PAGCOR BOD approves the permanent closure of the poker room.
2. Should the Poker Operator fail to resume its operation as scheduled, corresponding demerit points and monetary equivalent shall be imposed.

SECTION 2. Temporary Suspension of Operations Initiated by the Operator

The Poker Operator shall notify TGD at least three (3) working days prior to its intended date of suspension of operation, stating the reasons and duration for the same, using **TGD-1504**. The duration of the suspension of operations must not exceed thirty (30) days and must first be approved by PAGCOR prior to implementation. Continuous non-operation after thirty (30) days shall be sufficient ground for the revocation of the GL.

SECTION 3. Suspension of Operations Initiated by Local Government Units or Due to Force Majeure

The Poker Operator shall notify PAGCOR within five (5) days of the occurrence of the suspension of the poker room's operations, stating the reasons and expected duration

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for the same using **TGD-1504**. The duration of the suspension of operations must not exceed ninety (90) days and must be approved by PAGCOR. Continuous non-operation after ninety (90) days shall be sufficient ground for the revocation of the GL.

REGULATION 12. PLAYER DISPUTES

1. Evaluation and eventual resolution of disputes shall be the sole responsibility of the Poker Operator and/or its Floor Manager/Supervisor.
2. The evaluation and resolution of disputes shall be based on the Poker Operator's PRORG.
3. After the conduct of evaluation, disputes shall be resolved to the satisfaction of all involved players, as well as the Poker room based on available evidence, data, information, records, etc. and the PRORG.
4. Poker Operators shall maintain a file and records of all operational incidents, player disputes and resolution, and other material operational concerns. These files and records shall be made available upon PAGCOR's request.

REGULATION 13. REGULATORY COMPLIANCES

SECTION 1. Republic Act No. 9160, otherwise known as "Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001", as amended, and the Casino Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 10927

1. Poker rooms shall comply with all Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) Laws and Implementing Rules and Regulations issued and shall be issued by the AMLC, PAGCOR, and other relevant government agencies.
2. To this end, the Poker Operator shall:
 - a. Register with the AMLC as a covered person.
 - b. Conduct institutional risk assessment as provided for by AMLC.

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- c. Develop/adopt a money-laundering and terrorist financing prevention program.
 - d. Ensure that all employees are properly trained with the latest directives of AMLC.
3. The Poker Operator shall inform PAGCOR of any material change in the composition of the corporation's shareholders, key officers, and/or authorized representatives within thirty (30) days from his/ her election. Changes in shareholders holding at least five percent (5%) ownership of the corporation or in the roster of directors or key officers shall be subject to probity check.
4. The Poker Operator shall assign a Compliance Officer. The assigned Compliance Officer shall also address the poker room's compliance with Republic Act No. 10173 otherwise known as "Data Privacy Act of 2012" and the RG Code of Practice.

SECTION 2. Data Privacy Compliance

1. General statement

Under the "Data Privacy Act of 2012", it is the duty and responsibility of each organization to protect the personal data that the public have trusted with them. The National Privacy Commission has devised the Five Pillars of Data Privacy Accountability and Compliance. This framework is not only meant to combat data privacy threats, but to also help personal information controllers and processors comply with the "Data Privacy Act of 2012". Encompassing organizational, physical and technical measures, the framework is aimed at helping develop an organizational culture protective of privacy.

2. Five pillars of data privacy accountability and compliance

- a. Commit to comply - Appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO).
- b. Know your risks - Conduct a Privacy Impact Assessment (PIA).
- c. Write your plan - Create your Privacy Management Program (PMP).

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- d. Be Accountable - Implement your Privacy and Data Protection (PDP) measures.
 - e. Be prepared for breach - Regularly exercise your Breach Reporting Protection (BRP) measures.
3. In compliance with the requirements of "Data Privacy Act of 2012", all poker rooms are to install a notice on its entrance/s that the establishment is covered by CCTV and other surveillance equipment.

SECTION 3. Responsible Gaming (RG)

1. General statement

PAGCOR's RG Code of Practice sets out rules and guidelines on the conduct of gaming operations in a responsible manner. It lays down RG practices that every gaming facility in the country should follow to minimize the potential harm to individuals and the community brought about by the conduct of its business, prevent gambling addiction, and prohibit underage gambling.

Thus, the Poker Operator shall develop and implement its own responsible gaming program in accordance with PAGCOR's RG Code of Practice.

2. PAGCOR sets probity standards and measures to establish integrity, financial soundness, business ability and the suitability to serve in an Operator's BOD by submitting an annual PDS.
3. Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1869 otherwise known as "PAGCOR Charter", as amended by Republic Act No. 9487 and Memorandum Circular No. 6 Series of 2016, which limit access of Government employees, members of the military, persons under 21 years old, and persons included in the NDRP to enter, stay, or play in the poker room. GEL holders are not allowed to play in the poker room.
4. Financial loan sharks are prohibited from roaming and offering loans to players in the poker room premises.

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5. Financial transactions should follow the prescribed transactions and processes of the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP).
6. No credit will be extended by the Poker Operator to players.
7. The Poker Operator must ensure that all games conducted in its poker room are fair. To this end, it must ensure that game rules are defined and game manuals are approved by PAGCOR.
8. The Poker Operator must have efforts in creating awareness among its players about problem gambling.
9. The Poker Operator, in coordination with PAGCOR, is to conduct training programs, symposia, refresher courses, and/or seminars on gambling problem for its employees.
10. The Poker Operator is to establish gambling-related complaint resolution mechanisms to address gambling concerns, through helplines (landline or mobile) and internet (email or website).
11. The Poker Operator is to provide players who feel that relatives or they themselves are developing a problem with gambling with the option of barring them from playing in the gaming venues or sites.

REGULATION 14. POKER ROOM COMPLIANCE AUDIT GROUP

SECTION 1. Designated Compliance Audit Group for the Poker Room

1. PAGCOR may assign its own compliance audit group, i.e., PAGCOR representatives, who may conduct ocular inspections and spot check the conduct of poker games at poker rooms or check the number of operational cash game tables.
2. For scheduled inspections, such as pre-operational or routine inspections, PAGCOR shall provide notice to the concerned Operators of the names and position title of members of the PAGCOR inspection team, prior to said inspections.

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SECTION 2. Main Functions of the Compliance Audit Group

1. The compliance audit group may exercise the following functions:
 - a. Verify and audit the Operator's compliance to the terms and conditions of the GL and to the regulations contained herein and to other regulations that may be issued by PAGCOR from time to time;
 - b. Report incidents of deviations from the Regulatory Manual for Poker Operations; and
 - c. Conduct investigations at the poker room as may be necessary for the resolution of players' complaints, among other concerns.

SECTION 3. Records to be Made Available to the Compliance Audit Group

1. The Poker Operator shall make available to the compliance audit group the records of poker gaming operations, i.e., incident reports, marketing activity reports, among others.
2. A Poker Operator who willfully misstates or without reasonable excuse refuses to provide any information or produce any report and record or a copy thereof required of it by the compliance audit group shall be liable for disciplinary action.

SECTION 4. Access to Poker Room Premises

The Poker Operator shall give the compliance audit group access to premises such as the poker gaming areas and its ancillary areas, and other such areas as may be required by PAGCOR from time to time.

REGULATION 15. GAMING LICENSE RENEWAL AND AMENDMENT

SECTION 1. The Process of GL Renewal

1. The Poker Operator must signify its intent to renew its existing GL by submitting a LOI and a filled out **TGD-1534 Request for Renewal of Poker Gaming License Form** to the PAGCOR CCEO ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of its GL.

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2. Once the LOI has been forwarded by the OCCEO to TGD, TGD reviews the Operator's Performance Score Card – to qualify for renewal, the Poker Operator should have at least fifty (50) points remaining at time of evaluation and recommendation.
3. The Poker Operator must observe the following renewal guidelines:
 - a. Must have no arrears.
 - b. PCD must be intact.
 - c. Must settle the Renewal Fee amounting to Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱300,000.00).
 - d. Must submit the updated documentary requirements as prescribed in Regulation 2 (Application Processes and Requirements), Section 2 (Poker Room Applicant Documentary Requirements).
 - e. Undergo probity check by PAGCOR's accredited third party probity checker.
4. Recommendation for GL renewal
 - a. Should the Poker Operator be found compliant with all renewal requirements and evaluation using **TGD-1532 Evaluation Checklist for Renewal of Poker Gaming License**, TGD shall recommend to the PAGCOR BODs approval for the renewal of the GL.
 - b. TGD shall issue a formal notice to the Poker Operator of the approval/disapproval of the GL renewal.
 - c. PAGCOR shall then issue the corresponding new GL to the Poker Operator upon cancellation and surrender of the old GL.
5. Non-renewal of the GL

("The operation of a gaming site without a Gaming License is strictly prohibited.")

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- a. Should the Poker Operator fail to adhere with the renewal of Poker Gaming License processes and requirements mentioned under this Regulation, the following shall be implemented:
 - i. With PAGCOR BOD's approval, a formal notice shall be issued to the Poker Operator of the suspension of operations effective upon approval or upon expiration of the GL (whichever is applicable).
 - ii. The Poker Operator shall be given thirty (30) days from its GL expiration date to secure GL renewal; otherwise, its GL shall be revoked and the poker room shall be permanently closed.
 - iii. With the revocation of the GL due to non-renewal, the Poker Operator shall implement post-termination activities within 90 days upon receipt of a formal notice following of Regulation 17 (Permanent Closure of Poker Room), Section 2 (Post-operational Activities) herein.
- b. If the renewal requirements and processes are duly complied with and are found to be in order within the thirty (30)-day grace period, TGD shall recommend approval of GL renewal to the PAGCOR BOD. Subsequently, above-item 4 (b) and (c) shall be observed.

SECTION 2. Amendment of GL Due to Change in Operator

1. The existing Poker Operator shall request pre-termination of its GL due to change in Poker Operator.
 - a. LOI addressed to the OCCEO, endorsing the new prospective Poker Operator.
 - b. Submit a duly accomplished **TGD-1495 Voluntary Pre-termination of Poker Gaming License with Change in Operator** with Notarized Deed of Sale and/or Deed of Assignment, effecting such transfer, sale, grant, set over and assignment of corporation shares of stocks from the outgoing corporation to the incoming new Poker Operator.

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2. The prospective Poker Operator shall be treated as new Applicant which shall undergo application process as stated in Regulation 2 (Application Processes and Requirements).
3. If submitted documents are found in order and probity report shows no adverse information, the application shall be recommended to the PAGCOR BOD for approval.
4. Upon consideration of the PAGCOR BOD, notices shall be issued to:
 - a. Outgoing Poker Operator - approval of the revocation/non-renewal of the GL.
 - b. Incoming Poker Operator - approval of the application.
5. Payment of Approval Fee for the new Poker Operator.
6. Applicable post-operational activities for the outgoing Poker Operator.

SECTION 3. Amendment of GL Due to Change in Location

1. A Poker Operator may apply for a change in the location of a poker room if its existing GL is of good standing and subject to the following:
 - a. The Poker Operator is the same business entity.
 - b. The new location is within the same city or municipality. However, for proposed new location outside the present city/municipality, the undertaking shall be treated as new application.
 - c. The new location is compliant with the accepted distance restriction guidelines as well as the type of establishment as prescribed in Regulation 1 (Basic Application Qualifications), Section 2 (Site Location Requirements).

