

January 24, 2019

Karen Gabriele
Senior Compliance Specialist
Mark Anthony Services, Inc.
328 S. Jefferson Street, Suite 1050
Chicago, IL 60661
VIA E-MAIL

RE: mike's HARDER® Take it to Vegas Sweepstakes

Dear Ms. Gabriele:

ISSUE: This office is in receipt of your e-mail dated January 4, 2019, wherein you request legal review of a sweepstakes promotion to be conducted in Pennsylvania.

According to the official rules you provided, the “mike's HARDER® Take it to Vegas Sweepstakes” promotion is scheduled to begin on March 1 and runs until April 30, 2019. To participate in the sweepstakes, interested individuals may enter by texting “HARDERVEGAS” to shortcode 55678 and replying with their date of birth. Alternatively, interested individuals may enter by mailing a 3” x 5” card with the entrant's name, address, date of birth, telephone number, and the words “HARDERVEGAS” to the address provided. Entrants are limited to one entry per person, per day during the sweepstakes entry period.

Three grand prize winners will be randomly selected to receive a trip for two people to Las Vegas, Nevada, to include: roundtrip airfare, a \$450.00 gift card, hotel accommodations for two nights, two “smart” watches, curated events/activities chosen by the sponsor including dinners, and roundtrip ground transportation between events/activities and the hotel. The approximate retail value of all prizes is \$15,000.00. No purchase is necessary to enter the sweepstakes, and the sweepstakes is only open to adults who are at least twenty-one years of age at the time of entry. The guest that may accompany the grand prize winners must also be twenty-one years of age or older. The official rules state that alcohol will not be included in any prize, including the dinners offered with the events/activities.

OPINION: Section 5.32(h) of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board's ("PLCB") Regulations states that a manufacturer, manufacturer's representative, or licensee may sponsor sweepstakes promotions subject to the following conditions:

- i. No purchase is necessary to enter.
- ii. Entrants shall be twenty-one years of age or older.
- iii. Retail licensed premises may only be involved as pick-up or drop-off points for entry forms and not for the conducting of drawings or the awarding of prizes.
- iv. Alcoholic beverages may not be part of the prize.

40 Pa. Code § 5.32(h).

This office has reviewed the proposed sweepstakes promotion and determined that it comports with applicable liquor laws and regulations, specifically section 5.32(h) of the PLCB's Regulations, 40 Pa. Code § 5.32(h), as long as alcohol is not part of any prize.

While the official rules indicate that alcohol is not part of the grand prizes, please be advised to the extent that any part of the trip being awarded as the grand prizes will involve sampling, taste testing, or the provision of alcoholic beverages at no additional cost to the winner and/or his/her guest(s), this would be construed as awarding alcoholic beverages as part of the prizes and is not permitted.

Further, prior approval of malt or brewed beverages point-of-sale ("POS") material and retail licensed premises POS material is no longer required. However, the requirement for prior approval of POS material intended for use in the PLCB's Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores from the Bureau of Product Selection remains. The total cost of all POS advertising material relating to any one brand of any one manufacturer at any one time may not exceed \$300.00 on a retail licensed premises. 47 P.S. § 4-493(20)(i).

Therefore, as long as alcohol is not included in the prizes, it would be permissible to conduct this promotion in the Commonwealth in reference to the areas checked below:

___ retail licensed premises.

- distributor licensed premises.
- both retail and distributor licensed premises.
- The PLCB's Fine Wine & Good Spirits stores,
subject to approval of the Bureau of Product
Selection (POS only).
- other – Internet, text messaging.

THIS OPINION APPLIES ONLY TO THE FACTUAL SITUATION DESCRIBED HEREIN AND DOES NOT INSULATE THE LICENSEE OR OTHERS FROM CONSEQUENCES OF CONDUCT OCCURRING PRIOR TO ITS ISSUANCE. THE PROPRIETY OF THE PROPOSED CONDUCT HAS BEEN ADDRESSED ONLY UNDER THE LIQUOR CODE AND REGULATIONS. THE LAWS AND POLICIES ON WHICH THIS OPINION IS BASED ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BY THE LEGISLATURE OR THE PENNSYLVANIA LIQUOR CONTROL BOARD.

Sincerely,



RODRIGO J. DIAZ
CHIEF COUNSEL

cc: Pennsylvania State Police, Bureau of Liquor Control Enforcement

LCB Advisory Opinion No. 19-003