

Gaming Board: charity poker thriving under new rules

Steven R. Reed, srreed@lsj.com 4:58 p.m. EDT August 28, 2014



(Photo: State Journal file photo/Matthew Dae Smith)

DETROIT – The Michigan Gaming Control Board said Thursday it has issued 161 millionaire party licenses equal to more than 500 event days across the state since emergency rules regulating poker-room charitable gambling were imposed last month.

“Many new suppliers and locations have been added, offering the charities even more options to assist them in the operation of their charity events,” the board said in a news release.

Emergency rules authorized by the board and by Gov. Rick Snyder went into effect July 2 – three days after a state Court of Claims judge blocked enforcement of a complete overhaul of charitable poker rules the board had worked on since August 2013.

The board said the overhaul of poker-room rules and the emergency rules implemented in their place were necessary because that form of charitable gambling had eclipsed the intentions and limits of the 1972 Bingo Act.

Investigations uncovered numerous instances of altered records, games that exceeded the \$15,000 chip-sales limit, “pay for play” schemes and illegal diversion of revenue, MGCB said.

The board said Thursday it is working closely with qualified charities and suppliers to issue millionaire party licenses under the emergency rules and expects the number to grow as organizations become more familiar with the rules.

Thirteen millionaire party events have been licensed in Ingham County from Aug. 28 through Sept. 27. Eleven of those games will be hosted by Tripper’s Sports Bar in the Frandor shopping center in Lansing.

The other two are set for parish grounds at Church of the Resurrection in Lansing.



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Five events have been licensed in Eaton Country through Sept. 13. All will be held in the Ledge Meadows poker room in Grand Ledge.

Two poker events are licensed for Sept. 5 and 6 at the Exhibit Building in Eagle in Clinton County.

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Sept. 2, 2014, 6:47 a.m