You do not have to read every page of a casino's terms before deciding whether a bonus is worth considering. But you do need to find the few clauses that determine its real value—and the rules that can wipe out a withdrawal. My fast-reading order is simple: check the **max cashout first**, calculate the total wagering, then look at the deadline, game contributions, exclusions, and withdrawal rules.

This is a screening method, not a substitute for reading the specific promotion's full terms. If a key detail is missing, contradictory, or hidden behind a vague phrase like "selected games only," treat that as a reason to pause and ask support before opting in.

The 60-second bonus checklist

Open the promotion page and search for these terms: "maximum cashout," "wagering requirement," "validity," "contribution," "excluded games," "withdrawal," and "verification." On a desktop, Ctrl+F or Command+F can help you locate them quickly. On a phone, use the browser's Find on Page feature.

1. **Find the maximum cashout.** Check whether winnings from bonus play are capped, and whether the cap applies to the bonus, winnings, or total withdrawal.
2. **Calculate the required betting amount.** Convert the playthrough into one clear number, using the exact formula stated in the offer.
3. **Check the wagering and time limit.** Confirm when the clock starts, when it ends, and what happens to an unfinished bonus.
4. **Check game contribution and exclusions.** A wager may count at less than 100%, or not count at all on certain games.
5. **Scan the withdrawal rules.** Look for verification requirements, payment restrictions, maximum withdrawals, and bonus cancellation conditions.

This is the practical **bonus checklist**: five checks that tell you whether the offer's headline number is remotely relevant to what you can actually withdraw.

1. Max cashout first: know the ceiling

A generous-looking bonus can be less attractive if the terms place a low cap on cashouts. That is why I check the maximum cashout first. Look for wording such as "maximum winnings," "cashout limit," or "maximum withdrawal from bonus funds." These phrases may describe different limits, so identify exactly what the cap applies to.

For example, imagine an offer gives you a $50 bonus but limits bonus-related withdrawals to $200. If you complete the wagering and your eligible balance reaches $600, the cap may still restrict the amount you can withdraw. The exact outcome depends on the promotion's wording—do not assume the cap applies only to the bonus amount itself.

Also check whether the cap changes with your deposit size, bonus tier, or payment method. If the promotion page advertises a large bonus but does not clearly state its cashout limit, find the promotion-specific terms or ask support in writing before claiming it. A max cashout buried in general terms is easy to miss and can matter more than the advertised bonus percentage.

2. Turn wagering requirements into one betting number

"30x wagering" is not a complete explanation. You need to know what amount is multiplied and how much you must bet in total. A common formula is:

Required betting = wagering multiplier × wagering base

The base might be the bonus alone, or the deposit plus the bonus. Here is a straightforward example:

Offer wording Example amounts Total betting required 30x bonus $100 deposit + $100 bonus 30 × $100 = **$3,000** 30x deposit plus bonus $100 deposit + $100 bonus 30 × $200 = **$6,000**

The phrasing can vary, so do not infer the base from the multiplier alone. Find the definition in the promotion terms. If it is unclear whether wagering applies to the deposit, the bonus, or both, ask the operator before opting in.

Next, factor in game contribution. If a slot contributes 100%, a $10 wager may count as $10 toward the requirement. If a game contributes 10%, that same wager may count as only $1. At 10% contribution, meeting a $3,000 requirement through that game alone would mean placing **$30,000 in bets**—not $3,000. This is why "how much you must bet" depends on both the requirement and the games you are allowed to use.

3. Check the wagering and time limit together

A high wagering requirement is harder to complete when the deadline is short. Look for the bonus's validity period and determine exactly when it begins: at acceptance, deposit, first wager, or another trigger. Also check whether the deadline is expressed in hours or days and which time zone applies.

Then consider whether the allowed games and contribution rates make the deadline realistic. If the offer expires in a day but some games contribute only a fraction of each wager, the effective betting needed may be much larger than the headline number. Check what happens when time runs out: the bonus may expire, remaining bonus funds may be removed, or winnings may be affected. The terms should say which.

Do not assume you can simply stop playing and withdraw. Some promotions require you to cancel the bonus first; others may remove bonus funds or winnings when you do. Find the cancellation and forfeiture rules before you start.