2. Poker Site Relocation Guidelines

- a. The Poker Operator shall submit a duly accomplished **TGD-1585 Relocation of Poker Room Request and Approval Form**.

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- b. PAGCOR shall schedule an inspection of the new proposed site upon payment of the application fee by the Poker Operator.
- c. If the proposed new location is compliant with all prescribed site requirements, the relocation of the poker room shall be recommended for Board approval.
- d. Upon receipt of notice of approval from TGD, the Poker Operator shall proceed with the setting up of the poker room at the new site as prescribed in Regulation 4 (The Poker Room).
- e. The Poker Operator shall be billed for the reprinting or re-issuance of the new GL.
- f. The Poker Operator shall surrender to TGD the old GL prior to issuance of the new GL, bearing the new address.
- g. The new GL's validity period shall remain the same up to the remaining unexpired term as specified in the original GL.
- h. The Operator shall secure an amended Business Permit to correspond with the new address of the poker room.

SECTION 4. Amendment of GL Due to Change in Brand Name

A Poker Operator may request a change of its current poker room "Brand Name", under the following guidelines:

1. The Poker Operator shall submit a LOI to TGD, expressing its plan to change its existing brand name, and the reason for the proposed change. With the following attachments:
 - a. Notarized Board Resolution and Secretary's Certificate, approving the change of brand name;
 - b. Copy of the Amended GIS showing the adoption of the new brand name; and
 - c. Artwork and/or logo design of the new Brand Name.

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2. TGD shall evaluate the submitted documentation, and if found in order, the change in brand name shall be recommended to the PAGCOR BOD for approval.
3. Upon approval of the change in brand name, TGD shall send a Notice of Approval to the Poker Operator.
4. Attached in the Notice of Approval is the billing for the reprinting and re-issuance of the new GL.
5. The Poker Operator shall surrender to TGD the old GL prior to issuance of the new GL, bearing the new brand name.
6. The new GL's validity period shall remain the same up to the unexpired term as specified in the original GL.
7. With the approval of the new brand name, the same shall be inscribed on all applicable gaming items i.e., playing cards, gaming chips, table lay-outs, as well as marketing signages, promotional materials, etc.
8. The intended artwork design shall be subject to evaluation and approval of TGD prior to procurement and usage.
9. The Poker Operator shall implement disposal of all gaming items subject to approved guidelines and removal of all signages and other collaterals bearing the old brand name within ninety (90) days upon receipt of the Notice of Approval.
10. The Poker Operator shall notify TGD at least seven (7) working days prior to the intended date of disposal and removal activities mentioned above, as well as the implementation date of the usage of the new brand name.

REGULATION 16. LIST OF OFFENSES AND CORRESPONDING DEMERITS AND PENALTIES

SECTION 1. General Guidelines

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1. Based on the nature of the offense, corresponding demerits and monetary penalties shall be imposed on the Poker Operator following the Table of Offenses under Section 2 (Table of Offenses) herein.
2. In the event of non-compliance with the guidelines prescribed in this regulatory manual and any subsequent amendment/ addendum thereto, TGD shall issue **TGD-1616** to the Poker Operator through email from poker@pagcor.ph which states:

- a. The nature of offense with applicable penalty and/or demerit with corresponding monetary fine of One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00) per demerit assessed as prescribed in the Table of Offenses.
- b. A demand for the settlement of all arrears within thirty (30) days from due date; and
- c. A warning that failure to settle the arrears at the end of the thirty (30)-day suspension will result in the revocation of the GL.

Note: If monetary penalties and/ or demerit assessments are settled within the thirty (30)-day suspension, operation may resume the following day after payment is made.

- d. Notwithstanding the imposition of monetary penalties, the commission of offense/s by a Poker Operator shall be taken into consideration in the renewal of GL.
3. Assessment of Demerits
 - a. All poker rooms will be given an initial one hundred (100) points per License Year (LY) – a period of twelve (12) months – at the start of its validity. Imposed demerits will be recorded per LY to be deducted from the initial one hundred (100) points through the course of the license validity.
 - b. Demerit points will be marked against the Operator's **TGD-1510 Poker Room's Performance Score Card** and reckoned at the time of GL renewal.

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- c. Poker rooms that manage to keep at least fifty (50) points for all LYs within the validity of their license shall only be eligible for renewal.
4. Repeated or habitual commission of the same offense shall be grounds for the issuance of a Notice of Suspension of Operations and eventual revocation of GL.
5. PAGCOR may effect changes to the Table of Offenses which shall be posted on the Poker Regulatory webpage.

SECTION 2. Table of Offenses

Description	Demerit Points	Penalty	Prescribed Submission/ Compliance	Remarks
KEY PROVISIONS				
Allowing prohibited person/s to enter, stay, or play	5	Refer to RG Code of Practice Table of Penalties		Per person per entry
Allowing person/s below 21 years of age to enter, stay, or play	5	Refer to RG Code of Practice Table of Penalties		Per person per entry
Allowing unregistered player/s to play	5	₱100,000.00		Per person per entry
Non-remittance of amount due to PAGCOR, i.e., GL Fee and PAGCOR Share	5	₱30,000.00		
Misdeclaration of rake amount	5	₱50,000.00		Per offense
Non-declaration of additional active cash table/s	5	₱200,000.00		Per month per table
Misdeclaration of additional active cash table	5	₱150,000.00		Per month per table
Late notification of additional active cash table	5			Per table
Non-payment of player's winnings	5	₱50,000.00		
Making any unauthorized deduction from winnings of players	5	₱50,000.00		
Unauthorized implementation of progressive jackpot winnings	5	₱30,000.00		
Unauthorized awarding of progressive jackpot winnings	5	₱30,000.00		
Non-compliance with the procedure and standards in	5			

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Description	Demerit Points	Penalty	Prescribed Submission/ Compliance	Remarks
processing and awarding of a Bad Beat Jackpot hit				
Late or non-submission of required BBJ documents	5			
Deviation from prescribed dealing procedure: • Failure to collect and/or drop the jackpot rake • Failure to perform stub count and immediate sorting	5			
Failure to maintain bank account intended for the progressive jackpot (i.e., discrepancies from account balance and total jackpot fund amount)	5			
Unauthorized implementation of poker tournaments and marketing programs/ promotions	3			
Unauthorized suspension of operations (including failure to resume operations after the approved period of suspension)	5			Per day of offense
Failure to restore the PCD at its original level within fifteen (15) calendar days from deduction	5			For every month of non-compliance
DOCUMENT SUBMISSION				
Non-compliance with the manual and/or electronic submission of documentary requirements on time: • Business Permit • Updated GIS • Audited Financial Statement (BIR stamped) • Income Tax Return of Corporation (BIR stamped) • Income Tax Return of each member of the BOD (BIR stamped)	3	₱30,000.00		If documents pertain to site, the demerit and penalty of ₱30,000.00 shall be imposed on a per site basis If documents pertain to the Poker Operator, only the demerit shall be imposed on a per site basis; the ₱30,000.00 penalty shall
Non-submission of the following for any material changes in the corporation: • Notification (within 30 days from election to the Board) • Latest GIS	3	₱30,000.00 plus ₱1,000.00 per month of delay		

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Description	Demerit Points	Penalty	Prescribed Submission/ Compliance	Remarks
• PDS, NBI, Police and/or Court Clearances • Notarized Board Resolution and Secretary's Certificate • Notarized Deed of Assignment • ITR of the corporation and each member of BOD and shareholders				be imposed on the Operator once (per year) Demerits shall be imposed per document
Non-compliance with any of the following regulations: • Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2001, as amended • Data Privacy Act of 2012 • Responsible Gaming Code of Practice	5	₱30,000.00		Per violation
Late submission and/or submission of erroneous poker reports/forms with corresponding attachments	2			Per report
Failure/refusal of the Poker Operator to permit inspection of records, accounts, and reports in accordance with the provision of the GL	5	₱30,000.00		
GAMING EQUIPMENT AND PARAPHERNALIA				
Failure to notify PAGCOR and/or maintain poker room standards on CCTV requirements and guidelines	3			
Unauthorized procurement of regulated gaming item/s	5	₱50,000.00		Per violation
Failure to notify TGD of the removal/ movement of gaming items/ paraphernalia from poker room to another location and vice versa.	3	₱5,000.00		Per violation

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REGULATION 17. PERMANENT CLOSURE OF POKER ROOM

If a Poker Operator plans to permanently close its poker room, the following procedure shall apply. Failure to comply with this procedure shall be taken into consideration in the refund of its PCD or in future application with PAGCOR.

SECTION 1. Voluntary Permanent Closure of Poker Room

1. In the event of voluntary closure, the Poker Operator shall notify TGD at least thirty (30) calendar days prior to the intended permanent closure by accomplishing the **TGD-1546 Voluntary Closure/Non-Renewal of Gaming License Notification Form** and providing the following:
 - a. Board resolution stating that the corporation is voluntarily closing its poker room and/or signatures of the majority stockholders signifying their concurrence to the voluntary closure or non-renewal of GL.
 - b. Copy of latest GIS duly received by SEC.
 - c. The original GL. The Poker Operator may retain a photocopy marked "For closure."
2. A recommendation for the revocation of the GL of the poker room for closure including the refund of its PCD, shall then be submitted to the PAGCOR Board for approval or confirmation. The refund of the PCD shall be subject to final audit (net of any outstanding obligation to PAGCOR) and upon completion of post-operational activities.
3. A written Notice of the Approval of the revocation of the GL shall be issued by TGD.

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SECTION 2. Post-operational Activities

1. Upon issuance by TGD of a notice approving the revocation of the GL, whether due to voluntary closure of the poker room or for any other reason, the Poker Operator must undertake the following:
 - a. Immediately surrender the revoked GL to PAGCOR.
 - b. Submit to TGD within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the notice of revocation a duly completed of **TGD-1506 Poker Closing Inventory List of Gaming Equipment and Paraphernalia Form** enumerating the total inventory of all gaming equipment and paraphernalia currently located in the poker room.
 - c. Disposal of the gaming equipment and/or paraphernalia, within ninety (90) days from date of notice of GL revocation, through any of the following methods in accordance with Regulation 5:
 - i. Return/Ship-out to supplier;
 - ii. Transfer to another Licensee;
 - iii. Donation to PAGCOR, and
 - iv. Destruction.
 - d. Notify TGD of the disposal of all gaming items that the Poker Operator intends to use for other purposes using **TGD-1209B**.
 - e. Remove all poker room signage, PAGCOR logo sticker, and marketing collaterals within the site premises, and submit to TGD a notice on its compliance with the removal.
 - f. Purging of all non-regulated Information Technology equipment, surveillance servers, and audio/video recording devices, to be conducted by authorized representatives of PAGCOR.
 - g. Submit to TGD a letter requesting the refund of PCD along with the original copy of its OR.

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2. Upon validation of the post-operational activities, TGD shall process the PCD refund and notify the Poker Operator once it is available.
3. Should the Poker Operator fail to comply with the post-operational activities as prescribed in subsection (1) above, the PCD shall not be released.

