



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Washington, D.C. 20240

Honorable Chad Smith  
Principal Chief, Cherokee Nation  
P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465-0948

DEC 28 2004

Dear Chief Smith:

On November 19, 2004, we received the Tribal Gaming Compact between the Cherokee Nation (Tribe) and the State of Oklahoma (State), executed by the Tribe on November 16, 2004 (Compact).

We have completed our review of the Compact, along with the submission of additional documentation submitted by the parties, and conclude that the Compact, with the exception of Part 15D, does not violate the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), any other provision of Federal law that does not relate to jurisdiction over gaming on Indian lands or the trust obligations of the United States to Indians. Therefore, pursuant to delegated authority and Section 11 of the IGRA, based on a full review of the record and the law, we approve the Compact, except for Part 15D. The Compact will take effect when notice of our approval, pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(3)(B), is published in the Federal Register.

As part of the Department's review of the Compact, we sent a letter to the parties seeking clarification of various provisions of the Compact. The responses of the State and the Tribe, and the Tribe's Market Study and Impact Analysis, have resolved our questions, as explained below.

## Revenue Sharing

The Compact is authorized by recent legislation enacted by the State of Oklahoma. Prior to this legislation, Indian tribes in the State of Oklahoma could only operate Class II gaming machines and engage in pari-mutuel wagering. The legislation authorizes Indian tribes to engage in certain Class III gaming activities, provides for certain geographic exclusivity, limits the number of gaming machines at existing racetracks<sup>1</sup>, and prohibits non-tribal operation of certain machines and covered games.<sup>2</sup> As consideration for these concessions made by the State in enacting this law, the Tribe agrees to pay annually to the state 4% of the first \$10 million, 5% of the next \$10 million, and 6% of any subsequent amount of adjusted gross revenues received by the Tribe from its electronic amusement games, electronic bonanza-style bingo games, and electronic instant bingo games, as well as a monthly 10% payment of net win from the "common pool(s) or pot(s)" of the non-house-banked card games.

<sup>1</sup> The State-Tribal Gaming Act authorizes no more than three (3) existing horse racetracks to operate no more than 750 machines.

<sup>2</sup> The term "covered game" is defined in Part 3(5) of the Compact to include an electronic bonanza-style bingo game, an electronic amusement game, an electronic instant bingo game, non-house-banked card games, and any other game under certain conditions.

To date, the Department has approved more than 200 tribal-state compacts. Only a few states have negotiated tribal payments other than for direct expenses to defray the costs of regulating a gaming activity under the compact. This is because IGRA does not authorize states to impose a tax, fee, charge, or other assessment on Indian tribes to engage in class III gaming. See 25 U.S.C. 2710(d)(4). This section provides that "nothing in this section shall be interpreted as conferring upon a State or any of its political subdivisions authority to impose any tax, fee, charge or other assessment upon an Indian tribe . . . to engage in Class III gaming activity."

To enforce this statutory prohibition, the Department has sharply limited the circumstances under which Indian tribes can make direct payments to a state for purposes other than defraying the costs of regulating Class III gaming activities. To determine whether a revenue-sharing provision is permissible under IGRA, we have required the state to offer significant or meaningful concessions over which it is not required to negotiate in good faith, resulting in substantial and quantifiable economic benefits to the Indian tribe. In addition, the payment to the state must be appropriate in light of the value of the economic benefits conferred on the tribe.

Under the first prong of our analysis -- significant or meaningful concessions -- we believe that the State has made such concessions. It has authorized Class III gaming for Indian tribes, provided for a zone of exclusivity, and limited non-tribal gaming. Under the second prong of our analysis -- substantial and quantifiable economic benefits -- we believe that the economic analysis provided by the Tribe shows that the limitations on electronic games at three established racetracks and the limitations on non-tribal (charitable) gaming will help the Tribe generate significant additional revenues over the fifteen-year course of the Compact. Thus, we conclude that broader access to Class III electronic games, meaningful restrictions on the number of non-Indian facilities with access to Class III gaming devices, as well as meaningful limits on the number of such devices and exclusive rights over Class III card games are significant concessions by the State which offer the Tribe substantial economic benefits. As a result, the revenue-sharing payment to the State cannot be characterized as a prohibited imposition of a tax, fee, charge, or other assessment pursuant to 25 U.S.C. 27109(d)(4).

We note that Part 11 also provides for a payment from the State to eligible tribes in the amount of 50% of any increase in the non-tribal entities' adjusted gross revenues following the addition of machines in excess of the statutory limit to a non-tribal operation, and both the Tribe and State agree that it provides for the cessation of revenue-sharing payments to the State should the exclusive rights of compacting tribes to operate covered games be diminished.

### Scope of Gaming

It is our view that Class III gaming compacts can only regulate Class III games, and cannot regulate Class II games under the IGRA. We have asked the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) for its views on whether the games described in Part 3(5) of the Compact are all Class III games. The NIGC's Office of General counsel has informed us that, in their view, the electronic bonanza-style bingo game, the electronic amusement game, the electronic



## TRIBAL GAMING COMPACT

Between the CHEROKEE NATION

and the STATE OF OKLAHOMA

This Compact is made and entered into by and between the Cherokee Nation, a federally recognized Indian tribe ("tribe"), and the State of Oklahoma ("state"), with respect to the operation of covered games (as defined herein) on the tribe's Indian lands as defined by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C., Section 2703(4).

### Part 1. TITLE

This document shall be referred to as the "Cherokee Nation and State of Oklahoma Gaming Compact".

### Part 2. RECITALS

1. The tribe is a federally recognized tribal government possessing sovereign powers and rights of self-government.

2. The State of Oklahoma is a state of the United States of America possessing the sovereign powers and rights of a state.

3. The state and the tribe maintain a government-to-government relationship, and this Compact will help to foster mutual respect and understanding among Indians and non-Indians.

4. The United States Supreme Court has long recognized the right of an Indian tribe to regulate activity on lands within its jurisdiction.

5. The tribe desires to offer the play of covered games, as defined in paragraphs 5, 10, 11 and 12 of Part 3 of this Compact, as a means of generating revenues for purposes authorized by the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C., Section 2701, et seq., including without limitation the support of tribal governmental programs, such as health care, housing, sewer and water projects, police, corrections, fire, judicial services, highway and bridge construction, general assistance for tribal elders, day care for the children, economic development, educational opportunities and other typical and valuable governmental services and programs for tribal members.

6. The state recognizes that the positive effects of this Compact will extend beyond the tribe's lands to the tribe's neighbors and surrounding communities and will generally benefit all of Oklahoma. These positive effects and benefits may include not only those described in paragraph 5 of this Part, but also may include increased tourism and related economic development activities.

7. The tribe and the state jointly wish to protect their citizens from any criminal involvement in the gaming operations regulated under this Compact.

