

# Gambling Investigations

Facilitator Guide

## Session Overview

Introduction & Learning Objectives	05m
Role of the Gambling Commission	05m
Legal Gambling Activities	15m
<b>GROUP EXERCISE</b> – Casino Response	25m
<b>Break</b>	<b>10m</b>
Blue-on-Blue Shootings	15m
<b>(OPT.) GROUP EXERCISE</b> – Cheating Techniques	05m
<b>VIDEO</b> – Review of Cheating Incidents	05m
Video Surveillance as Evidence	05m
Bookmaking	05m
<b>DISCUSSION &amp; VIDEO</b> – Animal Fighting	15m
<b>End of Session / Break</b>	<b>10m</b>

### Learning Objectives:

- Recognize specific gambling crimes (i.e. Cheating 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree) and how they apply to the Misdemeanor Presence Rule (RCW 10.31.100)
- List 3 common cheating techniques you may encounter when responding to a cheating call at a casino
- Recognize crimes associated with pull-tabs
- Explain the dynamics involved with Blue-on-Blue Shootings
- List 3 indicators of Animal Fighting
- Recognize the appropriate degree for Theft of gaming chips

*Total Session Time: 2 hours*

### **Main Topics of Session:**

- *Functions of the Gambling Commission*
- *Legal Gambling Activities*
- *Local Law Enforcement Responsibility*
- *Internet Gambling*
- *Blue-on-Blue Shootings*
- *Cheating Crimes*
- *Theft of Gaming Chips*
- *Surveillance Video as Evidence*
- *Bookmaking*
- *Animal Fighting*

**Facilitators Needed: 1 (Outside Instructor – Gambling Commission)**

**Location: Classroom**

### **Materials Needed:**

- *PowerPoint – Gambling Investigations for Patrol Officers*
- **MEDIA (2 min)** – Past Post
- **MEDIA (6 min)** – Cheating Incidents
- **MEDIA (9 min)** – Animal Fighting
- **HANDOUT** – Blue-on-Blue Shootings
- **HANDOUT** – PowerPoint Slides for Taking Notes



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**NOTE TO FACILITATOR**

This session is facilitated by an outside instructor from the Washington State Gambling Commission using a PowerPoint they provide. The representative's introduction to the class is the only thing needed.

At the beginning of the class, have the students pass around a bag of unopened pull-tabs, each taking about 10-15 tabs. These will be used in conjunction with the Legal Gambling Activities slide (#11).

**IMPORTANT POINT**

Follow the PowerPoint presentation with notes on the slides. Below are detailed instructions for the Pull-tabs distributed at the beginning of class and the Group Exercise on Slide #13.

**Legal Gambling Activities  
2013 Net Receipts**

- Pull Tabs.....\$65,500,000
- Bingo.....\$8,200,000
- Card Rooms.....\$212,800,000
- Tribal Casinos.....\$2,225,000,000




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### NOTE TO FACILITATOR – Pull Tabs

Using a pull-tab flare (poster) as a prop, discuss pull-tabs and pull-tab related crime. Explain what pull-tabs are and how they are played:

- Similar to a slot machine – you are hoping to receive certain symbols to win a corresponding prize
- Usually 5,000 to 6,000 tabs per game
- Cost varies per game and is between .10 to \$1.00 per tab
- Prizes are as high as \$2,500
- If a player wins a prize more than \$20, the pull-tab operator should:
  - Match the serial number on the outside of the tab to the serial number on the bottom of the flare
  - Match the “secondary win” serial number on the inside of the tab to the list of secondary win numbers provided from the game manufacturer
  - Obtain the winner’s name and date of birth
  - Delete the prize from the flare so future players know that specific prize is no longer available to be won
- Bar owners can remove pull-tab games from play after the games have gone stale while there are still thousands of unopened tabs remaining in the games. They must hold the games for three to four months, depending on if they are a nonprofit or commercial organization, and then they throw the games away, sometimes in the dumpster in a back alley.
- Ways of defrauding the operator:
  - Thieves can take old games out of the dumpster, open the tabs, and then go to another bar playing the same game (but different serial numbers) and then try to redeem the stolen tab(s).
  - A dishonest pull-tab operator/bartender can steal tabs and then when off duty, buy some tabs and try to redeem the winners from the tabs he or she stole earlier.
  - Giving extra tabs to a customer in order to get larger tips.