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Annex A. 2024 DTI's CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES COMPETITIVE INDEX (CMCI) RANKING OF HIGHLY URBANIZED CITIES

RANK	LGU	PROVINCE	REGION
1st	Quezon (MM)	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
2nd	Manila	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
3rd	Pasay	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
4th	Muntinlupa	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
5th	Iloilo	Iloilo	REGION VI (Western Visayas)
6th	Cagayan De Oro	Misamis Oriental	REGION X (Northern Mindanao)
7th	Davao	Davao Del Sur	REGION XI (Davao Region)
8th	Makati	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
9th	Pasig	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
10th	Taguig	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
11th	Valenzuela	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
12th	Baguio	Benguet	CAR - Cordillera Administrative Region
13th	Cebu	Cebu	REGION VII (Central Visayas)
14th	Caloocan	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
15th	General Santos	South Cotabato	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
16th	Puerto Princesa	Palawan	REGION IV-B (MIMAROPA)
17th	Butuan	Agusan Del Norte	REGION XIII (Caraga)
18th	Mandaluyong	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
19th	Bacolod (NO)	Negros Occidental	REGION VI (Western Visayas)
20th	Tacloban	Leyte	REGION VIII (Eastern Visayas)
21st	Mandaue	Cebu	REGION VII (Central Visayas)
22nd	Lucena	Quezon	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
23rd	Lapu Lapu	Cebu	REGION VII (Central Visayas)
24th	Angeles	Pampanga	REGION III (Central Luzon)
25th	San Juan (MM)	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
26th	Iligan	Lanao Del Norte	REGION X (Northern Mindanao)
27th	Parañaque	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
28th	Olongapo	Zambales	REGION III (Central Luzon)
29th	Navotas	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
30th	Las Pinas	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
31st	Marikina	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region
32nd	Zamboanga	Zamboanga City	REGION IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)
33rd	Malabon	Metro Manila	NCR - National Capital Region

Annex B. TOP 50 2024 DTI's CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES COMPETITIVE INDEX (CMCI) RANKING OF COMPONENT CITIES

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RAN K	LGU	PROVINCE	REGION
1st	Naga (CS)	Camarines Sur	REGION V (Bicol Region)
2nd	Digos	Davao Del Sur	REGION XI (Davao Region)
3rd	Legazpi	Albay	REGION V (Bicol Region)
4th	Tagbilaran	Bohol	REGION VII (Central Visayas)
5th	Calapan	Oriental Mindoro	REGION IV-B (MIMAROPA)
6th	Calamba (LA)	Laguna	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
7th	Binan	Laguna	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
8th	Antipolo	Rizal	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
9th	San Fernando (LU)	La Union	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
10th	Tagum	Davao Del Norte	REGION XI (Davao Region)
11th	San Fernando (PA)	Pampanga	REGION III (Central Luzon)
12th	Dasmaringas	Cavite	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
13th	Tuguegarao	Cagayan	REGION II (Cagayan Valley)
14th	Santa Rosa (LA)	Laguna	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
15th	Ilagan	Isabela	REGION II (Cagayan Valley)
16th	Batangas	Batangas	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
17th	Tarlac	Tarlac	REGION III (Central Luzon)
18th	Lipa	Batangas	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
19th	Bacoor	Cavite	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
20th	IGACOS	Davao Del Norte	REGION XI (Davao Region)
21st	Panabo	Davao Del Norte	REGION XI (Davao Region)
22nd	Gingoog	Misamis Oriental	REGION X (Northern Mindanao)
23rd	General Trias	Cavite	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
24th	Cabuyao	Laguna	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
25th	Santiago (IA)	Isabela	REGION II (Cagayan Valley)
26th	San Jose Del Monte	Bulacan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
27th	Imus	Cavite	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
28th	Malolos	Bulacan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
29th	San Pedro	Laguna	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
30th	Ormoc	Leyte	REGION VIII (Eastern Visayas)
31st	Koronadal	South Cotabato	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
32nd	Kidapawan	Cotabato (North Cotabato)	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
33rd	Balanga	Bataan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
34th	Danao (CU)	Cebu	REGION VII (Central Visayas)
35th	Laoag	Ilocos Norte	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
36th	Ligao	Albay	REGION V (Bicol Region)
37th	Candon	Ilocos Sur	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
38th	San Pablo (LA)	Laguna	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)

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39th	Cotabato	Maguindanao Del Norte	BARMM - Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
40th	Batac	Ilocos Norte	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
41st	Iriga	Camarines Sur	REGION V (Bicol Region)
42nd	Cauayan (IA)	Isabela	REGION II (Cagayan Valley)
43rd	Tacurong	Sultan Kudarat	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
44th	Ozamiz	Misamis Occidental	REGION X (Northern Mindanao)
45th	San Carlos (PS)	Pangasinan	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
46th	Baliwag	Bulacan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
47th	Dagupan	Pangasinan	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
48th	Roxas (CZ)	Capiz	REGION VI (Western Visayas)
49th	Tagaytay	Cavite	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
50th	Bogo	Cebu	REGION VII (Central Visayas)

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**Annex C. TOP 50 2024 DTI's CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES
COMPETITIVE INDEX (CMCI) RANKING OF 1ST TO 2ND
CLASS MUNICIPALITIES**

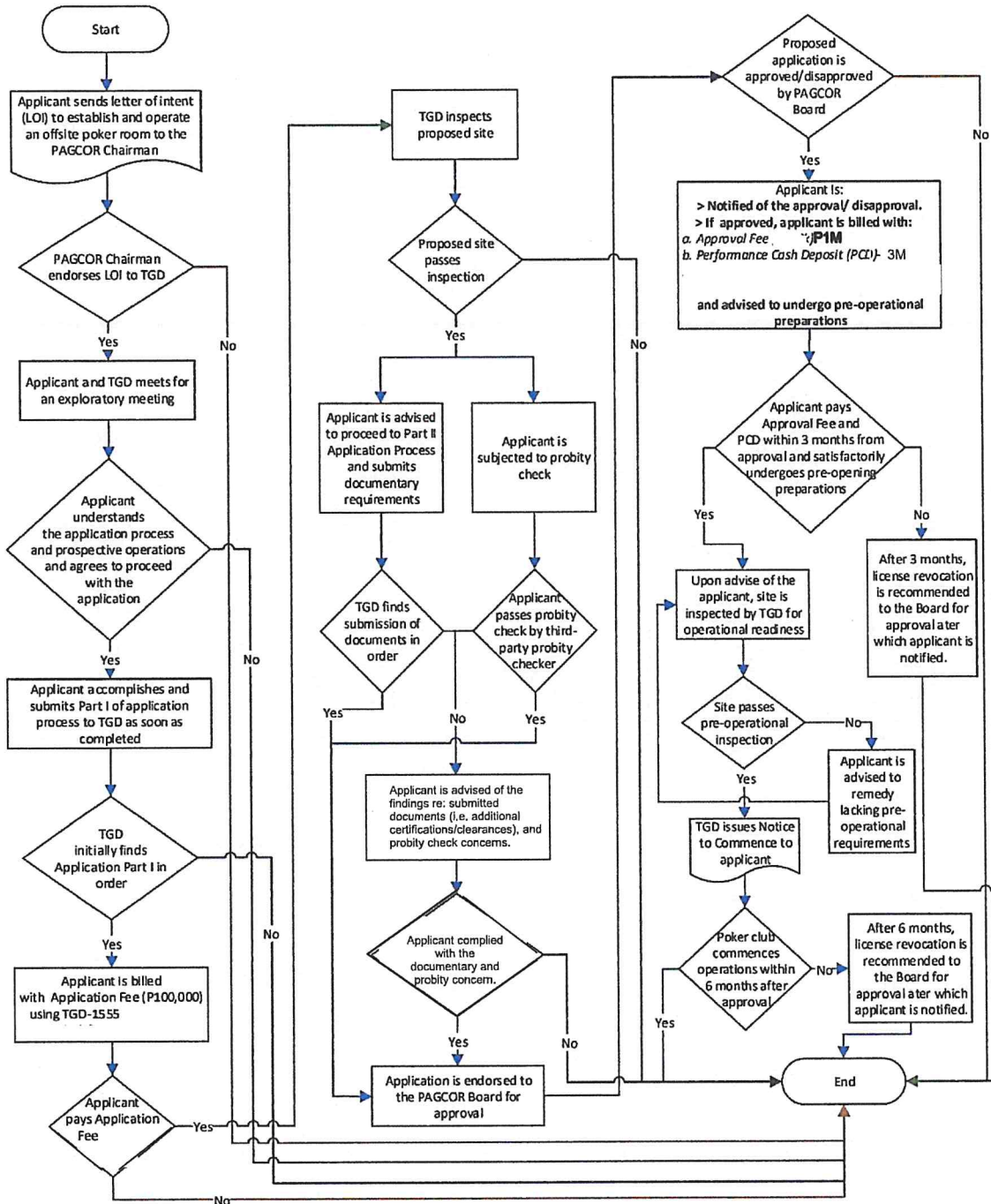
RANK	LGU	PROVINCE	REGION
1st	Cainta	Rizal	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
2nd	Taytay (RL)	Rizal	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
3rd	Claver	Surigao Del Norte	REGION XIII (Caraga)
4th	Kabacan	Cotabato (North Cotabato)	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
5th	San Mateo (RL)	Rizal	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
6th	Pantukan	Davao De Oro	REGION XI (Davao Region)
7th	Angono	Rizal	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
8th	Binangonan	Rizal	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
9th	Midsayap	Cotabato (North Cotabato)	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
10th	Isulan	Sultan Kudarat	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
11th	Marilao	Bulacan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
12th	Silang	Cavite	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
13th	Tumauini	Isabela	REGION II (Cagayan Valley)
14th	Tanza	Cavite	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
15th	Kalibo	Aklan	REGION VI (Western Visayas)
16th	Malungon	Sarangani	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
17th	Rosario (CE)	Cavite	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
18th	Daet	Camarines Norte	REGION V (Bicol Region)
19th	Candelaria (QN)	Quezon	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
20th	La Trinidad	Benguet	CAR - Cordillera Administrative Region
21st	Bayombong	Nueva Vizcaya	REGION II (Cagayan Valley)
22nd	Agoo	La Union	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
23rd	Mangaldan	Pangasinan	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
24th	Liloan (CU)	Cebu	REGION VII (Central Visayas)
25th	Polomolok	South Cotabato	REGION XII (Soccsksargen)
26th	Carmen (DN)	Davao Del Norte	REGION XI (Davao Region)
27th	Sariaya	Quezon	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
28th	Rosario (BS)	Batangas	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
29th	Malay	Aklan	REGION VI (Western Visayas)
30th	Morong (RL)	Rizal	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
31st	Santo Tomas (DN)	Davao Del Norte	REGION XI (Davao Region)
32nd	Bacnotan	La Union	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
33rd	Los Banos	Laguna	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
34th	Santa Maria (BU)	Bulacan	REGION III (Central Luzon)

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35th	Bansalan	Davao Del Sur	REGION XI (Davao Region)
36th	Lingayen	Pangasinan	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
37th	Pulilan	Bulacan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
38th	Bauang	La Union	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
39th	Mariveles	Bataan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
40th	Bayambang	Pangasinan	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
41st	Tanay	Rizal	REGION IV-A (CALABARZON)
42nd	Maramag	Bukidnon	REGION X (Northern Mindanao)
43rd	Laak	Davao De Oro	REGION XI (Davao Region)
44th	Mangatarem	Pangasinan	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
45th	Talavera	Nueva Ecija	REGION III (Central Luzon)
46th	Plaridel (BU)	Bulacan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
47th	Guiguinto (BU)	Bulacan	REGION III (Central Luzon)
48th	Tagudin	Ilocos Sur	REGION I (Ilocos Region)
49th	Argao	Cebu	REGION VII (Central Visayas)
50th	Santa Barbara (IO)	Iloilo	REGION VI (Western Visayas)

