

## **Tribal Labor Relations**

### **CHAPTER 12. TRIBAL LABOR RELATIONS ACT<sup>1</sup>**

#### **YSMNC 12.1 Title**

This Chapter shall be known and cited as “Tribal Labor Relations Act” (hereinafter “Labor Relations Act”).

#### **YSMNC 12.2 Threshold of Applicability**

12.2.1 Any tribe with 250 or more persons employed in a tribal casino and related facility shall adopt this Tribal Labor Relations Act (“TLRA” or “Act”). For purposes of this Act, a "tribal casino" is one in which Class III gaming is conducted pursuant to a tribal-state compact. A "related facility" is one for which the only significant purpose is to facilitate patronage of the Class III gaming operations.

12.2.2 Any tribe which does not operate such a tribal casino as of September 10, 1999, but which subsequently opens a tribal casino, may delay adoption of this Act until one (1) year from the date the number of employees in the tribal casino or related facility, as defined in 12.2.1 above, exceeds 250.

12.2.3 Upon the request of a labor union, the San Manuel Gaming Commission shall certify the number of employees in a tribal casino or other related facility as defined in 12.2.1 above. Either party may dispute the certification of the San Manuel Gaming Commission to the Tribal Labor Panel.

#### **YSMNC 12.3 Definition of Eligible Employees**

12.3.1 The provisions of this Act shall apply to any person (hereinafter "Eligible Employee") who is employed within a tribal casino, in which Class III gaming is conducted pursuant to a tribal-state compact, or other related facility, the only significant purpose of which is to facilitate patronage of the Class III gaming operations, except for any of the following:

(a) any employee who is a supervisor, defined as any individual having authority, in the interest of the Nation and/or employer, to hire, transfer, suspend, lay off, recall, promote, discharge, assign, reward, or discipline other employees, or responsibility to direct them or to adjust their grievances, or effectively recommend such action, if in connection with the foregoing, the exercise of such authority is not of a merely routine or clerical nature, but requires the use of independent judgment;

(b) any employee of the San Manuel Gaming Commission;

(c) any employee of the security or surveillance department, other than those who are responsible for the technical repair and maintenance of equipment;

(d) any cash operations employee who is a "cage" employee or money counter; or

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<sup>1</sup> Adopted by the Governing Council on September 28, 1999. Amended by the Tribal Authorities on July 9, 2024.

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(e) any dealer.

### **YSMNC 12.4 Non-Interference with Regulatory or Security Activities**

Operation of this Act shall not interfere in any way with the duty of the San Manuel Gaming Commission to regulate the gaming operation in accordance with the Nation's National Indian Gaming Commission-approved gaming Act. Furthermore, the exercise of rights hereunder shall in no way interfere with the Nation's casino surveillance and security systems or any other internal controls system designed to protect the integrity of the Nation's gaming operations. The San Manuel Gaming Commission is specifically excluded from the definition of "Nation" and its agents.

### **YSMNC 12.5 Eligible Employees Free to Engage in or Refrain from Concerted Activity**

Eligible Employees shall have the right to self-organization, to form, join, or assist employee organizations, to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing, and to engage in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection. Eligible Employees shall also have the right to refrain from any or all such activities.

### **YSMNC 12.6 Unfair Labor Practices for the Nation**

It shall be an unfair labor practice for the Nation and/or employer or their agents:

12.6.1 to interfere with, restrain, or coerce Eligible Employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed herein;

12.6.2 to dominate or interfere with the formation or administration of any labor organization or contribute financial or other support to it, but this does not restrict the Nation and/or employer and a certified union from agreeing to union security or dues checkoff;

12.6.3 to discharge or otherwise discriminate against an Eligible Employee because they have filed charges or given testimony under this Act;

12.6.4 to refuse to bargain collectively with the representatives of Eligible Employees.

### **YSMNC 12.7 Unfair Labor Practices for the Union**

It shall be an unfair labor practice for a labor organization or its agents:

12.7.1 to interfere, restrain, or coerce Eligible Employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed herein;

12.7.2 to engage in, induce, or encourage any individual employed by any person engaged in commerce or in an industry affecting commerce to engage in a strike, a primary or secondary boycott, or a refusal in the course of his employment to use, manufacture, process, transport, or otherwise handle or work on any goods, articles, materials, or commodities, or to perform any services; or to threaten, coerce, or restrain any person engaged in commerce or in an industry affecting commerce or other terms and conditions of employment. This section does not apply to Section 12.12;

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12.7.3 to force or require the Nation and/or employer to recognize or bargain with a particular labor organization as the representative of Eligible Employees if another labor organization has been certified as the representative of such Eligible Employees under the provisions of this TLRA;

12.7.4 to refuse to bargain collectively with the Nation and/or employer, provided it is the representative of Eligible Employees subject to the provisions herein;

12.7.5 to attempt to influence the outcome of a governmental election of the Nation, provided, however, that this section does not apply to Tribal Citizens.