### Part 3. DEFINITIONS

As used in this Compact:

1. "Adjusted gross revenues" means the total receipts received from the play of all covered games minus all prize payouts;

2. "Annual oversight assessment" means the assessment described in subsection B of Part 11 of this Compact;

3. "Central computer" means a computer to which player terminals are linked to allow competition in electronic bonanza-style bingo games;

4. "Compact" means this Tribal Gaming Compact between the state and the tribe, entered into pursuant to Sections 21 and 22 of the State-Tribal Gaming Act;

5. "Covered game" means the following games conducted in accordance with the standards, as applicable, set forth in Sections 11 through 18 of the State-Tribal Gaming Act: an electronic bonanza-style bingo game, an electronic amusement game, an electronic instant bingo game, nonhouse-banked card games; any other game, if the operation of such game by a tribe would require a compact and if such game has been: (i) approved by the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission for use by an organizational licensee, (ii) approved by state legislation for use by any person or entity, or (iii) approved by amendment of the State-Tribal Gaming Act; ~~and upon election by the tribe by written supplement to this Compact, any Class II game in use by the tribe, provided that no exclusivity payments shall be required for the operation of such Class II game;~~ <sup>CS</sup> <sup>CS</sup> <sup>CS</sup>

6. "Covered game employee" means any individual employed by the enterprise or a third party providing management services to the enterprise, whose responsibilities include the rendering of services with respect to the operation, maintenance or management of covered games. The term "covered game employee" includes, but is not limited to, the following: managers and assistant managers; accounting personnel; surveillance and security personnel; cashiers, supervisors, and floor personnel; cage personnel; and any other person whose employment duties require or authorize access to areas of the facility related to the conduct of covered games or the maintenance or storage of covered game components. This shall not include upper level tribal employees or tribe's elected officials so long as such individuals are not directly involved in the operation, maintenance, or management of covered game components. The enterprise may, at its discretion, include other persons employed at or in connection with the enterprise within the definition of covered game employee;

7. "Documents" means books, records, electronic, magnetic and computer media documents and other writings and materials, copies thereof, and information contained therein;

8. "Effective date" means the date on which the last of the conditions set forth in subsection A of Part 15 of this Compact have been met;

9. "Electronic accounting system" means an electronic system that provides a secure means to receive, store and access data and record critical functions and activities, as set forth in the State-Tribal Gaming Act;

10. "Electronic amusement game" means a game that is played in an electronic environment in which a player's performance and opportunity for success can be improved by skill that conforms to the standards set forth in the State-Tribal Gaming Act;

11. "Electronic bonanza-style bingo game" means a game played in an electronic environment in which some or all of the numbers or symbols are drawn or electronically determined before the electronic bingo cards for that game are sold that conforms to the standards set forth in the State-Tribal Gaming Act;

12. "Electronic instant bingo game" means a game played in an electronic environment in which a player wins if his or her electronic instant bingo card contains a combination of numbers or symbols that was designated in advance of the game as a winning combination. There may be multiple winning combinations in each game and multiple winning cards that conform to the standards set forth in the State-Tribal Gaming Act;

13. "Enterprise" means the tribe or the tribal agency or section of tribal management with direct responsibility for the conduct of covered games, the tribal business enterprise that conducts covered games, or a person, corporation or other entity that has entered into a management contract with the tribe to conduct covered games, in accordance with IGRA. The names, addresses and identifying information of any covered game employees shall be forwarded to the SCA at least annually. In any event, the tribe shall have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the tribe or enterprise fulfills the responsibilities under this Compact. For purposes of enforcement, the tribe is deemed to have made all promises for the enterprise;

14. "Facility" means any building of the tribe in which the covered games authorized by this Compact are conducted by the enterprise, located on Indian lands as defined by IGRA. The tribe shall have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that a facility conforms to the Compact as required herein;

15. "Game play credits" means a method of representing value obtained from the exchange of cash or cash equivalents, or earned as a prize, in connection with electronic gaming. Game play credits may be redeemed for cash or a cash equivalent;

16. "Player terminals" means electronic or electromechanical terminals housed in cabinets with input devices and video screens or electromechanical displays on which

players play electronic bonanza-style bingo games, electronic instant bingo games or electronic amusement games;

17. "Independent testing laboratory" means a laboratory of national reputation that is demonstrably competent and qualified to scientifically test and evaluate devices for compliance with this Compact and to otherwise perform the functions assigned to it in this Compact. An independent testing laboratory shall not be owned or controlled by the tribe, the enterprise, an organizational licensee as defined in the State-Tribal Gaming Act, the state, or any manufacturer, supplier or operator of gaming devices. The selection of an independent testing laboratory for any purpose under this Compact shall be made from a list of one or more laboratories mutually agreed upon by the parties; provided that the parties hereby agree that any laboratory upon which the National Indian Gaming Commission has relied for such testing may be utilized for testing required by this Compact;

18. "IGRA" means the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, Pub. L. 100-497, Oct. 17, 1988, 102 Stat. 2467, codified at 25 U.S.C., Section 2701 et seq. and 18 U.S.C., Sections 1166 to 1168;

19. "Nonhouse-banked card games" means any card game in which the tribe has no interest in the outcome of the game, including games played in tournament formats and games in which the tribe collects a fee from the player for participating, and all bets are placed in a common pool or pot from which all player winnings, prizes and direct costs are paid. As provided herein, administrative fees may be charged by the tribe against any common pool in an amount equal to any fee paid the state; provided that the tribe may seed the pool as it determines necessary from time to time;

20. "Patron" means any person who is on the premises of a gaming facility, for the purpose of playing covered games authorized by this Compact;

21. "Principal" means, with respect to any entity, its sole proprietor or any partner, trustee, beneficiary or shareholder holding five percent (5%) or more of its beneficial or controlling ownership, either directly or indirectly, or any officer, director, principal management employee, or key employee thereof;

22. "Rules and regulations" means the rules and regulations promulgated by the Tribal Compliance Agency for implementation of this Compact;

23. "Standards" means the descriptions and specifications of electronic amusement games, electronic bonanza-style bingo games and electronic instant bingo games or components thereof as set forth in Sections 11 through 18 of the State-Tribal Gaming Act as enacted in 2004 or as amended pursuant to paragraph 27 of this Part or subsection D of Part 13 of this Compact, including technical specifications for component parts, requirements for cashless transaction systems, software tools for security and audit purposes, and procedures for operation of such games;

24. "State" means the State of Oklahoma;

25. "State Compliance Agency" ("SCA") means the state agency that has the authority to carry out the state's oversight responsibilities under this Compact, which shall be the Office of State Finance or its successor agency. Nothing herein shall supplant the role or duties of the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation under state law. The Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission and the Oklahoma Tax Commission shall have no role in regulating or oversight of any gaming conducted by a tribe;

26. "Tribal Compliance Agency" ("TCA") means the tribal governmental agency that has the authority to carry out the tribe's regulatory and oversight responsibilities under this Compact. Unless and until otherwise designated by the tribe, the TCA shall be the Cherokee Nation Gaming Commission. No covered game employee may be a member or employee of the TCA. The tribe shall have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the TCA fulfills its responsibilities under this Compact. The members of the TCA shall be subject to background investigations and licensed to the extent required by any tribal or federal law, and in accordance with subsection B of Part 7 of this Compact. The tribe shall ensure that all TCA officers and agents are qualified for such position and receive ongoing training to obtain and maintain skills that are sufficient to carry out their responsibilities in accordance with industry standards;

27. "State-Tribal Gaming Act" means the legislation in which this Model Tribal Gaming Compact is set forth and, at the tribe's option, amendments or successor statutes thereto;

28. "Tribal law enforcement agency" means a police or security force established and maintained by the tribe pursuant to the tribe's powers of self-government to carry out law enforcement duties at or in connection with a facility; and

29. "Tribe" means the Cherokee Nation.

#### Part 4. AUTHORIZATION OF COVERED GAMES

A. The tribe and state agree that the tribe is authorized to operate covered games only in accordance with this Compact. However, nothing in this Compact shall limit the tribe's right to operate any game that is Class II under IGRA and no Class II games shall be subject to the exclusivity payments set forth in Part 11 of this Compact. In the case of electronic bonanza-style bingo games, there have been disagreements between tribes and federal regulators as to whether or not such games are Class II. Without conceding that such games are Class III, the tribe has agreed to compact with the state to operate the specific type of electronic bonanza-style bingo game described in this Compact to remove any legal uncertainty as to the tribe's right to lawfully operate the game. Should the electronic bonanza-style bingo game or the electronic instant bingo game described in this act be determined to be Class II by the NIGC or a federal court, then the tribe shall have the option to operate such games outside of this Compact; provided, any obligations pursuant to subsection F of Part 11 of this Compact shall not be affected thereby.