Annex D. PROCESS MAP FOR APPLYING FOR A GAMING LICENSE TO OPERATE AN OFFSITE POKER ROOM

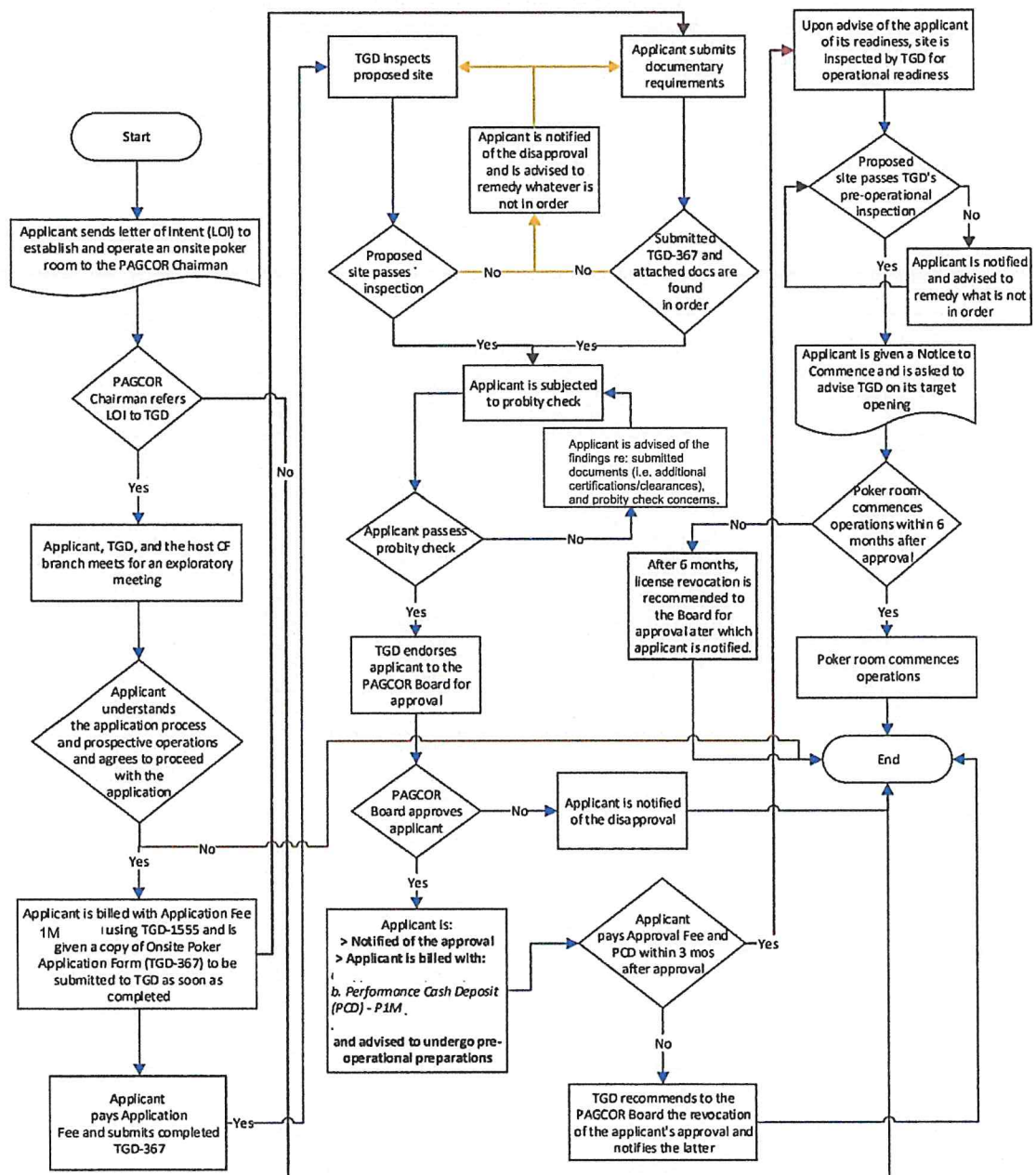
PROCESS MAP FOR APPLICATION FOR AN OFFSITE POKER ROOM



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Annex E. PROCESS MAP FOR APPLYING FOR A GAMING LICENSE TO OPERATE AN ONSITE POKER ROOM

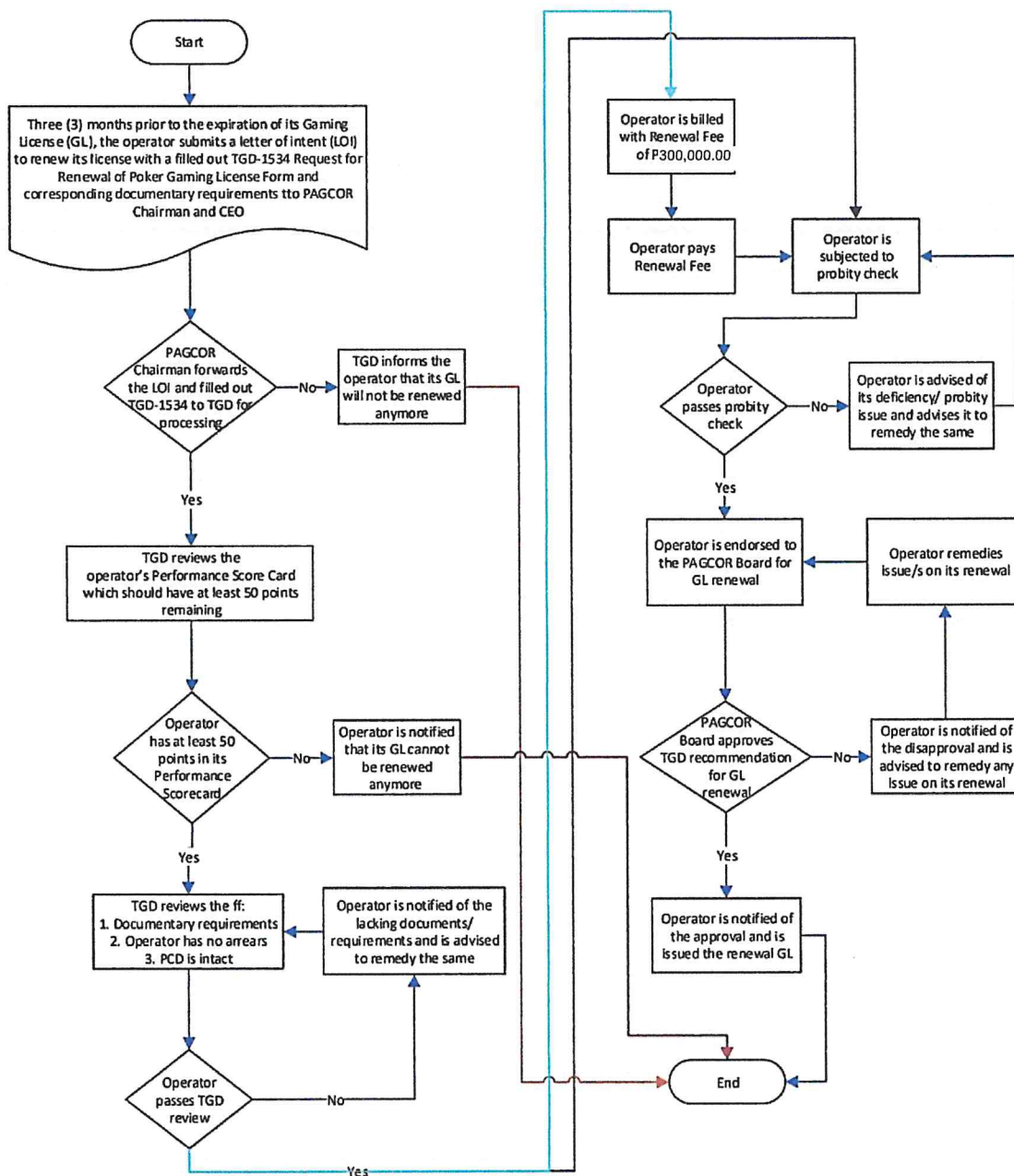
PROCESS MAP FOR APPLICATION
FOR AN ONSITE POKER ROOM



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Annex F. PROCESS MAP FOR RENEWING A GAMING LICENSE TO OPERATE AN OFFSITE AND ONSITE POKER ROOM

PROCESS MAP FOR RENEWAL OF GAMING LICENSE OF AN OFFSITE AND ONSITE POKER ROOM



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Annex G. LIST OF FORMS (To be downloaded by the Poker Operator from a shared folder)

FORM NO	POKER FORM TITLE
Pre-operational	
TGD-385	Request for Validation of Operators/Proponents' Dealers
TGD-834	Annual Personal Disclosure Statement for Incorporators/Directors/Key Officers (PDS)
TGD-1082	Company Disclosure Statement (CDS)
TGD-1505	Request for Extension of Opening of a New Poker Room
TGD-1511	Poker Room Establishment Compliance Notification Form
TGD-1515	Notification of Target Opening Date of Poker Room
TGD-1525	Application Form for the Establishment of Poker Room Part I
TGD-1526	Application Form for the Establishment of Poker Room Part II
TGD-1590	Poker Beginning Inventory/List of Gaming Equipment and Paraphernalia
Operational	
TGD-108	Gaming Site Tax Compliance Report Form
TGD-1494	Poker Daily Active Table, Rake and Jackpot Rake Collection Report (For Offsite Poker Room)
TGD-1495	Voluntary Pre-Termination of Poker Gaming license with Change in Operator
TGD-1496	Additional Active Poker Table/s Notification Form
TGD-1497	Operator's Authorized Signatory and Contact Information
TGD-1498	Poker Applicant's/Operator's Payment Form
TGD-1504	Request and Approval for Temporary Suspension of Poker Room Operations Form
TGD-1508	Poker Monthly Active Table, Rake, and Jackpot Rake Collection Report (For Offsite Poker Room)
TGD-1534	Request for Renewal of Poker Gaming License Form
TGD-1545	Poker Room Operating Status Report
TGD-1554	Gaming Item Design Request and Approval Form
TGD-1580	Change in Poker Room Operating Hours Notification Form
TGD-1582	New Poker Game Request and Approval Form
TGD-1583	Poker Buy-in Limits and Minimum Rake Notification Form
TGD-1584	Poker Table Addition/Reduction Notification Form
TGD-1585	Relocation of Poker Room Request and Approval Form
TGD-1623	Poker Daily Active Table, Rake and Jackpot Rake Collection Report (For Onsite Poker Room)
TGD-1624	Poker Monthly Active Table, Rake, and Jackpot Rake Collection Report (For Onsite Poker Room)
Tournaments and Marketing	
TGD-1499	Poker Room's Photography and Video Coverage Notification Form
TGD-1500	Poker Progressive Jackpot Awarding Request Form

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FORM NO	POKER FORM TITLE
TGD-1501	Request and Approval of Poker Tournament Form
TGD-1502	Poker Tournament Modification/Cancellation Form
TGD-1503	Poker Tournament Report Form
TGD-1507	Request and Approval of Poker Room Marketing and Promotion Form
TGD-1509	Monthly Poker Tournament Report
TGD-1540	Cessation of Poker Progressive Jackpot Notification Form
TGD-1581	Implementation of Poker Progressive Wagering Request and Approval Form
TGD-1591	Temporary Suspension of Poker Progressive Wagering Request and Approval Form
TGD-1029	Poker Tournament Notification Form

