



A GAME SHOULD
REMAIN A GAME

BINGO

If your gambling habits have a negative effect on you or your loved-ones, consider taking a break from gambling, rethink the space gambling takes up in your life and lower your gambling limits.

SIGNS TO LOOK OUT FOR

- Increasing amounts of money and time spent gambling
- Borrowing to gamble
- Growing preoccupation with gambling

You can call the Gambling: Help and Referral line at **1-800-461-0140** at any time.

The service is free, confidential and anonymous.



Other tools to promote low-risk gambling habits are available.



agameshouldremainagame.com

Tips, information and resources

January 2020

THREE THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND WHEN PLAYING BINGO

- 1) Bet only the amount of money you can afford to lose. To do so, determine in advance the amount of money you're willing to spend and stay within that limit.
- 2) As in everything, moderation is always your best bet. Consider varying your entertainment activities. The choice is limitless: bingo, eating out, movies, sports, etc.
- 3) Take advantage of game breaks to socialize, have a bite to eat or stretch your legs.

BINGO IS A *game of chance*

Chance is an event that cannot be predicted or controlled. Regardless of whether you play bingo, lotteries or slot machines, you cannot improve your odds of winning by analyzing previous results, choosing your game cards, or using a lucky charm or particular strategy. Unlike the lottery, the video lottery terminals or the slots machines, that have predetermined return rates, the payout rate for bingo is variable.

In Québec, about 4.2% of adults play bingo and, among those players, close to 5.8% show signs of problematic gambling behaviours.

This game's got roots

Bingo made its debut in 16th century Italy as *Lo Giuco de Lotto* and was mostly played by villagers. As beans were the means of marking numbers, the game was soon referred to as Beano. In error, a player once shouted "Bingo!" instead of "Beano!" and a new official name was born—one that was considered much more jovial and expressive than the original. The game of bingo enjoyed much acclaim during World War I and became immensely popular as of 1920.



Modern bingo

In the 20th century, American toy merchant Edwin Lowe perfected bingo and turned it into the game we know and love today. In order to create as many bingo card combinations as possible, Lowe reached out to a math professor by the name of Carl Leffer. It took an entire year for the American academic to create more than 6,000 different cards. Today, bingo is a favourite the world over, especially in the United States, Canada, and Belgium.

YOU CAN PLAY BINGO SEVERAL WAYS:

Regular bingo

These are bingo games that are held as part of each hall's gaming program.

Network bingo

This type of bingo is offered by Loto-Québec twice a day throughout its network of forty or so participating bingo halls across Québec and gives you a shot at coveted prizes, including a progressive jackpot that starts at \$50,000.

Surprise tickets

These are pull-tab tickets that give you a shot at instant prizes and draw prizes.

Progressive jackpot pull-tab tickets

These are pull-tab tickets from Loto-Québec that give you a shot at instant prizes, draw prizes and progressive in-hall jackpots.

BEWARE OF MYTHS WHEN PLAYING BINGO

My lucky charm increases my odds of winning

A lucky charm or ritual in no way improves your odds of winning. You have one? Sure, you can keep it if you like, but be realistic and see some humour in it... In the end it's all about enjoying yourself!

Some cards are luckier than others

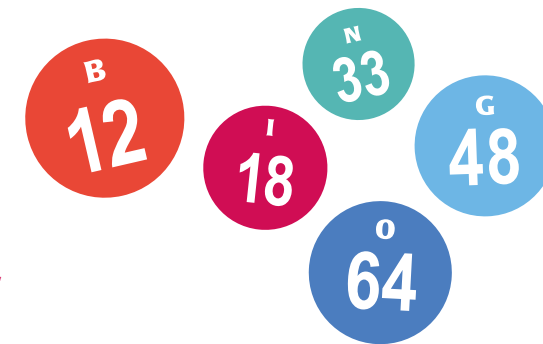
All numbers have the same odds of being selected and every card has an equal chance of being a winning card.

I have a better chance of winning if I play more cards at the same time

At bingo, the odds of winning are determined by the number of players, cards played and balls drawn. Playing more cards will mathematically increase your odds of winning, but it will also increase the amount you spend.

Experienced players are more likely to win

Experience has no bearing on success when you play bingo. Being skillful at marking your cards does not ensure a win either. It's not rocket science: A bingo win is purely random, and skill has no influence. The only sure thing is that the more engaged players are, the more likely they are to enjoy themselves!



The jackpots may tempt you to bet more or to play more often. It's therefore very important to stay within the limits you set in terms of budget and time spent gambling.