### **YSMNC 12.8 Nation and Union Right to Free Speech**

The Nation's and union's expression of any view, argument, opinion, or the dissemination thereof, whether in written, printed, graphic, or visual form shall not constitute or be evidence of interference, restraint, or coercion if such expression contains no threat of reprisal, force, or promise of benefit.

### **YSMNC 12.9 Access to Eligible Employees**

12.9.1 Access shall be granted to the union for the purposes of organizing Eligible Employees, provided that such organizing activity shall not interfere with patronage of the casino or related facility, or with the normal work routine of the Eligible Employees, and shall be done on non-work time in non-work areas that are designated as employee break rooms or locker rooms that are not open to the public. The Nation may require the union and/or union organizers to be subject to the same licensing rules applied to individuals or entities with similar levels of access to the casino or related facility, provided that such licensing shall not be unreasonable, discriminatory, or designed to impede access.

12.9.2 The Nation, in its discretion, may also designate additional voluntary access to the union in such areas as employee parking lots and non-Casino facilities located on lands of the Nation.

12.9.3 In determining whether organizing activities potentially interfere with normal work routines of the Nation, the union's activities shall not be permitted if the Tribal Labor Panel determines that they compromise the operation of the casino:

- (a) security and surveillance systems throughout the casino and Tribal Trust Lands;
- (b) access limitations designed to ensure security;
- (c) internal controls designed to ensure security;
- (d) other systems designed to protect the integrity of the Nation's gaming operations, tribal property and/or safety of casino personnel, patrons, employees, Tribal Citizens, residents, guests, or invitees.

12.9.4 The Nation shall provide to the union, upon a thirty percent (30%) showing of interest to the Tribal Labor Panel, an election eligibility list containing the full first and last name of the Eligible Employees within the sought-after bargaining unit and the Eligible Employees' last known address, within ten (10) working days. Nothing herein shall preclude a Nation from

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voluntarily providing an election eligibility list at an earlier point of a union organizing campaign.

12.9.5 The Nation agrees to facilitate the dissemination of information from the union to Eligible Employees at the Nation's casino by allowing posters, leaflets, and other written materials to be posted in non-public employee break areas where the Nation already posts announcements pertaining to Eligible Employees. Actual posting of such posters, notices, and other materials shall be by employees desiring to post such materials.

### **YSMNC 12.10 Indian Preference Explicitly Permitted**

Nothing herein shall preclude the Nation from giving Indian preference in employment, promotion, seniority, lay-offs, or retention to citizens of any federally recognized Indian tribe; or shall in any way affect the Nation's right to follow Tribal law, Tribal act, Tribal ordinances, personnel policies, or the Nation's customs and traditions regarding Indian preference in employment, promotion, seniority, lay-offs, or retention. Moreover, in the event of a conflict between Tribal law, Tribal act, Tribal ordinance, or the Nation's customs and traditions regarding Indian preference and this Act, the Tribal law, Tribal act, Tribal ordinance, or the Nation's customs and traditions shall govern.

### **YSMNC 12.11 Secret Ballot Elections Required**

12.11.1 Dated and signed authorized cards from thirty percent (30%) or more of the Eligible Employees within the bargaining unit verified by the elections officer will result in a secret ballot election to be held within thirty (30) days from presentation to the election officer.

12.11.2 The election shall be conducted by the election officer. The election officer shall be a member of the Tribal Labor Panel, chosen pursuant to the dispute resolution provisions herein. All questions concerning representation of the Nation and/or employer's Eligible Employees by a labor organization shall be resolved by the election officer. The election officer shall be chosen upon notification by the labor organization to the Nation of its intention to present authorization cards, and the same election officer shall preside thereafter for all proceedings under the request for recognition; provided, however, that if the election officer resigns, dies, or is incapacitated for any other reason from performing the functions of this office, a substitute election officer shall be selected in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions herein.

12.11.3 The election officer shall certify the labor organization as the exclusive collective bargaining representative of a unit of employees if the labor organization has received the majority of votes by employees voting in a secret ballot election that the election officer determines to have been conducted fairly. If the election officer determines that the election was conducted unfairly due to misconduct by the Nation and/or employer or union, the election officer may order a re-run election. If the election officer determines that there was the commission of serious Unfair Labor Practices by the Nation that interfere with the election process and preclude the holding of a fair election, and the labor organization is able to demonstrate that it had the support of a majority of the employees in the unit at any point before or during the course of the Nation's misconduct, the election officer shall certify the labor organization.

12.11.4 The Nation or the union may appeal any decision rendered after the date of the election by the election officer to a three (3) member panel of the Tribal Labor Panel mutually chosen by

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both parties.

12.11.5 A union which loses an election and has exhausted all dispute remedies related to the election may not invoke any provisions of this Act at that particular casino or related facility until one (1) year after the election was lost.

### **YSMNC 12.12 Collective Bargaining Impasse**

Upon recognition, the Nation and the union will negotiate in good faith for a collective bargaining agreement covering bargaining unit employees represented by the union. If collective bargaining negotiations result in impasse, and the matter has not been resolved by the tribal forum procedures set forth in Section 12.14(b) governing resolution of impasse within sixty (60) working days or such other time as mutually agreed to by the parties, the union shall have the right to strike. Strike-related picketing shall not be conducted on Indian lands as defined in 25 U.S.C. Sec. 2703 (4).