The students will open their tabs. Provide small prizes for anyone who has a winner.

After the students have opened their tabs, ask them what kinds of crimes could be committed regarding pull-tabs. Appropriate responses are:

- Theft
- Cheating
- Forgery

After this training, the students will be able to correctly answer the written question in the exam.



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## Group Exercise

- Appoint a facilitator, a recorder, and a time keeper.
- You get a call to respond to the Big Loser Casino regarding a cheating incident that occurred involving a male customer. The RP is the surveillance observer at the casino.
- Using your handout, your RCW, and anything else at your disposal, determine how you would handle the call.
- 7 minute limit for each squad to do research and develop questions for the instructor.
- After your research, the instructor will appoint two responding officers from each squad.
- The officers from each squad will interview the instructor in a role play. Who at the casino do you want the instructor to be? What questions should you ask? Did a crime(s) take place?
- How will you handle this call?
- Will you make an arrest?



### GROUP EXERCISE – Casino Response

Time: **25 minutes**

Materials: • **Pocket Press RCWs**

**Instructions:** Use a role play so the students learn what it is like to respond to a call for cheating at a casino. This will also help them to learn the differences between cheating in the first degree and cheating in the second degree. After this lesson, the students should know how to answer the two questions regarding cheating in the written exam.

Tell the squad leaders they are the facilitators. They should appoint a time keeper and a note taker. As is stated in the slide itself, the students will have **7 minutes** to study the RCW and prepare to respond to the call at the Big Loser Casino. After the seven minutes, the instructor will appoint two “responding officers” from each squad.

*Continued below...*



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### GROUP EXERCISE – Casino Response (continued)

The instructor will begin with the first squad and the two responding officers will interview the instructor. The officers will tell the instructor which role he/she is playing. The officers will ask the instructor three questions at a time. After providing the answers, the instructor will move on to the next squad and the process will repeat.

When a squad asks to see the video of the incident, the instructor will play the video in the next slide. The suspect is seated on the far right of the table in the video.

The instructor will go around the room several times to each squad until each squad has provided an answer to the outcome of the call. Each squad must answer:

- Has a crime(s) taken place?
- Which crime(s)?
- What will they do with the suspect?
  - Arrest
  - Forward case report to the prosecutor and recommend charges
  - Criminal citation
  - No arrest
    - Explain why

After each squad has made a decision, the instructor will send the students on a break. After the break, the instructor will provide feedback to the students and answer any questions.

The instructor can decide to make this the crime of cheating in the first degree or cheating in the second degree. If first degree (felony):

- The suspect holds a license from the Gambling Commission
  - If the students ask the suspect what he does for a living, explain he is a dealer at the casino down the street.
  - Appropriate answers from the students:
    - Arrest for cheating in the first degree and attempted theft in the second degree – a gross misdemeanor

If cheating in the second degree (gross misdemeanor):

- The suspect is unlicensed by the Gambling Commission and was acting alone.

Appropriate answers from the students:

- **Arrest\*** for cheating in the second degree and attempted theft in the second degree – a gross misdemeanor; or
- Send case report to the prosecutor for recommended charges of cheating in the second degree and attempted theft in the second degree. Release suspect; or
- Criminal citation for cheating in the second degree and attempted theft in the second degree. Release suspect.

***\*If students ask about RCW 10.31.100, cheating is NOT an exception to misdemeanor presence but attempted theft is. Recommend to the students that viewing a prerecorded surveillance video does NOT satisfy being present. Watching a “live-feed” video does.***



**BREAK / END OF SESSION**