B. A tribe shall not operate an electronic bonanza-style bingo game, an electronic instant bingo game or an electronic amusement game pursuant to this Compact until such game has been certified by an independent testing laboratory and the TCA as meeting the standards set out in the State-Tribal Gaming Act for electronic bonanza-style bingo games, electronic instant bingo games or electronic amusement games, as applicable or any standards contained in the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission rules issued pursuant to subsection B of Section 9 the State-Tribal Gaming Act that modify the standards for such games that may be conducted by organizational licensees. Provided, the tribe may rely on any certification of an electronic bonanza-style bingo game, an electronic instant bingo, or electronic amusement games by the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission which was obtained by an organization licensee pursuant to the State-Tribal Gaming Act to establish certification compliance under this Compact. The tribe may also rely on any certification of an electronic bonanza-style bingo game, electronic instant bingo or an electronic amusement game by the TCA obtained by another tribe which has entered into the model compact to establish certification compliance under this Compact.

#### Part 5. RULES AND REGULATIONS; MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR OPERATIONS

A. Regulations. At all times during the Term of this Compact, the tribe shall be responsible for all duties which are assigned to it, the enterprise, the facility, and the TCA under this Compact. The tribe shall promulgate any rules and regulations necessary to implement this Compact, which at a minimum shall expressly include or incorporate by reference all provisions of Part 5 and the procedural requirements of Part 6 of this Compact. Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to affect the tribe's right to amend its rules and regulations, provided that any such amendment shall be in conformity with this Compact. The SCA may propose additional rules and regulations related to implementation of this Compact to the TCA at any time, and the TCA shall give good faith consideration to such suggestions and shall notify the SCA of its response or action with respect thereto.

B. Compliance; Internal Control Standards. All enterprises and facilities shall comply with, and all covered games approved under the procedures set forth in this Compact shall be operated in accordance with the requirements set forth in this Compact, including, but not limited to, those set forth in subsections C and D of this Part. In addition, all enterprises and facilities shall comply with tribal internal control standards that provide a level of control that equals or exceeds those set forth in the National Indian Gaming Commission's Minimum Internal Control Standards (25 C.F.R., Part 542).

C. Records. In addition to other records required to be maintained herein, the enterprise or tribe shall maintain the following records related to implementation of this Compact in permanent form and as written or entered, whether manually or by computer, and which shall be maintained by the enterprise and made available for inspection by the SCA for no less than three (3) years from the date generated:

1. A log recording all surveillance activities in the monitoring room of the facility, including, but not limited to, surveillance records kept in the normal course of enterprise operations and in accordance with industry standards; provided, notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein, surveillance records may, at the discretion of the enterprise, be destroyed if no incident has been reported within one (1) year following the date such records were made. Records, as used in this Compact, shall include video tapes and any other storage media;

2. Payout from the conduct of all covered games;

3. Maintenance logs for all covered games gaming equipment used by the enterprise;

4. Security logs as kept in the normal course of conducting and maintaining security at the facility, which at a minimum shall conform to industry practices for such reports. The security logs shall document any unusual or nonstandard activities, occurrences or events at or related to the facility or in connection with the enterprise. Each incident, without regard to materiality, shall be assigned a sequential number for each such report. At a minimum, the security logs shall consist of the following information, which shall be recorded in a reasonable fashion noting:

- a. the assigned number of the incident,
- b. the date of the incident,
- c. the time of the incident,
- d. the location of the incident,
- e. the nature of the incident,
- f. the identity, including identification information, of any persons involved in the incident and any known witnesses to the incident, and
- g. the tribal compliance officer making the report and any other persons contributing to its preparation;

5. Books and records on all covered game activities of the enterprise shall be maintained in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP); and

6. All documents generated in accordance with this Compact.

D. Use of Net Revenues. Net revenues that the tribe receives from covered games are to be used for any one or more of those purposes permitted under IGRA:

1. To fund tribal government operations or programs;

2. To provide for the general welfare of the tribe and its members;
3. To promote tribal economic development;
4. To donate to charitable organizations; or
5. To help fund operations of local government agencies.

E. 1. The tribe's rules and regulations shall require the enterprise at a minimum to bar persons based on their prior conduct at the facility or who, because of their criminal history or association with criminal offenders, pose a threat to the integrity of the conduct of covered games.

2. The TCA shall establish a list of the persons barred from the facility.

3. The enterprise shall employ its best efforts to exclude persons on such list from entry into its facility; provided, neither persons who are barred but gain access to the facility, nor any other person, shall have any claim against the state, the tribe or the enterprise or any other person for failing to enforce such bar.

4. Patrons who believe they may be playing covered games on a compulsive basis may request that their names be placed on the list. All covered game employees shall receive training on identifying players who have a problem with compulsive playing and shall be instructed to ask them to leave. Signs and other materials shall be readily available to direct such compulsive players to agencies where they may receive counseling.

F. Audits. 1. Consistent with 25 C.F.R., Section 571.12, Audit Standards, the TCA shall ensure that an annual independent financial audit of the enterprise's conduct of covered games subject to this Compact is secured. The audit shall, at a minimum, examine revenues and expenses in connection with the conduct of covered games in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and shall include, but not be limited to, those matters necessary to verify the determination of adjusted gross revenues and the basis of the payments made to the state pursuant to Part 11 of this Compact.

2. The auditor selected by the TCA shall be a firm of known and demonstrable experience, expertise and stature in conducting audits of this kind and scope.

3. The audit shall be concluded within five (5) months following the close of each calendar year, provided that extensions may be requested by the tribe and shall not be refused by the state where the circumstances justifying the extension request are beyond the tribe's control.

4. The audit of the conduct of covered games may be conducted as part of or in conjunction with the audit of the enterprise, but if so conducted shall be separately stated for the reporting purposes required herein.

5. The audit shall conform to generally accepted auditing standards. As part of the audit report, the auditor shall certify to the TCA that, in the course of the audit, the auditor discovered no matters within the scope of the audit which were determined or believed to be in violation of any provision of this Compact.

6. The enterprise shall assume all costs in connection with the audit.

7. The audit report for the conduct of covered games shall be submitted to the SCA within thirty (30) days of completion. The auditor's work papers concerning covered games shall be made available to the SCA upon request.

8. Representatives of the SCA may, upon request, meet with the auditors to discuss the work papers, the audit or any matters in connection therewith; provided, such discussions are limited to covered games information and pursue legitimate state covered games interests.

G. Rules for Play of and Prizes for Covered Games. Summaries of the rules for playing covered games and winning prizes shall be visibly displayed in the facility. Complete sets of rules shall be available in pamphlet form in the facility.

H. Supervisory Line of Authority. The enterprise shall provide the TCA and SCA with a chart of the supervisory lines of authority with respect to those directly responsible for the conduct of covered games, and shall promptly notify those agencies of any material changes thereto.

I. Sale of Alcoholic Beverages. The sale and service of alcoholic beverages in a facility shall be in compliance with state, federal and tribal law in regard to the licensing and sale of such beverages.

J. Age Restrictions. No person who would not be eligible to be a patron of a pari-mutuel system of wagering pursuant to the provisions of subsection B of Section 208.4 of Title 3A of the Oklahoma Statutes shall be admitted into any area in a facility where covered games are played, nor be permitted to operate, or obtain a prize from or in connection with the operation of, any covered game, directly or indirectly.

