
Emergency Rules

**Title 11—DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
Division 45—Missouri Gaming Commission
Chapter 40—Fantasy Sports Contests**

EMERGENCY RULE

11 CSR 45-40.100 Audits

PURPOSE: This rule establishes standards for audits.

EMERGENCY STATEMENT: This emergency rule is necessary to address statutory sections enacted in HB 1941 (2016), specifically, sections 313.900, 313.910, 313.920, 313.930, 313.940, 313.950, 313.960, 313.970, 313.990, 313.1000, 313.1010, and 313.1020, which became law on August 28, 2016. This legislation requires the Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) to regulate and license the management, operation, and conduct of fantasy sports contests and participants.

This bill created the Missouri Fantasy Sports Consumer Protection Act and requires the operators of websites engaged in fantasy sports contests in Missouri to apply for and receive annual licenses from the Missouri Gaming Commission (MGC) prior to operation. It includes a provision for “grandfathering in” fantasy sports contest operators already operating in Missouri prior to April 1, 2016, by allowing them to continue operating until they receive or are denied a license. We estimate this will affect seven (7) operators who will be charged an annual operation fee for net revenue received. This is estimated to generate six hundred thousand dollars (\$600,000) per year for the Gaming Proceeds for Education Fund. Those operators must submit an application for licensure prior to October 1, 2016. Once licensed, HB 1941 requires operators to segregate players’ funds, maintain a reserve account for the benefit and protection of those funds, establish procedures that will prevent unauthorized withdrawals or commingling of the player and operator funds, as well as provide procedures for a player to report a compromised account. The bill also requires licensed operators to contract with a Certified Public Accountant to conduct an annual financial and internet website audit to ensure compliance with the law. The licensed operators will also have to pay an annual operation fee. Licensed operators may not issue credit to players and may not allow multiple accounts for one (1) player. It requires licensed operators to comply with certain requirements relative to the contests they offer, including requiring that all winning outcomes be determined by accumulating statistical results of fully completed events, forbidding players to select athletes through an auto-draft process, forbidding the licensed operator from awarding any prize to the winner of or athletes in the underlying competition, and not allowing the contest to be based on collegiate, high school, or youth athletics or performances. Licensed operators must also verify each player’s age and state of residence as well as maintain and provide access to online self-exclusion forms and processes. The bill also sets parameters for the disclosure of information and documents.

HB 1941 grants the MGC the authority to oversee all licensed operators and provides the MGC investigatory, licensing, and rule-making powers. The submitted regulations were drafted to provide procedures for licensing fantasy sports contest operators to comply with the statute that became effective August 28, 2016. The rules also provide a consistent regulatory framework from which all of the fantasy sports contest operators can operate. We met with two (2) large operators and two small operators prior to drafting these rules and we solicited comments from three (3) of those companies. We received comments from all three (3) operators and made changes as appropriate and consistent with our statutory duties. Players will benefit from consistent standards as well, in that they can be secure in knowing that all licensed fantasy sports contest operators accepting wagers from Missouri residents comply with and operate within the

same framework; these regulations will provide a level playing field for all parties involved.

Specifically, this emergency rule provides regulatory procedures for fantasy sports contest operators to follow regarding the financial and website audits required by statute.

As such, the MGC finds an immediate threat to the public welfare and a compelling governmental interest to regulate Fantasy Sports Contests which requires this emergency action. The scope of this emergency rule is limited to the circumstances creating the emergency and complies with the protections extended in the Missouri and United States Constitutions. The Missouri Gaming Commission believes this emergency rule is fair to all interested persons and parties under the circumstances. This emergency rule was filed August 29, 2016, becomes effective September 8, 2016, and expires March 6, 2017.

(1) Independent certified public accountants (C.P.A.s), shall conduct annual financial and authorized internet website audit of each licensed operator.

(2) The annual financial and authorized internet website audit shall be conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards as follows:

(A) Audit the licensed operator’s annual financial statements in order to report on the fair representation of such amounts. The C.P.A. shall reconcile these audited amounts to similar amounts on the annual financial reports and system reports;

(B) Audit the annual total entry fees, entry fees from Missouri residents, resident percentage calculation, winnings paid, net revenue, and the annual operation fee from the most recently filed Annual Operation Fee report, in order to report on the fair representation of such amounts. The C.P.A. shall reconcile these audited amounts to similar amounts on the annual financial reports and system reports; and

(C) Audit the licensed operator and its authorized internet website for compliance with each requirement set forth in sections 313.900 to 313.1020, RSMo and Chapter 11 CSR 45-40.

(3) The C.P.A. shall prepare an audit report which shall be submitted to the commission by March 1 of each year following the close of the licensed operator’s fiscal year. The report shall contain the C.P.A.’s assessment of the accuracy of the financial statements and the Annual Operation Fee report. In addition, the report shall include the licensed operator’s compliance with each requirement set forth in sections 313.900 to 313.1020, RSMo and Chapter 11 CSR 45-40.

AUTHORITY: sections 313.920, 313.930, 313.990, and 313.1020, HB 1941, Second Regular Session, Ninety-eighth General Assembly, 2016. Emergency rule filed Aug. 29, 2016, effective Sept. 8, 2016, expires March 6, 2017. An emergency rule and a proposed rule covering this same material will be published in the October 3, 2016, issue of the Missouri Register.