The quickest way to tell whether a casino bonus has **bonus-only playthrough** is to find the wagering requirement and check what amount it applies to. If the terms say you must wager a multiple of the bonus amount, and explicitly say your deposit is not included, it is bonus-only wagering. If they apply the multiple to your deposit plus bonus, it is a combined or deposit-and-bonus requirement.

That distinction can change the amount you have to bet by a lot. A "30x" requirement sounds simple, but it https://www.rakeback.com/news/casino-bonuses-how-to-tell-the-good-offers-from-the-noise/ is not useful until you know whether the base is the bonus, your deposit, or both. You also need to check game contributions, exclusions, maximum cashout rules, and withdrawal conditions. A headline offer rarely tells the whole story; the terms do.

## Start With the Wagering Formula

Look for wording such as "wager the bonus amount 30 times," "30x bonus," or "30x D+B." These phrases usually signal different calculations. The operator's definitions matter, so do not rely on the abbreviation alone.

Terms wording Likely calculation Example: $100 deposit and $100 bonus "30x bonus" or "30 times the bonus amount" 30 × bonus $3,000 total wagering "30x deposit" 30 × deposit $3,000 total wagering "30x D+B" or "30 times the deposit plus bonus" 30 × (deposit + bonus) $6,000 total wagering

The table gives the **total amount you must bet**, not the amount you should expect to lose. For a bonus-only offer in this example, the single wagering figure is **$3,000**. That is the number to compare across offers, alongside the rules that govern which bets count.

## Find the Exact Terms Wording

Open the bonus-specific terms before opting in or depositing. Search the page for "wager," "playthrough," "bonus amount," "deposit," "D+B," "cashout," "contribution," "excluded," and "withdrawal." A casino may put the key rule in the promotion details, while other restrictions sit in general terms and conditions. If the bonus page sends you elsewhere, follow the link and read both sections.

Clear terms should tell you:

- Whether the wagering base is the bonus, deposit, or deposit plus bonus.
- The wagering multiplier and the deadline to complete it.
- Which games count and what percentage of each bet contributes.
- Which games or bet types are excluded.
- Whether there is a maximum cashout or maximum bet while the bonus is active.
- What happens to the bonus and winnings if you withdraw early.

Be cautious with vague wording such as "selected games only." That does not tell you whether your preferred games qualify or how much their bets contribute. Ask support for a written answer before playing, and keep a copy of the promotion terms as they appeared when you claimed the offer. If the casino cannot explain the calculation plainly, treat that as a reason to pause—not as a puzzle you need to solve after wagering.

## Bonus-Only Does Not Mean "Easy to Clear"

A bonus-only requirement may have a smaller wagering base than a deposit-and-bonus requirement, but the multiplier can still make it expensive in time and expected losses. For example, 40x on a $100 bonus means **$4,000 in qualifying bets**. If only 10% of your slot bets count, you would need to place $40,000 in actual slot bets to record $4,000 of qualifying wagering.

That is why the contribution rule belongs in the calculation. A slot that contributes 100% credits each eligible dollar bet as one dollar of wagering. A game contributing 10% credits only ten cents for each dollar bet. If a game contributes nothing, bets on it do not move the requirement forward at all.




## Check Game Contributions and Exclusions

Bonus terms commonly assign different contribution rates to slots, table games, live dealer games, video poker, and other categories. The rates are not universal. A casino may also exclude certain titles, progressive jackpots, or game features, even if similar games count. Check the specific promotion's list rather than assuming a whole category qualifies.

Tools or game platforms such as **RealTime Gaming (RTG)** and **SpinLogic** may help you identify the provider or catalogue behind a title, but a provider name does not tell you whether that title contributes to a particular casino bonus. The casino's own bonus terms control. Verify the exact game and contribution rate before betting, especially if you are considering progressive slots or other prominently excluded games.

Some offers also restrict bet size or strategy while wagering. A maximum-bet rule can apply to every spin or hand, and exceeding it may void bonus winnings. Look for the precise limit, whether it changes during play, and how the casino defines a prohibited bet. Do not assume a restriction is harmless because it appears in general terms rather than the bonus page.

## Use RTP and Expected Value as a Reality Check

RTP (return to player) is a long-run theoretical percentage, not a promise about what will happen in one session. It can still help illustrate why a large wagering requirement has a cost. Suppose, purely as an example, that eligible bets are on a game with a theoretical 96% RTP. Its theoretical house edge is 4%.

On $4,000 of eligible wagering, a simple expected-loss estimate is:

**$4,000 × 4% = $160**

This is an approximation, not a forecast. Real results can be much better or worse because outcomes vary, games differ, and the wagering rules may limit your choices. If only 10% of your bets count, the amount you actually place may be far higher than the qualifying wagering figure, increasing the amount of betting exposure. You should not treat a bonus as a way to guarantee profit or as money you are certain to recover.

RTP also does not override exclusions. A high-RTP game that contributes 0% may not help you clear the bonus. Conversely, a fully contributing game can still have an edge and substantial variance. Compare the requirement, contribution, game restrictions, and cashout rules together—not just the advertised bonus size or a game's RTP.