K. Destruction of Documents. Enterprise books, records and other materials documenting the conduct of covered games shall be destroyed only in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the TCA, which at a minimum shall provide as follows:

1. Material that might be utilized in connection with a potential tort claim pursuant to Part 6 of this Compact, including, but not limited to, incident reports, surveillance records, statements, and the like, shall be maintained at least one (1) year beyond the time which a claim can be made under Part 6 of this Compact or, if a tort claim is made, beyond the final disposition of such claim;

2. Material that might be utilized in connection with a prize claim, including but not limited to incident reports, surveillance records, statements, and the like, shall be maintained at least one hundred eighty (180) days beyond the time which a claim can be made under Part 6 of this Compact or, if a prize claim is made, beyond the final disposition of such claim; and

3. Notwithstanding anything herein to the contrary, all enterprise books and records with respect to the conduct of covered games or the operation of the enterprise, including, but not limited to, all interim and final financial and audit reports and materials related thereto which have been generated in the ordinary course of business, shall be maintained for the minimum period of three (3) years.

L. Location. The tribe may establish and operate enterprises and facilities that operate covered games only on its Indian lands as defined by IGRA. The tribe shall notify the SCA of the operation of any new facility following the effective date of this Compact. Nothing herein shall be construed as expanding or otherwise altering the term "Indian lands", as that term is defined in the IGRA, nor shall anything herein be construed as altering the federal process governing the tribal acquisition of "Indian lands" for gaming purposes.

M. Records of Covered Games. The TCA shall keep a record of, and shall report at least quarterly to the SCA, the number of covered games in each facility, by the name or type of each and its identifying number.

#### PART 6. TORT CLAIMS; PRIZE CLAIMS; LIMITED CONSENT TO SUIT

A. Tort Claims. The enterprise shall ensure that patrons of a facility are afforded due process in seeking and receiving just and reasonable compensation for a tort claim for personal injury or property damage against the enterprise arising out of incidents occurring at a facility, hereinafter "tort claim", as follows:

1. During the term of this Compact, the enterprise shall maintain public liability insurance for the express purposes of covering and satisfying tort claims. The insurance shall have liability limits of not less than Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000.00) for any one person and Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000.00) for any one occurrence for personal injury, and One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for any one occurrence for property damage, hereinafter the "limit of liability", or the corresponding limits under the Governmental Tort Claims Act, whichever is greater. No tort claim shall be paid, or be the subject of any award, in excess of the limit of liability;

2. The tribe consents to suit on a limited basis with respect to tort claims subject to the limitations set forth in this subsection and subsection C of this Part. No consents to suit with respect to tort claims, or as to any other claims against the tribe shall be deemed to have been made under this Compact, except as provided in subsections B and C of this Part;

3. The enterprise's insurance policy shall include an endorsement providing that the insurer may not invoke tribal sovereign immunity in connection with any claim made within the limit of liability if the claim complies with the limited consent provisions of subsection C of this Part. Copies of all such insurance policies shall be forwarded to the SCA;

4. Any patron having a tort claim shall file a written tort claim notice by delivery to the enterprise or the TCA. The date the tort claim notice is filed with the enterprise or the TCA shall be deemed the official date of filing the tort claim notice. The tort claim notice shall be filed within one (1) year of the date of the event which allegedly caused the claimed loss. Failure to file the tort claim notice during such period of time shall forever bar such tort claim; provided that a tort claim notice filed with the enterprise or the TCA more than ninety (90) days, but within one (1) year, after the event shall be deemed to be timely filed, but any judgment thereon shall be reduced by ten percent (10%).

5. If the tort claim notice is filed with the TCA, the TCA shall forward a copy of the tort claim to the enterprise and the SCA within forty-eight (48) hours of filing, and if the tort claim notice is filed with the enterprise, the enterprise shall forward a copy of the tort claim to the TCA and the SCA within forty-eight (48) hours of filing;

6. The tort claim notice shall state the date, time, place and circumstances of the incident upon which the tort claim is based, the identity of any persons known to have information regarding the incident, including employees or others involved in or who witnessed the incident, the amount of compensation and the basis for said relief; the name, address and telephone number of the claimant, and the name, address and telephone number of any representative authorized to act or settle the claim on behalf of the claimant;

7. All tort claim notices shall be signed by the claimant. The rules and regulations may additionally require that the tort claim notices be signed under oath. The rules and regulations may also require that as a condition of prosecuting tort claims, the claimant shall appear to be interviewed or deposed at least once under reasonable circumstances, which shall include the attendance of the claimant's legal counsel if requested; provided that the enterprise shall afford claimant at least thirty (30) days' written notice of the interview or deposition; and provided further that the claimant's failure to appear without cause for any interview or deposition properly noticed pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed a voluntary withdrawal of the tort claim;

8. The enterprise shall promptly review, investigate, and make a determination regarding the tort claim. Any portion of a tort claim which is unresolved shall be deemed denied if the enterprise fails to notify the claimant in writing of its approval within ninety (90) days of the filing date, unless the parties by written agreement extend the date by which a denial shall be deemed issued if no other action is taken. Each extension shall be for no more than ninety (90) days, but there shall be no limit on the number of written agreements for extensions, provided that no written agreement for extension shall be valid unless signed by the claimant and an authorized representative

of the enterprise. The claimant and the enterprise may continue attempts to settle a claim beyond an extended date; provided, settlement negotiations shall not extend the date of denial in the absence of a written agreement for extension as required by this paragraph;

9. A judicial proceeding for any cause arising from a tort claim may be maintained in accordance with and subject to the limitations of subsection C of this Part only if the following requirements have been met:

- a. the claimant has followed all procedures required by this Part, including, without limitation, the delivery of a valid and timely written tort claim notice to the enterprise,
- b. the enterprise has denied the tort claim, and
- c. the claimant has filed the judicial proceeding no later than the one-hundred-eightieth day after denial of the claim by the enterprise; provided, that neither the claimant nor the enterprise may agree to extend the time to commence a judicial proceeding; and

10. Notices explaining the procedure and time limitations with respect to making a tort claim shall be prominently posted in the facility. Such notices shall explain the method and places for making a tort claim, that this procedure is the exclusive method of making a tort claim, and that claims that do not follow these procedures shall be forever barred. The enterprise shall make pamphlets containing the requirements in this subsection readily available to all patrons of the facility and shall provide such pamphlets to a claimant within five (5) days of the filing of a claim.

B. Prize Claims. The enterprise shall ensure that patrons of a facility are afforded due process in seeking and receiving just and reasonable compensation arising from a patron's dispute, in connection with his or her play of any covered game, the amount of any prize which has been awarded, the failure to be awarded a prize, or the right to receive a refund or other compensation, hereafter "prize claim", as follows:

1. The tribe consents to suit on a limited basis with respect to prize claims against the enterprise only as set forth in subsection C of this Part; no consents to suit with respect to prize claims, or as to any other claims against the tribe shall be deemed to have been made under this Compact, except as provided in subsections A and C of this Part;

2. The maximum amount of any prize claim shall be the amount of the prize which the claimant establishes he or she was entitled to be awarded, hereafter "prize limit";

3. Any patron having a prize claim shall file a written prize claim notice by delivery to the enterprise or the TCA. The date the prize claim is filed with the enterprise or the TCA shall be deemed the official date of filing the prize claim notice. The prize claim notice shall be filed within ten (10) days of the event which is the basis of the claim.