Post-operational

TGD-322	Destruction of Cards or Gaming Items
TGD-1209A	Gaming Items Movement Request and Approval Form
TGD-1209B	Gaming Items Disposal Request and Approval Form
TGD-1506	Poker Closing Inventory List of Gaming Equipment and Paraphernalia Form
TGD-1539	Certificate of Gaming Equipment and Paraphernalia Destruction Form
TGD-1546	Voluntary Closure/Non-Renewal of Gaming License Notification Form

Procurement Forms

TGD-321	Gaming Items Delivery and Inspection Report
TGD-823	Shipment Clearance Request and Approval Form
TGD-824	Local Purchase Clearance Request and Approval Form
TGD-825	Ship-Out Clearance Request and Approval Form
TGD-1209A	Gaming Items Movement Request and Approval Form
TGD-1209B	Gaming Items Disposal Request and Approval Form
TGD-1554	Gaming Item Design Request and Approval Form

Poker Forms for TGD Use Only

TGD-1510	Poker Room's Performance Score Card
TGD-1532	Evaluation Checklist for Renewal of Poker Gaming License
TGD-1533	Poker Checklist for Audit Request
TGD-1542	Evaluation Checklist for Poker Room Closure
TGD-1543	Evaluation Report for Poker Progressive Jackpot Awarding
TGD-1544	New Poker Room Application Checklist (For Offsite Poker Room)
TGD-1555	Poker Operators'/ Applicants' Billing Notification Form
TGD-1563	Poker Room Routine Compliance Checklist
TGD-1574	Proposed Poker Site Verification Checklist
TGD-1616	Notice of Non-Compliance to Poker Operators

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Annex I. LIST OF REGULARLY SUBMITTED REPORTS AND DEADLINES OF SUBMISSION

Deadline of Submission	Report Name	Form Number
At least one (1) calendar day prior to implementation	Additional (Monthly) Active Poker Table Notification Form	TGD-1496
The day after the implementation of the additional active table	Additional (Daily) Active Poker Table Notification Form	
On the next day of operations	Poker Daily Active Table, Rake and Jackpot Rake Collection (For Offsite Poker Room)	TGD-1494
	Poker Daily Active Table, Rake and Jackpot Rake Collection (For Onsite Poker Room)	TGD-1623
2 nd day after the tournament	Poker Tournament Report Form	TGD-1503
2 nd day of the following month (covering the preceding month)	Poker Monthly Active Table, Rake, and Jackpot Rake Collection Report (For Offsite Poker Room)	TGD-1508
	Poker Monthly Active Table, Rake, and Jackpot Rake Collection Report (For Onsite Poker Room)	TGD-1624
	Monthly Poker Tournament Report	TGD-1509
	BBJ updated bank certificate/passbook photocopy, if applicable	-
➤ Franchise tax – end of the month following a calendar quarter ➤ Withholding tax – following month after the Bad Beat Jackpot hit	Gaming Site Tax Compliance Report Form	TGD-108

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Annex J. GLOSSARY

Active Table	Refer to the number of cash game tables operating simultaneously at any given time. Offsite poker rooms are required to operate a minimum of four (4) active tables. On top of the minimum four (4), Operators shall be charged an additional fee.
Bad Beat Jackpot	A special prize pool is designed to reward players when an extremely strong hand loses to an even stronger hand. A rare and frustrating situation where a player's very strong hand (like four of a kind) is unexpectedly beaten.
Buy-in	The minimum amount required to get into a poker cash game. It also refers to the amount of money to participate in a poker tournament that goes to the prize pool.
Cage	The area within the poker room premises cash to chips transactions, and vice versa are conducted, and financial transactions and paperwork necessary to support the playing of games in the poker room are carried out. It is also called a cashier's booth.
Cash Game	Non-tournament poker games played with cash chips which represent actual money, usually with no pre-determined end time with players able to enter and leave as they see fit.
Chip	A circular/ disc-shaped non-metal or partly metal representative of value issued by a Poker Operator for use as a wager or as a tip while playing poker games at the poker room.
Gaming Equipment	Any equipment used remotely or directly in connection with gaming in the poker room.
Gaming License	Refers to the document granting the Poker Operator the privilege to establish, install, maintain, and operate a gaming facility or poker tables as approved by PAGCOR.
Gaming Paraphernalia	Apparatus, furnishing, or accessories used in or necessary in the conduct of gaming operations.
Hand	The best combination a player can make with the cards s/he holds plus the communal cards. Any player's cards. The complete play of a hand of poker, from shuffle and deal through all betting rounds and the showdown.
House Rake	The rake collected from cash games. Chips collected as house rake are dropped into the house rake drop box installed under a poker table using a rake slider (or through a drop slot) located to the right of the dealer. Collection of such amount is subject to a ceiling as set by PAGCOR.
Jackpot Administrative Fee	The amount of money that the Poker Operator deducts from the jackpot rake collected from eligible poker game pots to fund a progressive jackpot promotion.
Jackpot Rake	The rake collected from cash games for the purpose of progressive jackpots. Chips collected as jackpot rake are dropped into the jackpot rake drop box installed under a poker table using a rake slider (or through a drop slot) located to the left of the dealer.

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	Collection of such amount is subject to a ceiling as set by PAGCOR.
Lammers	A small plastic disk can be a button or marker with no equivalent monetary value used by a croupier or dealer to track the state of a game of chance or a debt owed in the poker table.
Gaming License Fees	The amount due to PAGCOR from the Poker Operator for the operation of active tables at the poker room.
License Validity Period	Refers to the validity date as indicated in the GL.
Minimum Guarantee Fee	The amount due to PAGCOR by an Onsite Poker Operator.
Offsite Poker Room	Poker room duly authorized by PAGCOR to exclusively offer poker games. It may be located within the mall's general premises or within the same complex/premises as the Hotel.
Onsite Poker Room	A licensed poker room exclusively offering poker games inside PAGCOR-operated casinos.
Poker Operator	A corporation authorized by PAGCOR through issuance of a License to set up and operate a poker room.
PAGCOR	The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation or its successor entity, or replacement of PAGCOR in its capacity as a Person entitled to regulate and license all gaming establishments in the territorial jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines.
PAGCOR Share	The percentage of total Jackpot administrative fee and total Tournament entry fee that PAGCOR is due to collect from the Poker Operator. For onsite poker rooms, PAGCOR share includes MGF or percentage from rake collection, whichever is higher.
Performance Cash Deposit	The monetary requirement/ deposit paid by the Poker Operator in advance as PAGCOR's measure of security against the Operator's outstanding arrears, unpaid license fees and other financial obligations relative to the poker room operation and other penalties which may be imposed by PAGCOR upon closure of gaming site due to termination or non-renewal.
Plaque	A square, rectangle or ellipse shaped one-piece object entirely of plastic, or any other comparable material of value issued by a Poker Operator for use as a wager or as a tip while playing poker games at the poker room. Plaques normally have higher value than chips. The bigger the size of chips and plaques the higher the denomination.
Player	Any person, except an employee performing work on the poker room premises, who frequents, plays any poker variant, or purchases any goods or services in the poker room premises of a Poker Operator.
Player's Winnings	Refer to the total amount paid out to the player following a successful wager at the end of a hand, tournament and/or progressive jackpots.
Poker Ancillary Area	Spaces that help support the main function of the poker site. Ancillary spaces are communal, unassigned spaces which include cage or cashier's booth, vault area, cafes or dining area, employees lounge, restrooms, outdoor spaces, and entrance and

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	exit points, vault area, cafes or dining area, employees lounge, restrooms, outdoor spaces, and entrance and exit points.
Poker Game	A "Player-to-player" (P2P) type of game variant as approved by PAGCOR, which is offered at poker table inside a licensed poker room. The dealer does not play a hand in this game and an entry fee for tournament games, if any, or rake for cash games is collected.
Poker Gaming Area	The space in the poker room allotted to setup/ install poker tables and chairs and where poker games are conducted.
Poker Room	The whole poker site area includes the Poker Ancillary Area and the Poker Gaming Area.
Pot	The total amount of money that is staked by all the players in a hand of poker game. It may also refer to the amount of tournament buy-ins that form part of the prize to be won by tournament participants.
Progressive Jackpot Fund	A special prize pool initially funded by the Poker Operator (seed money) which increases each time the game is played until the jackpot is won. The jackpot for the next play is reset and resumes increasing under the same rule.
Proposition Player	A player who is paid by a Poker Operator to play poker, usually to keep games going when they get short-handed, or to get games started. Proposition players gamble with their own money.
Quorum	The minimum number of players required for a Poker game/table to officially start.
Rake	The amount of money of the pot from cash games equivalent to a pre-ordained minimum to a maximum subject to a set ceiling per blind level taken by the house as its income for running a poker room.
Shill	A house player who does not have any money at risk; she/he is a poker room employee who is paid a predetermined rate to play and who is bankrolled by the house.
Tournament	A poker event+ which a Poker Operator or tournament organizer conducts as a form of marketing event. All poker tournaments are subject to PAGCOR's approval.
Tournament Entry Fee	Sometimes called administrative or registration fee refers to the amount of money collected by a tournament organizer intended for expenses incurred or to be incurred for the preparation and/or conduct of the same. This amount does not form part of the tournament prize pool.
Voucher	A form distributed that is redeemable for items of value used to wager on an approved game.

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Annex K. BAD BEAT JACKPOT GUIDELINES V.0 EFFECTIVE APRIL 24, 2025

ANNEX K.



Licensing and Regulatory Group
Table Games Department

BAD BEAT JACKPOT GUIDELINES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Bad Beat Jackpot Guidelines establish the regulatory framework for the operation of progressive jackpots in poker rooms across the Philippines, as governed by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). These guidelines specifically focus on Bad Beat Jackpots (BBJ), a progressive jackpot where players can win substantial payouts when a strong hand is beaten by an even stronger hand during live poker games. The guidelines aim to ensure fair practices, player protection, and transparency in managing jackpot funds.

KEY POINTS

1. Operator Approval and Compliance
2. Jackpot Fund Management
3. Payout Mechanics
4. Jackpot Rake Collection and Display
5. Awarding and Validation Procedures
6. Cessation of Progressive Jackpots

The Bad Beat Jackpot Guidelines provide a robust regulatory structure for managing and operating poker progressive jackpots in the Philippines. These guidelines ensure that jackpot funds are properly handled, payouts are transparent, and players are protected while enhancing the overall poker experience. By following these regulations, poker room operators can offer Bad Beat Jackpots in a fair, secure, and compliant manner under PAGCOR's oversight. The Bad Beat Jackpot Guidelines set forth herein and its succeeding revisions shall be adopted and/or implemented by all operators/proponents in their offsite and onsite poker operations.

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I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

- A. Bad Beat Jackpot is specifically offered in Texas Hold'em games only.
- B. The poker operator shall seek the approval from TGD by submitting a duly completed **TGD-1581 Implementation of Poker Progressive Wagering Request and Approval Form** with attached Implementing Rules and Guidelines (IRGs) for the operation of poker progressive jackpot containing at a minimum the following:
 - i. Jackpot rake guidelines
 - ii. Jackpot mechanics (if the poker operator is planning a Bad Beat Jackpot (BBJ) progressive jackpot offering, the BBJ guidelines set forth in these Guidelines shall be followed).
 - iii. Jackpot payout guidelines
 - iv. Bank account under the name of the operator and corresponding bank certification. Said bank account shall be used solely for the progressive jackpot.
 - v. Letter of authorization allowing PAGCOR to audit the progressive jackpot bank account.

