50-50 Raffle Information for Student Groups and Organizations

**Question #1: Does the municipality allow raffles?**

- **Alfred State College and SUNY Geneseo**
  - No. These campuses are located in municipalities that do not allow charitable raffles. Student groups on these campuses may not conduct raffles.

- **All other SUNY campuses**
  - Yes. All other municipalities housing SUNY campuses allow charitable raffles.

**Question #2: Can our student group hold a raffle?**

Does the student group meet **ALL** of the following criteria? **Is the student organization:**
- a not-for-profit;
- at least three years old;
- considered religious; charitable; educational; fraternal; OR service-based?
- Is the organization’s listed main purpose to help needy or deserving people advance in education, religion, health, or citizenry?

- **No**
  - The student organization cannot conduct a raffle.

- **Yes**
  - Proceed to question #3

**Question #3: Must the student group apply for a raffle permit?**

How much money will the student organization raise from its raffle(s)?

- **Less than $5,000 in a single raffle, **AND** Less than $20,000 during the calendar year**
  - The organization does **NOT** need to apply for a raffle permit.

- **More than $5,000 in a single raffle, **OR** More than $20,000 in a calendar year, **BUT** less than $30,000**
  - Apply for an ID # with the NYS Racing and Wagering Board. (Form GCVS-1)

- **More than $30,000 in a calendar year**
  - Apply for an ID # with the NYS Racing and Wagering Board; pay a 2% filing fee. (GC-2; GC-2A; GC-2B)

Printed from SUNY Counsel's Office Memo 2/26/2016 on Raffles at SUNY campuses.
How to Conduct the Raffle / How the Funds May Be Used

Question #4: Must the student group report proceeds from the raffle?

- □ Less than $5,000 in a single raffle, **AND** Less than $20,000 during the calendar year
- □ More than $5,000 in a single raffle, **OR** More than $20,000 in a calendar year, **BUT** less than $30,000
- □ More than $30,000 in a calendar year

- □ Report to the Board within 30 days of the end of the year. (Forms GC-6—If amending application—GC-7R)
- □ Pay a 2% licensing fee if amending application that predicted profits of less than $30,000.
- □ Maintain separate bank account

Question #5: What can the student group spend the raffle proceeds on?

**Excluded Expenses**
- □ Entertainment and social activities for the group;
- □ Services or items for the exclusive benefit of members (e.g. cannot hold a raffle to raise money for a group member’s sick relative);
- □ Any bar or alcohol related expenses;
- □ TV or entertainment devices for the group.

**Allowable Expenses**
- □ Equipment for the raffle
- □ Licensing fees
- □ Advertising
- □ Charitable or religious purposes
- □ Educational scholarships and equipment
- □ Helping needy or deserving people advance in education, religion, health, or citizenry.

NOTE: Fraternal organizations can spend up to $10,000 of raffle proceeds per year for maintenance costs and repairs, but they must first spend one-third of the proceeds on the causes listed above.

Question #6: What regulations must the group abide by when conducting the raffle?

- □ No one under age 18 may buy or sell raffle tickets.
- □ No one who has assisted in managing or conducting the raffle may participate as a player.
- □ Tickets cannot be sold more than 180 days before the drawing.
- □ Tickets sold must be consecutively numbered. Use one ticket wheel if possible. If the wheel runs out of tickets, use a second wheel that begins with the number immediately