Failure to file the prize claim notice during such period of time shall forever bar such prize claim;

4. If the prize claim notice is filed with the TCA, the TCA shall forward a copy of the prize claim to the enterprise and the SCA within forty-eight (48) hours of its filing; and if the prize claim notice is filed with the enterprise, the enterprise shall forward a copy of the tort claim to the TCA and the SCA within forty-eight (48) hours of filing;

5. The written prize claim notice shall state the date, time, place and circumstances of the incident upon which the prize claim is based, the identity of any persons known to have information regarding the incident, including employees or others involved in or who witnessed the incident, the amount demanded and the basis for said amount, the name, address and telephone number of the claimant, and the name, address and telephone number of any representative authorized to act or settle the claim on behalf of the claimant;

6. All notices of prize claims shall be signed by the claimant. The rules and regulations may additionally require that the prize claim notices be signed under oath;

7. The enterprise shall promptly review, investigate and make a determination regarding the prize claim. Claimants shall cooperate in providing information, including personal sworn statements and agreeing to be interviewed, as the enterprise shall reasonably request. The claimant is permitted to have counsel present during any such interview;

8. If the prize claim is not resolved within seventy-two (72) hours from the time of filing the claim in accordance with paragraph 5 of this subsection, the TCA shall immediately notify the SCA in writing that the claim has not been resolved;

9. In the event the claim is resolved, the TCA shall not be obligated to report that fact to the SCA, but shall make TCA reports available for review;

10. Any portion of a prize claim which is unresolved shall be deemed denied if the enterprise fails to notify the claimant in writing of its approval within thirty (30) days of the filing date, unless the parties agree by written agreement to extend the date. Each extension shall be for no more than thirty (30) days, but there shall be no limit on the number of written agreements for extensions; provided, that no written agreements for extension shall be valid unless signed by the claimant and an authorized representative of the TCA. The claimant and the enterprise may continue attempts to settle a claim beyond an extended date; provided, settlement negotiations shall not extend the date of denial in the absence of a written extension required by this paragraph;

11. A judicial proceeding for any cause arising from a prize claim may be maintained in accordance with and subject to the limitations of subsection C of this Part only if the following requirements have been met:



- a. the claimant has followed all procedures required by this Part, including without limitation, the delivery of a valid and timely written prize claim notice to the enterprise,
- b. the enterprise has denied the prize claim, and
- c. the claimant has filed the judicial proceeding no later than one hundred eighty (180) days after denial of the claim by the enterprise; provided that neither the claimant nor the enterprise may extend the time to commence a judicial proceeding; and

12. Notices explaining the procedure and time limitations with respect to making a prize claim shall be prominently posted in the facility. Such notices shall explain the method and places for making claims, that this procedure is the exclusive method of making a prize claim, and that claims that do not follow this procedure shall be forever barred. The enterprise shall make pamphlets containing the requirements in this subsection readily available to all patrons of the facility and shall provide such pamphlets to a claimant by the TCA within five (5) days of the filing date of a claim.

C. Limited Consent to Suit for Tort Claims and Prize Claims. The tribe consents to suit against the enterprise in a court of competent jurisdiction with respect to a tort claim or prize claim if all requirements of paragraph 9 of subsection A or all requirements of paragraph 11 of subsection B of this Part have been met; provided that such consent shall be subject to the following additional conditions and limitations:

1. For tort claims, consent to suit is granted only to the extent such claim or any award or judgment rendered thereon does not exceed the limit of liability. Under no circumstances shall any consent to suit be effective as to any award which exceeds such applicable amounts. This consent shall only extend to the patron actually claiming to have been injured. A tort claim shall not be assignable. In the event any assignment of the tort claim is made in violation of this Compact, or any person other than the patron claiming the injury becomes a party to any action hereunder, this consent shall be deemed revoked for all purposes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, consent to suit shall not be revoked if an action on a tort claim is filed by (i) a court appointed representative of a claimant's estate, (ii) an indispensable party, or (iii) a health provider or other party subrogated to the claimant's rights by virtue of any insurance policy; provided, that nothing herein is intended to, or shall constitute a consent to suit against the enterprise as to such party except to the extent such party's claim is:

- a. in lieu of and identical to the claim that would have been made by the claimant directly but for the appointment of said representative or indispensable party, and participation of such other party is in lieu of and not in addition to pursuit of the claim by the patron, and
- b. the claim of such other party would have been subject to a consent to suit hereunder if it had been made by the claimant directly; and

2. For prize claims, consent is granted only to the extent such claim does not exceed the prize limit. Under no circumstances shall any award exceed the prize limit. This consent shall only extend to the patron actually claiming to have engaged in the play of a covered game on which the claim is based. Prize claims shall not be assignable. In the event any assignment of the prize claim is made, or any person other than the claimant entitled to make the claim becomes a party to any action hereunder, this consent shall be deemed revoked for all purposes. Notwithstanding the foregoing, consent to suit shall not be revoked if an action on a prize claim is filed by (i) a court-appointed representative of a claimant's estate, or (ii) an indispensable party, provided that nothing herein is intended to, or shall constitute a consent to suit against the enterprise as to such party except to the extent such party's claim is:

- a. in lieu of and identical to the claim that would have been made by the claimant directly but for the appointment of said representative or indispensable party, and participation of such other party is in lieu of and not in addition to pursuit of the claim by the patron, and
- b. the claim of such other party would have been subject to a consent to suit hereunder if it had been made by the claimant directly.

D. Remedies in the Event of No or Inadequate Insurance for Tort Claim. In the event a tort claim is made and there is no, or inadequate, insurance in effect as required under this Compact, the enterprise shall be deemed to be in default hereunder unless, within ten (10) days of a demand by the SCA or a claimant to do so, the enterprise has posted in an irrevocable escrow account at a state or federally chartered bank which is not owned or controlled by the tribe, sufficient cash, a bond or other security sufficient to cover any award that might be made within the limits set forth in paragraph 1 of subsection A of this Part, and informs the claimant and the state of:

1. The posting of the cash or bond;
2. The means by which the deposit can be independently verified as to the amount and the fact that it is irrevocable until the matter is finally resolved;
3. The right of the claimant to have this claim satisfied from the deposit if the claimant is successful on the claim; and
4. The notice and hearing opportunities in accordance with the tribe's tort law, if any, otherwise in accordance with principles of due process, which will be afforded to the claimant so that the intent of this Compact to provide claimants with a meaningful opportunity to seek a just remedy under fair conditions will be fulfilled.

#### Part 7. ENFORCEMENT OF COMPACT PROVISIONS

A. The tribe and TCA shall be responsible for regulating activities pursuant to this Compact. As part of its responsibilities, the tribe shall require the enterprise do the following:

1. Operate the conduct of covered games in compliance with this Compact, including, but not limited to, the standards and the tribe's rules and regulations;

2. Take reasonable measures to assure the physical safety of enterprise patrons and personnel, prevent illegal activity at the facility, and protect any rights of patrons under the Indian Civil Rights Act, 25 U.S.C., Sec. 1302-1303;

3. Promptly notify appropriate law enforcement authorities of persons who may be involved in illegal acts in accordance with applicable law;

4. Assure that the construction and maintenance of the facility meets or exceeds federal and tribal standards for comparable buildings; and

5. Prepare adequate emergency access plans to ensure the health and safety of all covered game patrons. Upon the finalization of emergency access plans, the TCA or enterprise shall forward copies of such plans to the SCA.

B. All licenses for members and employees of the TCA shall be issued according to the same standards and terms applicable to facility employees. The TCA shall employ qualified compliance officers under the authority of the TCA. The compliance officers shall be independent of the enterprise, and shall be supervised and accountable only to the TCA. A TCA compliance officer shall be available to the facility during all hours of operation upon reasonable notice, and shall have immediate access to any and all areas of the facility for the purpose of ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Compact. The TCA shall investigate any such suspected or reported violation of this Compact and shall require the enterprise to correct such violations. The TCA shall officially enter into its files timely written reports of investigations and any action taken thereon, and shall forward copies of such reports to the SCA within fifteen (15) days of such filing. Any such violations shall be reported immediately to the TCA, and the TCA shall immediately forward the same to the SCA. In addition, the TCA shall promptly report to the SCA any such violations which it independently discovers.