### **YSMNC 12.13 Decertification of Bargaining Agent**

12.13.1 The filing of a petition signed by thirty percent (30%) or more of the Eligible Employees in a bargaining unit seeking the decertification of a certified union will result in a secret ballot election to be held thirty (30) days from the presentation of the petition.

12.13.2 The election shall be conducted by an election officer. The election officer shall be a member of the Tribal Labor Panel chosen pursuant to the dispute resolution provisions herein. All questions concerning the decertification of the labor organization shall be resolved by an election officer. The election officer shall be chosen upon notification to the Nation and the union of the intent of the employees to present a decertification petition, and the same election officer shall preside thereafter for all proceedings under the request for decertification; provided, however, that if the election officer resigns, dies, or is incapacitated for any other reason from performing the functions of this office, a substitute election officer shall be selected in accordance with the dispute resolution provisions herein.

12.13.3 The election officer shall order the labor organization decertified as the exclusive collective bargaining representative if a majority of the employees voting in a secret ballot election, which the election officer determines to have been conducted fairly, vote to decertify the labor organization. If the election officer determines that the election was conducted unfairly due to misconduct by the Nation and/or employer or the union, the election officer may order a re-run election or dismiss the decertification petition.

12.13.4 A decertification proceeding may not begin until one (1) year after the certification of a labor union if there is no collective bargaining agreement. Where there is a collective bargaining agreement, a decertification petition may only be filed no more than ninety (90) days and no less than sixty (60) days prior to the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement. A decertification petition may be filed any time after the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement.

12.13.5 The Nation or the union may appeal any decision rendered after the date of the election by the election officer to a three (3) member panel of the Tribal Labor Panel mutually chosen by both parties.

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### **YSMNC 12.14 Binding Dispute Resolution Mechanism**

12.14.1 All issues shall be resolved exclusively through the binding dispute resolution mechanisms herein, with the exception of a collective bargaining negotiation impasse, which shall only go through the first level of binding dispute resolution.

12.14.2 The first level of binding dispute resolution for all matters related to organizing, election procedures, alleged unfair labor practices, and discharge of Eligible Employees shall be an appeal to a designated tribal forum such as a Tribal Council or Grievance Board. The parties agree to pursue in good faith the expeditious resolution of these matters within strict time limits. The time limits may not be extended without the agreement of both parties. In the absence of a mutually satisfactory resolution, either party may proceed to the independent binding dispute resolution set forth below. The agreed-upon time limits are set forth as follows:

- (a) All matters related to organizing, election procedures, and alleged unfair labor practices prior to the union becoming certified as the collective bargaining representative of bargaining unit employees, shall be resolved by the designated tribal forum within thirty (30) working days.
- (b) All matters after the union has become certified as the collective bargaining representative, and related specifically to impasse during negotiations, shall be resolved by the designated tribal forum within sixty (60) working days.

12.14.3 The second level of binding dispute resolution shall be a resolution by the Tribal Labor Panel, consisting of ten (10) arbitrators appointed by mutual selection of the parties which panel shall serve all tribes that have adopted this Act. The Tribal Labor Panel shall have authority to hire staff and take other actions necessary to conduct elections, determine units, determine scope of negotiations, hold hearings, subpoena witnesses, take testimony, and conduct all other activities needed to fulfill its obligations under this Act.

- (a) Each member of the Tribal Labor Panel shall have relevant experience in federal labor law and/or federal Indian law with preference given to those with experience in both. Names of individuals may be provided by such sources as, but not limited to, Indian Dispute Services, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and the American Academy of Arbitrators.
- (b) Unless either party objects, one (1) arbitrator from the Tribal Labor Panel will render a binding decision on the dispute under the Act. If either party objects, the dispute will be decided by a three (3) member panel of the Tribal Labor Panel, which will render a binding decision. In the event there is one (1) arbitrator, five (5) Tribal Labor Panel names shall be submitted to the parties and each party may strike no more than two (2) names. In the event there is a three (3) member panel, seven (7) Tribal Labor Panel names shall be submitted to the parties, and each party may strike no more than two (2) names. A coin toss shall determine which party may strike the first name. The arbitrator will generally follow the American Arbitration Association's procedural rules relating to labor dispute resolution. The arbitrator or panel must render a written, binding decision that complies in all respects with the provisions of this Act.

12.14.4 Under the third level of binding dispute resolution, either party may seek a motion to compel arbitration or a motion to confirm an arbitration award in Tribal Court, which may be appealed to federal court. If the Tribal Court does not render its decision within ninety (90) days,

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the matter may proceed directly to federal court. In the event the federal court declines jurisdiction, the Nation agrees to a limited waiver of its sovereign immunity for the sole purpose of compelling arbitration or confirming an arbitration award issued pursuant to the Act in the appropriate state superior court. The parties are free to put at issue whether or not the arbitration award exceeds the authority of the Tribal Labor Panel.