

Poker Regulations

Lottery and Gaming (Poker) Variation Regulations 2015

September 2019

What forms of poker can be played in public?

The *Lottery and Gaming (Poker) Variation Regulations 2015* set out three classes of poker that are legal to play in public places. These are:

- poker with no prizes
- tournament poker
- trade promotion tournament poker.

For further information about these classes and all relevant conditions please visit

legislation.sa.gov.au.

Are poker tournament entry fees prohibited?

No. However, the entry fee for a trade promotion poker tournament is capped at \$50.

Can the entry fee cover the costs of operating a poker tournament?

For a trade promotion poker tournament the entry fees can only be applied to the prizes (capped at \$50). For a general poker tournament the entry fees can cover the cost of operating a poker tournament and any prizes.

Are poker tournaments required to publish their rules?

A copy of the rules must be available on request to interested people at the venue.

Are bonus chips allowed under poker tournament rules?

Trade promotion poker tournament rules can allow for bonus chips (up to 20% of the chips given on tournament commencement) to be provided to participants who communicate an intention to participate in the tournament early, or to those who purchase food or beverages at the venue.

Can tournament rules allow for re- entry or re-buying a new stack of poker chips?

Yes. Players that exit the tournament early may re-enter the tournament. Re-entry must not involve an additional fee.

Are poker tournaments with prizes prohibited?

The [regulations](#) set out strict requirements for prizes. The prize value cannot be determined by the number of poker chips a player has at the end of the poker tournament.

Do the prize amounts need to be determined before the start of the poker tournament?

Yes. For a trade promotion poker tournament the prizes can be determined as a percentage of the entry fees collected. The percentages must be determined before the start of the tournament and specified in the rules.

For a general poker tournament the prizes must also be determined before the start of the tournament and specified in the rules.

How are the prize winners determined?

Prize winners may be determined on the basis of elimination or on the basis of the face-value of the poker chips.

Can a poker tournament finish early?

The poker tournament rules can allow a poker tournament to finish early and for the prizes to be divided amongst the participants.

Contact us

For further information call 131 882 (press 2) or email CBSSGambingServices@sa.gov.au.