C. In order to develop and foster a positive and effective relationship in the enforcement of the provisions of this Compact, representatives of the TCA and the SCA shall meet, not less than on an annual basis, to review past practices and examine methods to improve the regulatory scheme created by this Compact. The meetings shall take place at a location mutually agreed to by the TCA and the SCA. The SCA, prior to or during such meetings, shall disclose to the TCA any concerns, suspected activities, or pending matters reasonably believed to possibly constitute violations of this Compact by any person, organization or entity, if such disclosure will not compromise the interest sought to be protected.

#### Part 8. STATE MONITORING OF COMPACT

A. The SCA shall, pursuant to the provisions of this Compact, have the authority to monitor the conduct of covered games to ensure that the covered games are

conducted in compliance with the provisions of this Compact. In order to properly monitor the conduct of covered games, agents of the SCA shall have reasonable access to all areas of the facility related to the conduct of covered games as provided herein:

1. Access to the facility by the SCA shall be during the facility's normal operating hours only; provided that to the extent such inspections are limited to areas of the facility where the public is normally permitted, SCA agents may inspect the facility without giving prior notice to the enterprise;

2. Any suspected or claimed violations of this Compact or of law shall be directed in writing to the TCA; SCA agents shall not interfere with the functioning of the enterprise; and

3. Before SCA agents enter any nonpublic area of the facility, they shall provide proper photographic identification to the TCA. SCA agents shall be accompanied in nonpublic areas of the facility by a TCA agent. A one-hour notice by SCA to the TCA may be required to assure that a TCA officer is available to accompany SCA agents at all times.

B. Subject to the provisions herein, agents of the SCA shall have the right to review and copy documents of the enterprise related to its conduct of covered games. The review and copying of such documents shall be during normal business hours or hours otherwise at tribe's discretion. However, the SCA shall not be permitted to copy those portions of any documents of the enterprise related to its conduct of covered games that contain business or marketing strategies or other proprietary and confidential information of the enterprise, including, but not limited to, customer lists, business plans, advertising programs, marketing studies, and customer demographics or profiles. No documents of the enterprise related to its conduct of covered games or copies thereof shall be released to the public by the state under any circumstances. All such documents shall be deemed confidential documents owned by the tribe and shall not be subject to public release by the state.

C. At the completion of any SCA inspection or investigation, the SCA shall forward a written report thereof to the TCA. The TCA shall be apprised on a timely basis of all pertinent, nonconfidential information regarding any violation of federal, state, or tribal laws, the rules or regulations, or this Compact. Nothing herein prevents the SCA from contacting tribal or federal law enforcement authorities for suspected criminal wrongdoing involving the TCA. TCA may interview SCA inspectors upon reasonable notice and examine work papers and SCA in the same fashion that SCA inspectors may examine auditors' notes and make auditor inquiry unless providing such information to the TCA will compromise the interests sought to be protected. If the SCA determines that providing the information to the TCA will compromise the interests sought to be protected, then the SCA shall provide such information to the tribe in accordance with Part 13 of this Compact.

D. Nothing in this Compact shall be deemed to authorize the state to regulate the tribe's government, including the TCA, or to interfere in any way with the tribe's selection of its governmental officers, including members of the TCA; provided, however, the SCA and the tribe, upon request of the tribe, shall jointly employ, at the tribe's expense, an independent firm to perform on behalf of the SCA the duties set forth in subsections A and B of this Part.

#### Part 9. JURISDICTION

This Compact shall not alter tribal, federal or state civil adjudicatory or criminal jurisdiction.

#### Part 10. LICENSING

A. 1. Except as provided in paragraph 4 of Part 3, no covered game employee shall be employed at a facility or by an enterprise unless such person is licensed in accordance with this Compact. In addition to the provisions of this Part which are applicable to the licensing of all covered game employees, the requirements of 25 C.F.R., Part 556, Background Investigations for Primary Management Officials and Key Employees, and 25 C.F.R., Part 558, Gaming Licenses for Key Employees and Primary Management Officials, apply to Key Employees and Primary Management Officials of the facility and enterprise.

2. All prospective covered game employees shall apply to the TCA for a license. Licenses shall be issued for periods of no more than two (2) years, after which they may be renewed only following review and update of the information upon which the license was based; provided, the TCA may extend the period in which the license is valid for a reasonable time pending the outcome of any investigation being conducted in connection with the renewal of such license. In the event the SCA contends that any such extension is unreasonable, it may seek resolution of that issue pursuant to Part 11 of this Compact.

3. The application process shall require the TCA to obtain sufficient information and identification from the applicant to permit a background investigation to determine if a license should be issued in accordance with this Part and the rules and regulations. The TCA shall obtain information about a prospective covered game employee that includes:

- a. full name, including any aliases by which applicant has ever been known,
- b. social security number,
- c. date and place of birth,
- d. residential addresses for the past five (5) years,

- e. employment history for the past five (5) years,
- f. driver license number,
- g. all licenses issued and disciplinary charges filed, whether or not discipline was imposed, by any state or tribal regulatory authority,
- h. all criminal arrests and proceedings, except for minor traffic offenses, to which the applicant has been a party,
- i. a set of fingerprints,
- j. a current photograph,
- k. military service history, and
- l. any other information the TCA determines is necessary to conduct a thorough background investigation.

4. Upon obtaining the required initial information from a prospective covered game employee, the TCA shall forward a copy of such information to the SCA, along with any determinations made with respect to the issuance or denial of a temporary or permanent license. The SCA may conduct its own background investigation of the applicant at SCA expense, shall notify the TCA of such investigation within a reasonable time from initiation of the investigation, and shall provide a written report to the TCA of the outcome of such investigation within a reasonable time from the receipt of a request from the TCA for such information. SCA inspector field notes and the SCA inspector shall be available upon reasonable notice for TCA review and inquiry.

5. The TCA may issue a temporary license for a period not to exceed ninety (90) days, and the enterprise may employ on a probationary basis, any prospective covered game employee who represents in writing that he or she meets the standards set forth in this Part, provided the TCA or enterprise is not in possession of information to the contrary. The temporary license shall expire at the end of the ninety-day period or upon issuance or denial of a permanent license, whichever event occurs first. Provided that the temporary license period may be extended at the discretion of the TCA so long as good faith efforts are being made by the applicant to provide required information, or the TCA is continuing to conduct its investigation or is waiting on information from others, and provided further that in the course of such temporary or extended temporary licensing period, no information has come to the attention of the TCA which, in the absence of countervailing information then in the record, would otherwise require denial of license. A permanent license shall be issued or denied within a reasonable time following the completion of the applicant's background investigation.

6. In covered gaming the tribe shall not employ and shall terminate, and the TCA shall not license and shall revoke a license previously issued to, any covered game employee who:

- a. has been convicted of any felony or an offense related to any covered games or other gaming activity,
- b. has knowingly and willfully provided false material, statements or information on his or her employment application, or
- c. is a person whose prior activities, criminal record, or reputation, habits, and associations pose a threat to the public interest or to the effective regulation and control of the conduct of covered games, or create or enhance the dangers of unsuitable, unfair, or illegal practices, methods, and activities in the conduct of covered games or the carrying on of the business and financial arrangements incidental thereto.

7. The SCA may object to the employment of any individual by the enterprise based upon the criteria set forth in paragraph 6 of subsection A of this Part. Such objection shall be in writing setting forth the basis of the objection. The SCA inspector's work papers, notes and exhibits which formed the SCA conclusion shall be available upon reasonable notice for TCA review. The enterprise shall have discretion to employ an individual over the objection of the SCA.

8. The TCA shall have the discretion to initiate or continue a background investigation of any licensee or license applicant and to take appropriate action with respect to the issuance or continued validity of any license at any time, including suspending or revoking such license.

9. The TCA shall require all covered game employees to wear, in plain view, identification cards issued by the TCA which include a photograph of the employee, his or her first name, a four-digit identification number unique to the license issued to the employee, a tribal seal or signature verifying official issuance of the card, and a date of expiration, which shall not extend beyond such employee's license expiration date.