## Do Not Skip the Max Cashout

A maximum cashout cap limits how much you can withdraw from bonus-related winnings, regardless of how much you win. For example, if the terms cap winnings at five times a $100 bonus, the cap may be $500—but confirm whether the rule applies to winnings, the bonus balance, or a different amount. The wording varies. A low max cashout can make a large bonus less valuable, particularly if you can win more than the cap while completing the requirement.

Also check whether the bonus itself is withdrawable, whether it is removed after playthrough, and whether a cashout request cancels unfinished wagering. Some casinos require identity and payment verification before withdrawal. That is a normal part of many regulated processes, but you should understand the required documents and any payment-method rules before depositing. Look for withdrawal limits, fees, processing estimates, and any extra checks described in the terms.

Watch for rules that can erase progress or winnings: a maximum bet breach, playing excluded games, withdrawing early, or using a restricted payment method. These details matter as much as the headline multiplier. If the rules are split across pages, save them and ask support to point to the applicable clause.

## A Quick Checklist Before You Claim

1. **Identify the base:** Is the multiplier applied to the bonus alone, the deposit alone, or deposit plus bonus?
2. **Calculate the total:** Multiply the stated base by the requirement. Write down one clear "must bet" figure.
3. **Adjust for contribution:** If your chosen game contributes 10%, multiply the qualifying target by ten to estimate actual bets needed on that game.
4. **Check the clock:** Note how long you have to finish, and whether the deadline is based on claiming, depositing, or first play.
5. **Read exclusions:** Confirm exact games, progressives, and bet types that do not count.
6. **Find the cap:** Record the maximum cashout and what balance or winnings it applies to.
7. **Review withdrawal rules:** Check verification, early withdrawal, payment, and processing conditions.

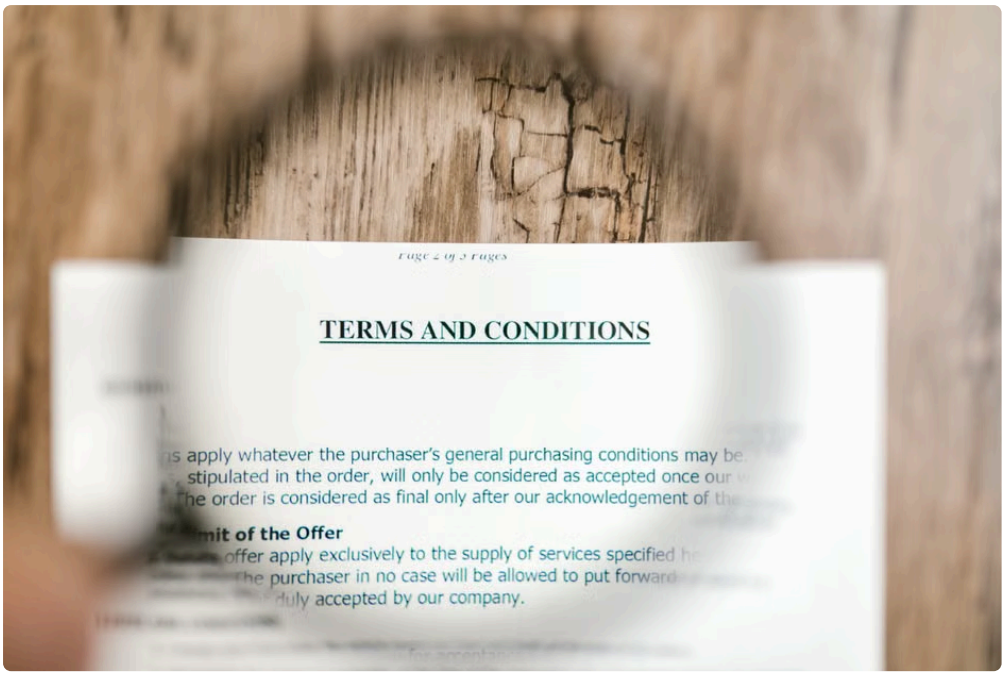
## Where Comparison Sites Fit In

Affiliate and comparison websites can be useful starting points, but they are not a substitute for the casino's current promotion terms. For instance, **Rakeback.com** and **casino.info** may help readers discover or compare offers. Use any listing to shortlist promotions, then verify the wagering base, qualifying games, cashout cap, and withdrawal restrictions at the casino itself. Offers and terms can change, and a concise summary may leave out an important condition.

Responsible-play information matters too. The **National Council on Problem Gambling** at ncpgambling.org offers support and resources for people affected by gambling problems. Bonuses are still gambling, and the wagering target is not a reason to chase losses or spend beyond a set limit. If gambling is causing stress or financial harm, take a break and seek support.

## The Bottom Line

To confirm bonus-only wagering, find a clause that clearly applies the multiplier to the bonus amount and says the deposit is not included. Then calculate the requirement in dollars: a $100 bonus at 30x means **$3,000 in qualifying bets**. That is only the starting point. Game contributions can increase the actual amount you need to bet, exclusions can stop progress, RTP gives only a rough expected-value reality check, and a max cashout can limit what you keep.




If the terms do not plainly answer “what amount is multiplied, which bets count, and how much can I withdraw?”, do not claim the bonus until they do. Clear wording is part of the offer’s real value.