



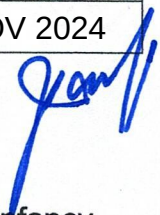
**Licensing and Regulatory Group
Table Games Department**

POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES

Rev. No.: 0

Effectivity: 21 November 2024

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 1 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024



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.

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 2 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DEFINITION OF TERMS	3
I. GENERAL GUIDELINES.....	3
A. Categories	3
B. Zoning	4
II. REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF TOURNAMENT	4
III. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING	5
A. Maintenance of an online calendar.....	5
B. Maximum availment of dates	6
C. Simultaneous conduct of tournaments.....	7
IV. CANCELLATION OR MODIFICATION TO A LOWER CATEGORY OF APPROVED TOURNAMENTS	7
V. PROCEDURE FOR MODIFICATION OF TOURNAMENTS.....	8
ANNEX A - POKER TOURNAMENT GUARANTEED PRIZE AMOUNTS ALLOWED FOR SIMULTANEOUS CONDUCT	9

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 3 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024

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

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 4 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024

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.

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 5 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024

- 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	
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.

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 6 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024

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.

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 7 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024

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 <u>ANY</u> 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: <u>Non-registration days are allowed to overlap</u></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:

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 8 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024

No. of Days	Penalty
200-240 days	₱50,000.00
161-200 days	₱100,000.00
121-160 days	₱200,000.00
81-120 days	₱300,000.00
41-80 days	₱400,000.00
1-40 days	₱500,000.00

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.

	POKER TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING GUIDELINES	Page No.	Page 9 of 9
		Revision No.	0
	Table Games Department	Effectivity	21 NOV 2024

**ANNEX A - POKER TOURNAMENT GUARANTEED PRIZE AMOUNTS
ALLOWED FOR SIMULTANEOUS CONDUCT**

TOURNAMENT GUARANTEED PRIZE 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