B. 1. Any person or entity who, directly or indirectly, provides or is likely to provide at least Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) in goods or services to the enterprise in any twelve-month period, or who has received at least Twenty-five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) for goods or services provided to the enterprise in any consecutive twelve-month period within the immediately preceding twenty-four-month period, or any person or entity who provides through sale, lease, rental or otherwise covered games, or parts, maintenance or service in connection therewith to the tribe or the enterprise at any time and in any amount, shall be licensed by the TCA prior to the provision thereof. Provided, that attorneys or certified public accountants and their firms shall be exempt from the licensing requirement herein to the extent that they are providing services covered by their professional licenses.

2. Background investigations and licensing shall follow the same process and apply the same criteria as for covered game employees set forth in paragraph 6 of subsection A of this Part.

3. In the case of a license application of any entity, all principals thereof shall be subjected to the same background investigation required for the licensing of a covered game employee, but no license as such need be issued; provided, no license shall be issued to the entity if the TCA determines that one or more of its principals will be persons who would not be qualified to receive a license if they applied as covered game employees.

4. Nothing herein shall prohibit the TCA from processing and issuing a license to a principal in his or her own name.

5. Licenses issued under this subsection shall be reviewed at least every two (2) years for continuing compliance, and shall be promptly revoked if the licensee is determined to be in violation of the standards set forth in paragraph 6 of subsection A of this Part. In connection with such a review, the TCA shall require the person or entity to update all information provided in the previous application.

6. The enterprise shall not enter into, or continue to make payments pursuant to, any contract or agreement for the provision of goods or services with any person or entity who does not meet the requirements of this Part including, but not limited to, any person or entity whose application to the TCA for a license has been denied, or whose license has expired or been suspended or revoked.

7. Pursuant to 25 C.F.R., Part 533, all management contracts must be approved by the Chair of the National Indian Gaming Commission. The SCA shall be notified promptly after any such approval.

8. In addition to any licensing criteria set forth above, if any person or entity seeking licensing under this subsection is to receive any fee or other payment based on the revenues or profits of the enterprise, the TCA may take into account whether or not such fee or other payment is fair in light of market conditions and practices.

C. 1. Subject to the exceptions set forth in paragraph 4 of this subsection, any person or entity extending financing, directly or indirectly, to the facility or enterprise in excess of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in any twelve-month period shall be licensed prior to providing such financing. Principals thereof shall be subjected to background investigations and determinations in accordance with the procedures and standards set forth in subsection A of this Part. Licenses issued under this section shall be reviewed at least every two (2) years for continuing compliance, and shall be promptly revoked if the licensee is determined to be in violation of the standards set forth in paragraph 6 of subsection A of this Part. In connection with such a review, the TCA shall require the person or entity to update all information provided in the previous application.



2. The SCA shall be notified of all financing and loan transactions with respect to covered games or supplies in which the amount exceeds Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) in any twelve-month period, and shall be entitled to review copies of all agreements and documents in connection therewith.

3. A supplier of goods or services who provides financing exclusively in connection with the sale or lease of covered games equipment or supplies shall be licensed solely in accordance with licensing procedures applicable, if at all, to such suppliers herein.

4. Financing provided by a federally regulated or state-regulated bank, savings and loan, or trust, or other federally or state-regulated lending institution; any agency of the federal, state, tribal or local government; or any person or entity, including, but not limited to, an institutional investor who, alone or in conjunction with others, lends money through publicly or commercially traded bonds or other commercially traded instruments, including but not limited to the holders of such bonds or instruments or their assignees or transferees, or which bonds or commercially traded instruments are underwritten by any entity whose shares are publicly traded or which underwriter, at the time of the underwriting, has assets in excess of One Hundred Million Dollars (\$100,000,000.00), shall be exempt from the licensing and background investigation requirements in subsection B of this Part or this subsection.

D. In the event the SCA objects to a lender, vendor or any other person or entity within subsection B or C of this Part seeking to do business with the enterprise, or to the continued holding of a license by such person or entity, it may notify the TCA of its objection. The notice shall set forth the basis of the objection with sufficient particularity to enable the TCA to investigate the basis of the objection. The SCA inspector and SCA inspector field notes shall be available for TCA review and inquiry. Within a reasonable time after such notification, the TCA shall report to the SCA on the outcome of its investigation and of any action taken or decision not to take action.

#### Part 11. EXCLUSIVITY AND FEES

A. The parties acknowledge and recognize that this Compact provides tribes with substantial exclusivity and, consistent with the goals of IGRA, special opportunities for tribal economic opportunity through gaming within the external boundaries of Oklahoma in respect to the covered games. In consideration thereof, so long as the state does not change its laws after the effective date of this Compact to permit the operation of any additional form of gaming by any such organization licensee, or change its laws to permit any additional electronic or machine gaming within Oklahoma, the tribe agrees to pay the following fees:

1. The tribe covenants and agrees to pay to the state a fee derived from covered game revenues calculated as set forth in paragraph 2 of this subsection. Such fee shall be paid no later than the twentieth day of the month for revenues received by the tribe in the preceding month; and

2. The fee shall be:

- a. four percent (4%) of the first Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) of adjusted gross revenues received by a tribe in a calendar year from the play of electronic amusement games, electronic bonanza-style bingo games and electronic instant bingo games,
- b. five percent (5%) of the next Ten Million Dollars (\$10,000,000.00) of adjusted gross revenues received by a tribe in a calendar year from the play of electronic amusement games, electronic bonanza-style bingo games and electronic instant bingo games,
- c. six percent (6%) of all subsequent adjusted gross revenues received by a tribe in a calendar year from the play of electronic amusement games, electronic bonanza-style bingo games and electronic instant bingo games, and
- d. ten percent (10%) of the monthly net win of the common pool(s) or pot(s) from which prizes are paid for nonhouse-banked card games. The tribe is entitled to keep an amount equal to state payments from the common pool(s) or pot(s) as part of its cost of operating the games.

Payments of such fees shall be made to the Treasurer of the State of Oklahoma. Nothing herein shall require the allocation of such fees to particular state purposes, including, but not limited to, the actual costs of performing the state's regulatory responsibilities hereunder.

B. Annual oversight assessment. In addition to the fee provided for in subsection A of this Part, the state shall be entitled to payment for its costs incurred in connection with the oversight of covered games to the extent provided herein, "annual oversight assessment". The annual oversight assessment, which shall be Thirty-five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000.00), shall be determined and paid in advance on a fiscal year basis for each twelve (12) months ending on June 30 of each year.

C. Upon the effective date of this Compact, the tribe shall deposit with the SCA the sum of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000.00) ("start-up assessment"). The purpose of the start-up assessment shall be to assist the state in initiating its administrative and oversight responsibilities hereunder and shall be a one-time payment to the state for such purposes.

D. Nothing in this Compact shall be deemed to authorize the state to impose any tax, fee, charge or assessment upon the tribe or enterprise except as expressly authorized pursuant to this Compact; provided that, to the extent that the tribe is required under federal law to report prizes awarded, the tribe agrees to copy such reports to the SCA.

E. In consideration for the covenants and agreements contained herein, the state agrees that it will not, during the term of this Compact, permit the nontribal operation of any machines or devices to play covered games or electronic or mechanical gaming devices otherwise presently prohibited by law within the state in excess of the number and outside of the designated locations authorized by the State-Tribal Gaming Act. The state recognizes the importance of this provision to the tribe and agrees, in the event of a breach of this provision by the state, to require any nontribal entity which operates any such devices or machines in excess of such number or outside of the designated location to remit to the state at least quarterly no less than fifty percent (50%) of any increase in the entities' adjusted gross revenues following the addition of such excess machines. The state further agrees to remit at least quarterly to eligible tribes, as liquidated damages, a sum equal to fifty percent (50%) of any increase in the entities' adjusted gross revenues following the addition of such excess machines. For purposes of this Part, "eligible tribes" means those tribes which have entered into this Compact and are operating gaming pursuant to this Compact within forty-five (45) miles of an entity which is operating covered game machines in excess of the number authorized by, or outside of the location designated by, the State-Tribal Gaming Act. Such liquidated damages shall be allocated pro rata to eligible tribes based on the number of covered game machines operated by each Eligible Tribe in the time period when such adjusted gross revenues were generated.