Note: The poker operator shall submit a copy of the updated bank statement or bank book to TGD every calendar quarter (e.g., January to March – for submission on 2nd Monday of April, and so on).

- C. Progressive jackpots that are funded by players' money shall follow the guidelines below covering a particular jackpot, including, but not limited to, safekeeping of funds, qualifications, disqualifications, payouts, validation and payout procedure, forfeiture of funds in case of closure of poker rooms, etc.
- D. All funds contributed by players into the jackpots (net of 30% administrative fee) shall be awarded when won in accordance with the posted rules.

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- E. Rules governing progressive jackpots including the following shall be conspicuously posted:
- The amount of funds to be contributed from each pot;
 - The type of hand it takes to win the jackpot (e.g., What constitutes a "Bad Beat");
 - How/when the current progressive jackpot rake is added to the posted jackpot; and
 - The amount/percentage of progressive jackpot rake allocated to primary and secondary jackpots, if applicable.
- F. Immediate sorting of the deck used shall be performed. CCTV coverage shall be reviewed prior to awarding of prizes
- G. Irregularities such as fouled deck, switched cards, unverifiable hand, etc. will disqualify the hand for a progressive jackpot.

II. JACKPOT RAKE GUIDELINES

- The jackpot rake is the amount collected from every eligible poker game pot to fund the jackpot amounts and is separate from and in addition to the rake.
- The jackpot rake is collected only once during a hand.
- The jackpot rake from every game shall be ten percent (10%) of each eligible poker game pot up to a maximum of ONE HUNDRED PESOS (P100.00) only. However, the operator may collect varying lower jackpot rake amounts (based on table blind limits) which they deem more suitable to their operations.
- The jackpot rake shall be directly dropped into the jackpot drop box which is positioned under the table to the left of the dealer.

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- E. At least once a day, all jackpot drop boxes shall be removed and brought directly to the count room or other secure room to be counted, recorded, and verified, prior to depositing said funds to the operator's jackpot bank account.
- F. The jackpot drop box will be collected and counted individually in the same manner as the house rake drop box.
- G. After counting, the additional jackpot rake shall be added to the previous day's amounts to reflect the current amounts.
- H. The amount of the progressive jackpot shall be conspicuously displayed in the poker room.
- I. The seed money for the start of the jackpot shall be funded by the operator. Additional seed money may be added by the operator at its discretion subject to notification to TGD via TGD-1494 (offsite) and TGD-1623 (onsite).
- J. The No Flop, No Drop policy shall be enforced.
- K. From the total daily jackpot rake collection:
 - i. Thirty percent (30%) shall be retained by the operator as a jackpot administrative fee. The applicable PAGCOR license fee rate shall apply. The administrative fee shall be reflected in TGD-1494 (offsite) or TGD-1623 (onsite) Poker Daily Active Table, Rake and Jackpot Rake Collection Report.
 - ii. Seventy percent (70%) shall go to the progressive bad beat jackpot fund broken down as follows:

Main Jackpot Fund	70%
Reserved Jackpot Fund	30%

- L. The operator shall update the progressive jackpot amount after each daily jackpot rake count. The basis for the progressive jackpot award will be the

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current updated amount after adding the increments of the daily jackpot rake collection to the previous amount posted. If the jackpot has been hit prior to posting, the total prize will be adjusted to the updated amount.

III. BAD BEAT JACKPOT (BBJ) MECHANICS

- A. Qualifying hands for a Bad Beat Jackpot must be Aces Full of Tens or better beaten by Quads or better.
- B. Both the winning and losing hands must be the player's best possible combination of five (5) cards.
- C. A player's kicker must play and beat the board. There is no jackpot if the kicker ties the board.
- D. Both hole cards in each player's hand must play [both hole cards must be part of the five (5) cards being played] and must go to a SHOWDOWN.
- E. Both hole cards in each player's hand must be used in making the best possible five (5)-card hand [If Four-of-a-Kind is in play, either two of the four, or one of the four plus the kicker must be in the player's two (2) hole cards].
- F. For Aces Full of Tens to qualify, there must be an Ace in the player's two (2) hole cards, meaning that, if there are three (3) Aces on the board combined with a pair in the player's two (2) hole cards, this does not constitute a Bad Beat Jackpot.
- G. If there are more than two (2) hands involved in a Bad Beat Jackpot, then the two (2) highest hands will be considered for the jackpot. The highest hand being the WINNING HAND and the second highest hand being the BAD BEAT HAND. The others will qualify to get the table share.
- H. There must be a minimum of five (5) active participants dealt in at the table to qualify for a Bad Beat Jackpot.

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- I. A player must be dealt in and seated at the beginning of the hand to qualify to the table share.
- J. The pot must be at least twenty (20) times the big blind. The house and jackpot rakes collected by the dealer from the deal are included in the total pot.
- K. All players at the winning table shall be required to present a valid government issued ID to be awarded a share.
- L. Winning the Bad Beat Jackpot may be voided due to any of the following:
 - i. Discussion of hands during play by players
 - ii. Violation of the one player to a hand rule

IV. JACKPOT PAYOUT GUIDELINES

- A. Poker tables that collect the same maximum jackpot rake amount for a particular poker room shall be awarded equal (100%) jackpot payouts for any jackpot hit.
- B. However, poker rooms that collect varying jackpot rake amounts from other tables shall award a proportionate payout based on the maximum jackpot rake amount.

For example:

Assumption: Maximum jackpot rake amount is P100.00

JACKPOT RAKE AMOUNT	JACKPOT PAYOUT
25	25% of the main jackpot
50	50% of the main jackpot
75	75% of the main jackpot
100	100% of the main jackpot

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- C. The main jackpot fund will be offered as the prize for the bad beat. In case the jackpot is hit, the whole or a percentage of the reserved jackpot fund proportionate to the jackpot payout will go up to the main jackpot fund [i.e., if the jackpot payout is only fifty percent (50%), then only fifty percent (50%) of the reserved jackpot fund shall go up to the main jackpot].

- D. The total payable jackpot payout shall be divided among the following:

	Payout Percentage
Losing Hand	40%
Winning Hand	20%
Other players dealt in	40%

- E. Whenever a progressive jackpot is hit, the operator shall immediately submit to TGD the following within twenty-four (24) hours:

- TGD-1500 Poker Progressive Jackpot Awarding Request Form with proper computation, description of the winning hole cards and board cards, the names of the persons involved in the jackpot and the amount won by each person.
- Updated TGD-1494 (for offsite) or TGD-1623 (for onsite) up to the day the jackpot was hit.

- F. Other attachments shall be submitted by the operator not later than seven (7) calendar days after the jackpot hit:

- Photocopy of valid government issued IDs of the players;
- Bank statement/ account passbook showing the current/ updated amount of jackpot fund.
- CCTV coverage starting from at least five (5) deals before the jackpot hit (or from start of the game session) until card sorting where the following details may be seen and identified:
 - stub count and immediate sorting of the deck used

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- b. blinds of the table
- c. amount of pot
- d. amount of jackpot rake

- G. Once the Jackpot has been validated, TGD shall send the duly approved TGD-1500 Poker Progressive Jackpot Awarding Request Form to the operator for the release of the Jackpot.
- H. The following withholding tax shall be deducted from individual payouts and to be remitted to the BIR on or before the tenth (10th) day of the following month in which the withholding was made:

Classification	Tax Rate
• Filipino citizens and • Non-Resident Aliens Engaged in Trade or Business (NRAETB)	Twenty percent (20%) for individual payout above ₱10,000.00
• For Non-Resident Aliens Not Engaged in Trade or Business (NRANETB)	Twenty-five percent (25%) regardless of amount

- I. TGD shall evaluate and approve the awarding of the jackpot payout within three (3) business days from submission of complete requirements.
- J. Jackpot payout shall be awarded by the operator within three (3) business days after TGD approval subject to availability of the player.
- K. After awarding, the operator shall submit to TGD the following:
- i. Acknowledgment receipt duly signed by the players as proof that jackpot proceeds have been awarded – within twenty-four (24) hours after awarding; and
 - ii. TGD-108 Gaming Site Quarterly Tax Compliance Report Form – within seven (7) days after BIR's prescribed filing/ remittance schedule of final income taxes withheld with attached BIR Form 0619-f (Monthly Remittance Form of Final Income Taxes Withheld).

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V. CESSATION OF PROGRESSIVE JACKPOTS

A. Cessation due to permanent closure of the poker room

- i. Funds accumulated from any progressive jackpot as approved by PAGCOR shall be forfeited in favor of PAGCOR in the event of revocation of the Gaming License of the operator who implemented such.
- ii. Upon closure of the poker room, the balance of the BBJ bank account shall be surrendered to PAGCOR. The BBJ funds shall be utilized for PAGCOR programs that promote responsible gaming such as therapy, seminars, and training.

B. Cessation while poker room is still operational

- i. Intended cessation of the above progressive jackpots shall require notification to PAGCOR using the form below and shall the process below:
 - a. Part 1 of the TGD-1540 Transfer/ Cessation of Poker Progressive Jackpot Request and Approval Form at least fourteen (14) business days prior to the intended cessation of the progressive jackpot.
 - b. Part 2 of the TGD-1540 Transfer/ Cessation of Poker Progressive Jackpot Request and Approval Form upon cessation of the progressive jackpot within two (2) business days from cessation of the progressive jackpot.
- ii. Cessation shall only be allowed subject to any of the following conditions:
 - a. If there is another progressive jackpot available ("recipient progressive") where the jackpot increment and reserve amount (if applicable) will be transferred to; or

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- b. Once the progressive jackpot is hit.
- iii. Only the jackpot increment and reserve amount (if applicable) will be transferred to the new progressive jackpot recipient. Both the jackpot increment and reserve amount shall be added to the progressive jackpot amount of the recipient progressive. The seed amount will be returned to the operator provided that said jackpot amount has not yet been reset.
- iv. If it is proposed that the progressive jackpot will cease once the jackpot is hit, any reserve amount must be added to the main jackpot amount.
- v. Players should be properly notified, at least seven (7) days in advance, of the date of cessation and where the jackpot increment and reserve amount (if applicable) will be transferred to in case the progressive jackpot is not won during the period leading to the cessation date.

VI. TABLE OF OFFENSES, DEMERITS, AND PENALTIES

Description	Demerit Points	Penalty	Prescribed Submission/ Compliance	Remarks
Unauthorized implementation of progressive jackpot	5	P30,000		
Unauthorized awarding of progressive jackpot payout	5	P30,000		
Late or non-submission of required BBJ documents.	5	-		
Deviation from prescribed dealing procedure: • Failure to collect and/or drop the jackpot rake	5	-		

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Description	Demerit Points	Penalty	Prescribed Submission/ Compliance	Remarks
• Failure to perform stub count and immediate sorting				
Failure to maintain bank account intended for the progressive jackpot (i.e., discrepancies from account balance and total jackpot fund amount).	5	-		
Inappropriate rake (house and jackpot) counting procedure	5	-		
Unauthorized suspension of progressive jackpot (including failure to resume operations after the approved period of suspension)	3	-		

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Annex L. POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES
V.0 EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 21, 2024

ANNEX L.



