

Car Bingo Tips



Growing in popularity across the country is car bingo. Like drive in movies, car bingo allows players to enjoy playing bingo while remaining in their car. This document is to provide you with ideas for implementing car bingo in Michigan. Bingo licensees that play car bingo must be in compliance with [bingo rules](#) and the most current [emergency order](#).

LOCATION—Car bingo is typically held in a parking lot or drive-in and sometimes in a yard area. Leaving an empty parking space between cars allows for workers to navigate freely. Workers may direct cars where to park or parking spaces can be marked that direct cars to the available spaces. Some helpful tools can include caution tape, traffic cones, rope, signage, and spray chalk.

ADVERTISING THE BINGO—Be sure to advertise the event! Advertisements must include the organization name, license number, and purpose for which the proceeds will be used. Promote the safety measures that will be in place so that players feel safe when they come to car bingo. Encourage players to bring items not to be shared between cars, such as:

- A lap tray, clipboard, or cardboard to support their bingo paper and paper clips or binder clips to secure the paper.
- Daubers, markers, or other item used for marking off called bingo numbers on bingo paper (if not included).
- A mask to wear when a worker approaches the vehicle.

SELLING BINGO CARDS—Disposable bingo paper is made for one-time use. Packaging disposable bingo paper in a bag allows for quick sales. Players may reuse the bag to dispose of used bingo paper and charity game tickets. Consider pre-registration to estimate the number of packages to create ahead of time. Payments may only be made at the event.

CHARITY GAME TICKETS—Special bingo licenses also allow for the sale of [charity game tickets](#), commonly referred to as break-open or pull-tab tickets. Charity game tickets offer extra cash prizes to players, are fun and easy, and greatly increase profit for an event. Consider selling bingo-interactive tickets such as Milk Money and Lucky Bingo Balls which can be played along with a preannounced game of bingo or before bingo starts.

Allowing players to purchase charity game tickets with bingo paper when they arrive will make ticket sales more efficient and ensure players can all participate. Pre-bundling remaining tickets into groups of 5, 10, or 20 (possibly packaging multiple games together that will be played with a bingo game) will generate quick sales. Charity game tickets *must* be sold at the denomination printed on each ticket and may not be discounted.

CALLING BINGO—Bingo balls/numbers can be called using a bingo machine or bingo ball tumbler/cage with a master board. Ensure the bingo balls can be drawn and seen by at least two players. All players must be able to hear the balls being called. There are multiple ways in which bingo can be called. Here are some suggestions:

- FM Radio Station Frequency—Perfect for colder weather, this option puts the caller on a car radio frequency that can be accessed within the surrounding area. A “whole house transmitter” costs around \$150. This helpful [article](#) provides excellent information for staying compliant with FCC regulations, purchasing equipment, and setting it up.
- Portable PA system or Karaoke machine—Members may already have one. Can be set up with blue tooth speakers.
- The ball drawings can be projected to outside screens or a white building wall, possibly at the weekly bingo location.
- The ball drawings can be streamed for those that have smart devices.

MAKING A BINGO KNOWN—Notify players how to make their bingo known. The most common method is by honking their horn or yelling “bingo” if a worker is nearby.



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