F. In consideration for the covenants and agreements contained herein, the tribe agrees that in the event it has currently or locates in the future a facility within a radius of twenty (20) miles from a recipient licensee as that term is defined in subsection K of Section 4 of the State-Tribal Gaming Act that it shall comply with the requirements of subsection K of Section 4 of the State-Tribal Gaming Act.

## Part 12. DISPUTE RESOLUTION

In the event that either party to this Compact believes that the other party has failed to comply with any requirement of this Compact, or in the event of any dispute hereunder, including, but not limited to, a dispute over the proper interpretation of the terms and conditions of this Compact, the following procedures may be invoked:

1. The goal of the parties shall be to resolve all disputes amicably and voluntarily whenever possible. A party asserting noncompliance or seeking an interpretation of this Compact first shall serve written notice on the other party. The notice shall identify the specific Compact provision alleged to have been violated or in dispute and shall specify in detail the asserting party's contention and any factual basis for the claim. Representatives of the tribe and state shall meet within thirty (30) days of receipt of notice in an effort to resolve the dispute;

2. Subject to the limitation set forth in paragraph 3 of this Part, either party may refer a dispute arising under this Compact to arbitration under the rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA), subject to enforcement or pursuant to review as provided by paragraph 3 of this Part by a federal district court. The remedies available through arbitration are limited to enforcement of the provisions of this Compact. The parties

consent to the jurisdiction of such arbitration forum and court for such limited purposes and no other, and each waives immunity with respect thereto. One arbitrator shall be chosen by the parties from a list of qualified arbitrators to be provided by the AAA. If the parties cannot agree on an arbitrator, then the arbitrator shall be named by the AAA. The expenses of arbitration shall be borne equally by the parties.

A party asserting noncompliance or seeking an interpretation of this Compact under this section shall be deemed to have certified that to the best of the party's knowledge, information, and belief formed after reasonable inquiry, the claim of noncompliance or the request for interpretation of this Compact is warranted and made in good faith and not for any improper purpose, such as to harass or to cause unnecessary delay or the needless incurring of the cost of resolving the dispute. If the dispute is found to have been initiated in violation of this Part, the Arbitrator, upon request or upon his or her own initiative, shall impose upon the violating party an appropriate sanction, which may include an award to the other party of its reasonable expenses incurred in having to participate in the arbitration; and

3. Notwithstanding any provision of law, either party to the Compact may bring an action against the other in a federal district court for the de novo review of any arbitration award under paragraph 2 of this Part. The decision of the court shall be subject to appeal. Each of the parties hereto waives immunity and consents to suit therein for such limited purposes, and agrees not to raise the Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution or comparable defense to the validity of such waiver.

Nothing herein shall be construed to authorize a money judgment other than for damages for failure to comply with an arbitration decision requiring the payment of monies.

### Part 13. CONSTRUCTION OF COMPACT; FEDERAL APPROVAL

A. Each provision, section, and subsection of this Compact shall stand separate and independent of every other provision, section, or subsection. In the event that a federal district court shall find any provision, section, or subsection of this Compact to be invalid, the remaining provisions, sections, and subsections of this Compact shall remain in full force and effect, unless the invalidated provision, section or subsection is material.

B. Each party hereto agrees to defend the validity of this Compact and the legislation in which it is embodied. This Compact shall constitute a binding agreement between the parties and shall survive any repeal or amendment of the State-Tribal Gaming Act.

C. The parties shall cooperate in seeking approval of this Compact from an appropriate federal agency as a tribal-state compact under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

D. The standards for electronic bonanza-style bingo games, electronic instant bingo games and electronic amusement games established in the State-Tribal Gaming Act as enacted in 2004, and, at the election of the tribe, any standards contained in the Oklahoma Horseracing Commission rules issued pursuant to subsection B of Section 9 of the State-Tribal Gaming Act are hereby incorporated in this Compact and shall survive any repeal of the State-Tribal Gaming Act, or any games authorized thereunder. In the event that any of said standards are changed by amendment of the State-Tribal Gaming Act, the tribe shall have the option to incorporate said changes into this Compact by delivery of written notice of said changes to the Governor and the SCA.

#### Part 14. NOTICES

All notices required under this Compact shall be given by certified mail, return receipt requested, commercial overnight courier service, or personal delivery, to the following persons:

Governor  
State of Oklahoma  
212 State Capitol  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Chair, State-Tribal Relations Committee  
State of Oklahoma  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Attorney General  
State of Oklahoma  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Principal Chief  
Cherokee Nation  
P.O. Box 948  
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948

With copies to:

Gaming Commission  
Cherokee Nation  
P.O. Box 627  
Tahlequah, OK 74465-0948

Office of State Finance  
State of Oklahoma  
2300 N. Lincoln Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

#### Part 15. DURATION AND NEGOTIATION

A. This Compact shall become effective upon the last date of the satisfaction of the following requirements:

1. Due execution on behalf of the tribe, including obtaining all tribal resolutions and completing other tribal procedures as may be necessary to render the tribe's execution effective;

2. Approval of this Compact by the Secretary of the Interior as a tribal-state compact within the meaning of IGRA and publication in the Federal Register or satisfaction of any other requirement of federal law; and

3. Payment of the start-up assessment provided for in subsection C of Part 11 of this Compact.

B. This Compact shall have a term which will expire on January 1, 2020, and at that time, if organization licensees or others are authorized to conduct electronic gaming in any form other than pari-mutuel wagering on live horse racing pursuant to any governmental action of the state or court order following the effective date of this Compact, the Compact shall automatically renew for successive additional fifteen-year terms; provided that, within one hundred eighty (180) days of the expiration of this Compact or any renewal thereof, either the tribe or the state, acting through its Governor, may request to renegotiate the terms of subsections A and E of Part 11 of this Compact.

C. This Compact shall remain in full force and effect until the sooner of expiration of the term or until the Compact is terminated by mutual consent of the parties.

D. This Compact may be terminated by state upon thirty (30) days' prior written notice to the tribe in the event of either (1) a material breach by the tribe of the terms of a tobacco Compact with the state as evidenced by a final determination of material breach from the dispute resolution forum agreed upon therein, including exhaustion of all available appellate remedies therefrom, or (2) the tribe's failure to comply with the provisions of Section 346 et seq. of Title 68 of the Oklahoma Statutes, provided that the tribe may cure either default within the thirty-day notice period, or within such additional period as may be reasonably required to cure the default, in order to preserve continuation of this Compact.

The state hereby agrees that this subsection is severable from this Compact and shall automatically be severed from this Compact in the event that the United States

Department of the Interior determines that these provisions exceed the state's authority under IGRA.

Part 16. AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE

This Compact, as an enactment of the people of Oklahoma, is deemed approved by the State of Oklahoma. No further action by the state or any state official is necessary for this Compact to take effect upon approval by the Secretary of the Interior and publication in the Federal Register. The undersigned tribal official(s) represents that he or she is duly authorized and has the authority to execute this Compact on behalf of the tribe for whom he or she is signing.


APPROVED:

Cherokee Nation

  
Chad Smith  
Principal Chief

Date 11-16-04

United States Department of Interior

  
Michael D. Olsen  
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs

Date 12/28/04