4. RTP and expected value: a reality check, not a promise

Return to Player (RTP) is a theoretical long-run percentage, not a prediction of what will happen during your bonus session. A game with a 96% RTP is designed, over a very large number of plays, to return an average of about $96 for every $100 wagered under its stated conditions. It does not mean you will get $96 back from your next $100 in bets.



As a simple illustration, if you place $3,000 in bets on a game with a theoretical 96% RTP, the theoretical loss across that amount of wagering is about 4% of $3,000, or **$120**. That is an expected-value illustration, not a guaranteed loss, win, or forecast for an individual player. Volatility, game rules, bet size, and the actual results of your session can produce a much wider range of outcomes.

Expected value also does not erase the conditions on your bonus. A positive-looking headline can be offset by a high playthrough, low game contribution, a cashout cap, or a short deadline. RTP figures may differ by game version or configuration, so check the information available for the particular game and jurisdiction. Do not treat an RTP estimate as evidence that a bonus is profitable or a way to predict a winning session.

5. Game contributions and exclusions: get specific

Look for a contribution table that names games or categories and https://www.rakeback.com/news/casino-bonuses-how-to-tell-the-good-offers-from-the-noise/ assigns each a percentage. “Slots contribute 100%” may sound clear, but it does not answer whether every slot qualifies. The terms may exclude particular games, progressive jackpots, or titles that are otherwise listed in the lobby.

That matters with platforms and game catalogs associated with providers such as **RealTime Gaming (RTG)** and **SpinLogic**. The provider name alone does not tell you whether a specific title qualifies for a particular promotion. Check the offer’s actual eligible-game list and contribution rules. If a progressive game is excluded, playing it may fail to advance wagering—and, depending on the terms, could put bonus eligibility at risk.

Be wary of terms that say only “selected games” without linking to a usable list. Ask support for the eligible titles and save the answer. If you cannot tell whether a game counts before betting, the safer move is not to use it with the bonus.

6. Withdrawal friction: what happens after you meet the playthrough?

Completing the wagering requirement does not automatically mean a withdrawal will be immediate or unrestricted. Check for identity and payment verification, minimum and maximum withdrawals, processing times, and rules requiring you to withdraw using the same method used to deposit. The operator may require documents before processing a payment; find out what is required and when.



Look for rules about deposits and withdrawals while a bonus is active. Some offers restrict withdrawals until playthrough is complete, while others let you cancel the bonus—with possible forfeiture of bonus funds or related winnings. Also check whether making a withdrawal request automatically cancels an active promotion. These details can turn a technically "completed" bonus into a frustrating cashout process.

Where to compare information—and what to verify yourself

Comparison and information sites such as **Rakeback.com** and **casino.info** can be useful starting points for discovering offers or comparing their headline features. Treat summaries as a shortcut to the relevant promotion, not as the final authority on its terms. Promotions change, and a summary may not include every restriction.

Use the casino's current, promotion-specific rules to confirm the wagering base, game contributions, expiry, maximum cashout, and withdrawal conditions. If the offer page sends you to a general terms page, search within it for the promotion name and save or screenshot the relevant clauses. When the wording conflicts across pages, ask the operator which version controls before you opt in.

A quick decision rule

- **Proceed cautiously** only if the cashout cap, wagering formula, deadline, and game rules are clear.
- **Pause and ask** if "selected games," "maximum winnings," or the wagering base is not defined.
- **Skip the offer** if you cannot confirm whether a game is excluded or whether a withdrawal will forfeit eligible winnings.

Bonuses are optional promotions, not free money. Set a spending limit before playing, do not chase losses or extend a session to meet a deadline, and never borrow to gamble. If gambling is causing stress or affecting your finances, consider taking a break and seeking confidential support. The **National Council on Problem Gambling** provides information and resources at **ncpgambling.org**.

The fastest useful review is not reading every sentence at random. It is checking the max cashout first, converting wagering into one total betting number, then verifying the time limit, game contribution, exclusions, and withdrawal rules. If any of those answers is missing, the bonus is not clear enough to claim confidently.