Licensing and Regulatory Group
Table Games Department

POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The poker industry in the Philippines has been in a roller coaster ride from its infancy with the rising and waning of interest in the game. Industry players have employed different marketing strategies to keep poker players' interest in the game afloat. One of these strategies is the conduct of poker tournaments. However, due to the still growing poker market, poker operators tend to share the market and at times adversely affect tournaments that are held simultaneously.

To regulate the conduct of tournaments in a way that would propel the growth of the industry, the Table Games Department (TGD) developed the following regulations in the scheduling and conduct of poker tournaments. In properly scheduling their conduct, it is the expectation of the TGD that poker tournaments would achieve the optimal promotion of the game among poker players and hopefully develop along the way cash game enthusiasts to play in PAGCOR-licensed poker rooms.

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These guidelines shall govern the scheduling of poker tournaments conducted in the Philippines by offsite and onsite poker operators as well as those located inside integrated resorts (IRs). Regulation of offsite and onsite poker rooms shall be handled by the Table Games Department (TGD) while poker rooms located inside IRs shall be handled by the Gaming Licensing and Development Department (GLDD). For this purpose, an online calendar shall be made available to GLDD and all poker operators for them to view dates that are available.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. Poker tournament – a single event tournament.
- B. Poker festival – a set of tournaments conducted over a period of several days that features a main event and side events.

I. GENERAL GUIDELINES

Amounts indicated in these guidelines are in Philippine Peso. Prizes and buy-ins in other currencies shall be evaluated based on their Peso conversion at the time of application.

A. Categories

For these guidelines, poker tournaments shall be classified under the categories below. Note that the prize pool for poker tournaments may either be guaranteed or non-guaranteed.

CATEGORY	PARAMETERS
A	➤ Tournaments with non-guaranteed prize pool, or
	➤ Tournaments with below ₱800,000 guaranteed prize pool
B	➤ Tournaments with guaranteed prize pool of ₱800,000 and above

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C	➤ Tournaments with a minimum buy-in of ₱500,000 and above, or
	➤ Tournaments that are (regardless of the prize pool amount): • purely invitational, or • open to foreign players only

B. Zoning

To set zones for the purpose of identifying target markets of poker rooms during the conduct of tournaments, the following shall be considered as regions:

1. **Northern and Central Luzon** which includes Regions I, II, III and the Cordillera Autonomous Region
2. **National Capital Region**
3. **Southern Luzon** which includes CALABARZON, MIMAROPA, and the Region V (Bicol Region)
4. **Visayas** which includes Regions VI, VII and VIII.
5. **Mindanao** which includes Regions IX, X, XI, XII, XIII and the BARMM

II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TOURNAMENT

- A. To set deadlines on the submission of notifications and requests, business days are from Monday to Thursday and deadline is set at 3pm.
- B. Tournament approval may only be requested at the soonest two hundred forty (240) days from the tournament date or from the first day of a tournament festival.

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- C. Approval for different tournament categories may be requested at the latest based on the following given the requested date is available:

Category	Timeline Approval at the Latest	Form To Be Used
A	One (1) business day	TGD-xxxx Poker Tournament Notification Form, or its equivalent form from GLDD
B	Seven (7) business days	TGD-1501 Request and Approval of Poker Tournament Form, or its equivalent form from GLDD
C	Thirty (30) business days	TGD-1501 Request and Approval of Poker Tournament Form, or its equivalent form from GLDD
Any tournament that would require PAGCOR Board's approval*	Forty-five (45) calendar days	TGD-1501 Request and Approval of Poker Tournament Form, or its equivalent form from GLDD

**Includes tournaments, but not limited to, those that will be conducted outside the operator's approved poker room or those with tie-ups with foreign entities, may need approval of the PAGCOR Board.*

III. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING

A. Maintenance of an online calendar

An online calendar to record approved Categories B and C tournaments shall be maintained by TGD and shall be accessible to all poker room operators. It shall show dates where operators have approved tournaments as well as the region where the operator is located.

Category A tournaments need not be recorded in the online calendar. However, approval processes based on TGD or GLDD's guidelines must be complied with.

Requests for approval shall be recorded and processed on a first come first served basis based on the email time stamp as received in TGD's poker mailbox poker@pagcor.ph.

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Requests from IRs shall be coordinated by the responsible individual from GLDD with TGD for proper recording on the online calendar. IRs may copy furnish the email address poker@pagcor.ph for purposes of determining the email request time stamp when they send requests to GLDD. However, only complete requests from any operator (including necessary attachments) shall be considered for processing. Incomplete requests shall be returned and the next in line shall be considered.

Note: For the initial implementation, all reservations beyond two hundred forty (240) days from effectivity date of these guidelines shall be deleted from the online calendar. All reserved dates within the two hundred forty (240) days from effectivity date will have to be requested approval by the operator with TGD or GLDD prior to the effectivity of these guidelines, otherwise, said reservation shall be cancelled.

B. Maximum availment of dates

To give fair opportunity to all industry players, operators may only request a maximum of fourteen (14) cumulative days within a two (2)-consecutive month period (running) to hold a tournament or tournament festival for Category B and C tournaments.

To illustrate, if an operator held a 14-day tournament/ tournament festival in January, it has already consumed its allocation for January and February. If it held a 7-day tournament in March, it could still avail of another 7 days in April. If it only held a 4-day tournament in April, it may still avail of 10 days in May.

However, an operator may request approval for a tournament more than the allowed 14-day period within a two (2)-consecutive month period if said dates are available. Any such request for approval may only be done sixty (60) days before the tournament date. Said booking shall be considered committed and will be subject to penalty (following the table of penalties below) if cancelled.

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C. Simultaneous conduct of tournaments

The table below shows **guidelines on the simultaneous conduct of tournament/s** under categories B and C:

CATEGORY	REMARKS
A	<u>Allowed</u> to be conducted at any time simultaneously with any tournament.
B	<u>Allowed</u> to be conducted simultaneously <u>during registration days</u> with another Category B tournament only if ANY of the following conditions are present: 1. From a different region regardless of amount 2. If they fall within (see attached table "<i>Poker Tournament Guaranteed Prize Amounts Allowed for Simultaneous Conduct</i>"): a. the low-high band of guaranteed prize amount, and b. the prescribed multiplier/ divisor of the buy-in amount <i>Note: Non-registration days are allowed to overlap</i>
C	<u>Allowed</u> to overlap with Category B tournaments. <u>Not allowed</u> to overlap with another Category C tournament regardless of region.

IV. CANCELLATION OR MODIFICATION TO A LOWER CATEGORY OF APPROVED TOURNAMENTS

Cancellation of approved tournaments (under categories B and C) or modification in such a way that will bring it to a lower category shall entail penalties based on the schedule below:

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No. of Days	Penalty
200-240 days	P50,000.00
161-200 days	P100,000.00
121-160 days	P200,000.00
81-120 days	P300,000.00
41-80 days	P400,000.00
1-40 days	P500,000.00

V. PROCEDURE FOR MODIFICATION OF TOURNAMENTS

- A. Operators shall use **TGD-1502 Poker Tournament Modification/ Cancellation Form** (or its equivalent) for notification/ approval of modifications.
- B. Notification of modification (for category A tournaments) or request for approval of modification (for categories B and C or those that would require PAGCOR Board's approval) may be done at the latest following the table below:

Category	At the Latest
A	One (1) business day
B	Seven (7) business days
C	Ten (10) business days
Any modification requiring PAGCOR Board's approval	Forty-five (45) business days

- C. Should there be 2 or more approved tournaments, modification should follow allowed low-high band amounts for simultaneous conduct.

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ANNEX A - POKER TOURNAMENT GUARANTEED PRICE AMOUNTS ALLOWED FOR SIMULTANEOUS CONDUCT

TOURNAMENT GUARANTEED PRICE ALLOWED FOR SIMULTANEOUS CONDUCT		BUY-IN MULTIPLIER/ DIVISOR
LOW BAND (Given Amount or Lower)	HIGH BAND (Given Amount or Higher)	
800,000	6,500,000	4
900,000	7,000,000	4
1,000,000	8,000,000	4
1,500,000	11,000,000	3.5
2,000,000	14,000,000	3.5
2,500,000	17,000,000	3.5
3,000,000	21,000,000	3.5
3,500,000	24,000,000	3.5
4,000,000	26,000,000	3.5
4,500,000	28,000,000	3
5,000,000	30,000,000	3
5,500,000	33,000,000	3
6,000,000	35,000,000	3
6,500,000	36,000,000	3
7,000,000	38,000,000	2.5
8,000,000	42,000,000	2.5
9,000,000	46,000,000	2.5
10,000,000	50,000,000	2.5
11,000,000	55,000,000	2.5
12,000,000	60,000,000	2.5
13,000,000	65,000,000	2.5
14,000,000	68,000,000	2.5
15,000,000	70,000,000	2.5
16,000,000	72,000,000	2.5
17,000,000	74,000,000	2
18,000,000	76,000,000	2
19,000,000	78,000,000	2
20,000,000	80,000,000	2
21,000,000	84,000,000	2
22,000,000	88,000,000	2
23,000,000	92,000,000	2
24,000,000	96,000,000	2
25,000,000	100,000,000	2
26,000,000	104,000,000	2
27,000,000	108,000,000	2
28,000,000	112,000,000	2
29,000,000	116,000,000	2
30,000,000	120,000,000	2
35,000,000	140,000,000	2
40,000,000	160,000,000	2
45,000,000	180,000,000	2
50,000,000	200,000,000	2

Annex M. RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) POKER SYSTEM IMPLEMENTING RULES AND GUIDELINES (IRG) V.0 EFFECTIVE APRIL 4, 2025

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**Annex M. RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) POKER
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V.0 EFFECTIVE APRIL 4, 2025**

ANNEX M.



Licensing and Regulatory Group
Table Games Department

**RADIO FREQUENCY
IDENTIFICATION (RFID)
POKER SYSTEM
IMPLEMENTING RULES AND
GUIDELINES (IRG)**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Poker System Implementing Rules and Guidelines (IRG) standardizes the policies and guidelines on the utilization of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Poker Set-up System by licensed Poker operators under PAGCOR. This IRG shall be used to guide the Poker Operators, as well as PAGCOR and/or its Host Branch or SOG management as to the conduct of poker operations in relation to the requirements, limitations and/or guidelines prior to approval and implementation of the RFID poker system.

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This set of Implementing Rules and Guidelines (IRG) shall govern the utilization of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Poker set-up System by established Poker operators licensed by PAGCOR.

1. PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION AND EVALUATION

Concerned PAGCOR Departments, the Table Games Department (TGD) and Information Technology Department (ITD) shall attend a product demonstration as basis for evaluation of the system and subsequent approval for implementation, where the following shall be conducted but not limited to:

- 1.1. Checking of the entire poker table system set-up and its functionality;
- 1.2. Simulation of poker tournament game and at the same time monitoring of the delayed video streaming/broadcasting at the back-office, including accuracy and efficiency in capturing of cards being dealt per hand as well as the community cards; Evaluation of which shall be based on actual product demonstration against the submitted IRG.
- 1.3. Implementation of a minimum twenty-minute (20-minute) delay in the streaming/broadcasting of captured video at the poker room's official social media account (i.e. Facebook, Youtube, etc.) for the purpose of upholding the integrity of the game;
- 1.4. At the RFID system enabled poker table/s, mobile gadgets and/or communication devices (cell phones, headphones, airpods/earbuds, etc.) are prohibited during play and should be surrendered/deposited at the poker room's concerned office prior to start of the tournament as an extra measure to uphold the integrity of the game.
- 1.5. A joint report by the TGD and ITD representatives on the abovementioned activities shall be provided to the office of the Assistant Vice President of TGD and ITD.

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2. PURPOSE

The sole objective of the utilization of the RFID system shall be for marketing purposes by enhancing gaming experience to attract/entice prospective poker customers.

3. TABLE SET-UP

RFID poker table system shall only be utilized/implemented at the designated tournament tables.

4. REQUEST AND APPROVAL OF RFID SYSTEM UTILIZATION

- 4.1. The poker operator shall notify TGD of their intention to utilize said system;
- 4.2. Submission of Request and Approval of Poker Room Marketing and Promotion Form (TGD Form-1507) at least fifteen (15) business days prior to tournament schedule.

5. RFID TOURNAMENT TABLE GUIDELINES AND MECHANICS

After the conduct of elimination round/s and/or player participants have been determined from regular tournament tables, they will be transferred to the RFID-enabled poker table for the final tournament game. The poker operator's tournament director and/or floor manager/supervisor (where applicable) shall perform the following, which may include but not limited to:

- 5.1. Drawing of players' seat number assignment;
- 5.2. Registration/verification of players' names and chip counts;
- 5.3. Let player participants sign a "Waiver" and/or an equivalent document for pictures/video streaming;
- 5.4. Instructs poker operator's technical staff to input player details, chip stacks, profile pictures, payouts, etc. in the RFID system software;
- 5.5. Pre-tournament orientation of participants to be conducted by the Tournament Director regarding on viewing of cards, placing of hole cards, and electronic device policies/guidelines, etc.;

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5.6. Inform player participants of the prohibitions of communication devices at the tournament table as previously mentioned above;

5.7. Apprise player participants of a designated area where cell phone use is allowed, only when player/s is/are not in hand or in play;

5.8. Also apprise player participants that the poker room technical staff's role is limited to viewing table activities/actions including the dealt community cards as well as act as a technical director having a communication device directly communicating with the dealer for players' action which may include check, call, bet, raise, fold, all-in to ensure integrity and smooth flow of the game.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FOLLOWING RESPONSIBLE GAMING CODE OF PRACTICE VERSION 6.0 CHAPTER VII- ADVERTISEMENTS

6.1. General Rule

Advertising materials published in any form of media in the Philippines must be socially responsible. Said materials must not portray, encourage, or condone gambling behavior that is socially irresponsible or could lead to financial harm, directed at children or feature people who are or who appear to be under 21 years old, or suggest that gambling can be a solution to financial problems.

6.2. Mass Media Coverage Includes

- a. Print
- b. Television and cable
- c. Radio
- d. Internet
 - Website
 - Blogs
 - Social media sites
 - Electronic mail

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- e. Telephone marketing (SMS, MMS, calls)
- f. Promotional posters, tarpaulin streamers, fliers, and LED signage
- g. Billboards
- h. Mobile ads, vehicle wrap

6.3. Content

A. Mandatory Elements

- i. Prohibition of under 21 years old logo
- ii. RG slogan – "Keep it Fun"
- iii. End tag for radio ads: "Keep it Fun. Game responsibly."
- iv. Closing billboard/tag line for TV commercials, print ads, billboards, web-based promos and other media: "Gaming for 21 years old and above only. Keep it Fun. Game responsibly."

B. Messages should not:

- i. Be directed to persons below 21 years old
 - Must neither catch the attention nor give interest to the viewing minors
- ii. Imply that player's skill can influence the outcome of a gambling activity
 - Discourage the thought that skill and talent can change the result of the game or can assure a win
- iii. Give the impression that gambling is an accepted way to make money
 - Promote that gambling is more on entertainment, fun and leisure and not a money-making activity
 - Must not imply that gambling solves financial problems
- iv. Include misleading statements about odds and prizes
 - Should not ensure winnings or prizes if not guaranteed

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6.4. Location of Billboards

Billboards that promote the licensees' facilities and its activities must be located not less than a 200-meter radius from schools and places of worship/churches, horse racing outlets, public markets, informal settlers, and resettlement areas. Please refer to the Gaming Site Regulatory Manuals for the definition of the stated locations.

7. ADOPTION OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT'S POLICY ON PHOTOGRAPH AND VIDEO COVERAGE

The proponent or its authorized photographer/videographer may take photographs or videos inside the gaming premises subject to the following:

- 7.1. No photo and/or video coverage of actual live gaming operations with customers playing on gaming tables shall be allowed;
- 7.2. Actors who will be featured in the photographs and/or videos must be 21 years old and older;
- 7.3. For promotional purposes, photo and/or video coverage shall be allowed purely on "mock up/production set up" where actors/actresses portray casino customers playing on gaming tables and EGMs. The EGMs shall not be in play during the shoot;
- 7.4. Should tournament (i.e. baccarat, slot, poker, etc.) photos or videos be warranted, the proponent shall first seek the approval of the concerned players and shall show the branch/PAGCOR management proof of such;
- 7.5. When shooting photos or videos of non-gaming events inside the casino (e.g. concerts, documentaries, et. al.), camera(s) shall not be allowed to focus at or point in the general direction of the gaming table and/or electronic gaming machine areas;
- 7.6. The use of camera(s) other than that of the proponent or its authorized photographer/videographer shall be prohibited;

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- 7.7. The photo and/or video coverage shall not cause any disruption to casino operations;
- 7.8. The proponent shall notify the branch management at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to the intended schedule of said activity.
- 7.9. Advertisements and promotional materials wherein such photos and videos shall be used must adhere to principles set forth in the Responsible Gaming Code of Practice Chapter VII: "Advertisements".
- 7.10. PAGCOR reserves its right to cease or suspend the actual shoot, at any stage, if PAGCOR, through the branch management, deemed it necessary or find the same non-compliant to this Policy.
- 7.11. PAGCOR reserves the right to prohibit the commercial use of any photograph or video footage taken during the shoot as it deems warranted.
- 7.12. PAGCOR reserves its right to review the photographs and videos taken inside the gaming premises.
- 7.13. The proponent agrees to hold PAGCOR free and harmless from any third party claims, injuries and damages suffered within the gaming premises resulting from or occasioned by the proponent's actual photo and/or video coverage.
- 7.14. A proponent who contravenes this Policy shall be subject to sanctions to be imposed by PAGCOR.

8. PENALTY FOR DEVIATION / NON-COMPLIANCE

Poker operator/s who are found in violation of any of the provisions enumerated in the IRG, depending on the severity of the offense, the imposition of the following may be applied:

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- a. First offense – stern warning plus 5 points demerit;
- b. 2nd offense – twenty thousand (P20,000) pesos monetary penalty plus 10 points demerit;
- c. 3rd offense – fifty thousand (P50,000) pesos monetary penalty plus 10 points demerit, and review of the Gaming License which may lead to revocation of the same.



Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation



MEMORANDUM

June 24, 2026

TGD-BR26019

FOR : THE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER *thym*

THROUGH : THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, LBOS - LRG *li 6.24.2026*
THE ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, RMD

FROM : THE ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT
Table Games Department

SUBJECT : REGULATORY MANUAL FOR POKER OPERATIONS AS REVISION
OF THE GAMING SITE REGULATORY MANUAL FOR POKER
GAMES v. 2.0

Reviewed and found to be
compliant with set guidelines on
Standardization of Manual Template

Dianna Doria-Cerdeña
AVP, RMD

BACKGROUND

In March 2017, the **Gaming Site Regulatory Manual (GSRM) for Poker Games v. 2.0** was approved by then PAGCOR Board of Directors for the regulation of Poker rooms. The said manual was initially implemented by the Gaming Licensing and Development Department (GLDD) and later by the Table Games Department (TGD) following the transfer of regulatory functions in March 2021.

Since its approval, developments in the Poker industry and changes in regulatory requirements have necessitated a comprehensive review and revision of the existing manual.

EVALUATION

With the continued evolution of Poker operations and its market conditions, it is imperative for PAGCOR to remain responsive and aligned with existing government policies and internal regulatory frameworks.

In relation thereto, TGD has undertaken a review of current industry practices and conditions. This initiative has led not only to the revision and updating of the GSRM but also to the formulation of a new regulatory framework designed to better safeguard the interests of PAGCOR and the government, entitled the *Regulatory Manual for Poker Operations (RMPO)*.

The proposed RMPO shall govern the application processes and operations, whether for Offsite and Onsite Poker rooms nationwide. Some key provisions that were revised and updated include, but are not limited to the following:

Provisions	GSRM	RMPO	Remarks								
Applicant Qualification	Individuals or group of individuals who act via sole proprietorship, partnership or corporation	Only Corporations	Required an Authorized Capital Stock of ₱20M, as reflected in the General Information Sheet (GIS);								
Zoning Policy	No mention	To be implemented: <table><thead><tr><th>Classification</th><th>Max. No. of Poker Rooms*</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>a. Highly Urbanized Cities</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>b. Top 50 Component Cities</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>c. Top 50 1st to 2nd Class Municipalities</td><td>1</td></tr></tbody></table> *includes poker rooms inside casinos	Classification	Max. No. of Poker Rooms*	a. Highly Urbanized Cities	5	b. Top 50 Component Cities	3	c. Top 50 1st to 2nd Class Municipalities	1	To avoid oversaturation of market
Classification	Max. No. of Poker Rooms*										
a. Highly Urbanized Cities	5										
b. Top 50 Component Cities	3										
c. Top 50 1st to 2nd Class Municipalities	1										
Acceptable classification or type of establishment to set up a Poker room	1. Malls or Arcades 2.General and Commercial buildings 3. Hotels / Resorts	1. Malls 2. Hotels / Resorts 3. Cockpit arenas / Horse racing tracks 4. Commercial buildings	All, but with the exception of commercial buildings are exempted from the 300 meters radial restrictions from schools, places of worship, and from another poker room of at least 5 kms.								
Performance Cash Deposit (PCD)	Offsite: NCR : ₱3M Non-NCR : ₱1M	Offsite: Nationwide: ₱3M	Standardize PCD for offsite poker room, applicable nationwide								
Validity of initial GL	One (1) year	Two (2) years	For evaluation of Poker room's performance prior to renewal								
Renewal Fee	₱150,000.00	₱300,000.00	To standardize the said fee across business models seeking licenses with PAGCOR								

Also included in the RMPO are the previously Board-approved Implementing Rules and Guidelines, such as Bad Beat Jackpot Guidelines, Poker Tournament Scheduling Guidelines, Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Poker System, etc.

RECOMMENDATION

Foregoing considered, may we recommend approval of the following:

1. Adoption of **Regulatory Manual for Poker Operations (RMPO) v.0** in place of the GSRM for Poker Games v.2 as the governing regulatory framework for both offsite and onsite poker gaming operations. The RMPO shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication at the Poker Regulatory page on www.pagcor.ph.
2. Updating of Performance Cash Deposit of existing Poker Operators upon renewal of their respective Gaming License.

3. Stamping of effectivity date and dry seal upon approval.

ACTION REQUESTED

For the Board's kind consideration and approval.


JOMAR B. SALAZAR

Attachments: Regulatory Manual for Poker Operations v.0

STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL: FOR INTERNAL
COMMUNICATION PURPOSES ONLY

TGD
THIS MATTER WAS **APPROVED**
BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ITS
MEETING ON JUL 09 2026

SUBJECT TO THE ENDORSEMENT AND/OR
EVALUATION OF THE RMD.


CORPORATE SECRETARY *mbo*