Usually, yes: if both offers use the same calculation, eligible games, cashout rules, and other terms, 30x wagering requires less betting than 40x. On a $100 bonus, that difference is $1,000 in required wagers. But the multiplier alone does not tell you whether a bonus is worthwhile. The wagering base, game contribution, RTP, max cashout, and withdrawal conditions can change the practical value substantially.

This guide compares the two offers using the same assumptions, explains the playthrough difference in dollars, and shows what to check before you deposit or claim. The short version: 30x is the easier requirement, but a lower multiplier does not automatically mean a better bonus.



30x vs 40x wagering: the basic math

First, find out what the multiplier applies to. A casino may calculate wagering on the bonus alone, or on the deposit plus bonus. Those are very different requirements.

Wagering basis 30x requirement 40x requirement Playthrough difference $100 bonus only $3,000 $4,000 $1,000 $100 deposit + $100 bonus ($200 total) $6,000 $8,000 $2,000

The formula is simple: **amount counted toward wagering × multiplier = required betting volume**. “Betting volume” means the total amount wagered, not the amount you must lose, nor the amount you must keep in your balance. If the terms say “40x bonus,” use the bonus amount as the base only if the terms clearly define it that way.

For a $100 bonus-only requirement, 30x means you must place $3,000 in eligible wagers; 40x means $4,000. That extra $1,000 is the **playthrough difference**. If wagering applies to deposit plus bonus, ask whether the deposit is included in the base. A phrase such as “40x wagering” without a clearly stated base is not enough to make a fair comparison.

Does less playthrough mean a better bonus?

All else equal, a lower requirement is friendlier because it asks you to cycle less money through games. But bonuses are bundles of terms, not just multipliers. A 30x offer with a strict cashout cap or narrow game eligibility

can be worse than a 40x offer with more flexible terms. Compare the full offer, not the headline.

Before claiming, check these points:

- Is the multiplier applied to the bonus, deposit, or deposit plus bonus?
- Which games count, and what percentage does each game contribute?
- Are progressive jackpots or specific games excluded?
- Is there a maximum cashout from bonus winnings?
- Do you have to meet a minimum deposit or use a particular payment method?
- Is there a deadline to finish wagering?
- Can the casino remove the bonus or winnings for breaching a bet-size limit?

Do not rely on a promotion banner alone. Find the bonus-specific terms and read them before opting in. This reminds me of something that happened learned this lesson the hard way.. If the details are buried in general terms or the wording is vague, contact support and save the response. “Selected rakeback games only” is not useful until you know which games are selected.

RTP and the real expected cost

Wagering is not free just because a slot’s RTP looks high. RTP, or return to player, is a long-run statistical estimate of how much a game returns across a very large number of wagers. A 96% RTP implies an average theoretical loss of about 4% of the amount wagered over the long run. It does not promise that an individual session will return 96%, and it does not remove variance.

For a rough comparison, assume every dollar of the required wagering is on eligible games with 96% RTP and no contribution restrictions. The theoretical loss associated with $3,000 of wagers is about **$120** (4% × $3,000). For $4,000, it is about **$160**. The 40x requirement therefore represents about $40 more theoretical loss under these assumptions.

That is a simplified estimate, not a prediction of your result. You might finish ahead, lose more, or stop with a balance in between. The estimate also excludes factors such as different game RTP settings, game contribution, bet limits, and withdrawal rules. A bonus can have positive-looking headline value while still carrying a substantial expected cost and a real chance of losing the entire balance.

Use RTP as a reality check, not a guarantee

RTP can help compare eligible games, but confirm the actual game version and its published return. Some titles are available with different RTP configurations. Tools and game libraries associated with RealTime Gaming (RTG) or SpinLogic may show a range of games, but the provider name alone does not establish the RTP, contribution rate, or bonus eligibility for a particular casino offer. Check the casino’s own game and promotion terms.

In simple expected-value thinking, a bonus is more attractive when its usable value is greater than the expected cost of completing its requirements. That calculation is difficult to make precisely because the outcome depends on variance and the complete terms. Treat rough RTP math as a screening tool, not a promise that a bonus will pay for itself.

Game contribution and exclusions can change the math

Not every wager necessarily counts as one dollar toward playthrough. A slot might contribute 100%, while a table game contributes a smaller percentage or nothing. If a game contributes 10%, a $100 wager may count as only

$10 toward the requirement. You would need to place $10,000 in wagers on that game to generate $1,000 of credited playthrough.

Use the eligible-game list and contribution schedule to estimate the real workload. If the terms say only “selected games” without naming them, ask for a list before opting in. Also look for exclusions that apply to particular categories, not just individual titles. Progressive jackpots may be excluded, limited, or treated differently; playing an excluded game could fail to advance wagering or, depending on the terms, put bonus winnings at risk.

Pay attention to bet-size rules as well. Some promotions set a maximum bet while the bonus is active. Exceeding it may void winnings, even if the playthrough is otherwise complete. The limit may be stated per spin, hand, or round. Read the exact wording rather than assuming that ordinary stakes are allowed.

Max cashout caps: the term that can outweigh the multiplier

A maximum cashout limits how much you can withdraw from bonus-related winnings. For example, if a bonus has a $100 cashout cap, finishing wagering with $500 may still leave only $100 eligible for withdrawal, depending on the terms. The exact treatment of your deposit, bonus, and winnings varies, so check how the cap is calculated.

This is one reason a lower multiplier does not automatically make a promotion better. Suppose Offer A is 30x but caps cashout at a low amount, while Offer B is 40x and has no stated bonus winnings cap. Offer A asks for less playthrough, but the cap could restrict its value more than the additional wagering on Offer B. Compare the maximum cashout alongside the multiplier, and look for phrases such as “maximum withdrawal,” “bonus winnings cap,” or “maximum cashout from free spins.”

Also check whether the casino requires a particular balance or wagering sequence before you can withdraw. Withdrawal rules can include identity checks, payment-method restrictions, minimum withdrawal amounts, and processing times. These are not the same as wagering, but they affect how easily you can access eligible funds.

Withdrawal friction and the fine print

Completing playthrough does not necessarily mean a withdrawal is immediate. The operator may require account verification, proof of payment ownership, or additional documents. A bonus may also have a separate expiration date or require you to request a withdrawal within a stated period. Review the process before you start, especially if the promotion has a short deadline.

Here's what kills me: affiliate and review sites can help you find promotions, but verify every offer against the casino’s current rules. Rakeback.com and casino.info may be useful places to research casino-related information; neither replaces the specific terms attached to the offer you plan to claim. Promotions change, and a general review may not reflect the latest bonus wording or withdrawal policy.

When the bonus terms are unclear, ask support a direct question, such as: “For this $100 bonus, is wagering 30x the bonus only or the deposit plus bonus, and what is the maximum cashout?” Save the answer and the dated terms. If support will not clarify a material rule, consider skipping the offer.



A practical bonus comparison checklist

1. **Calculate the required betting volume.** Multiply the stated base by 30 or 40. For a $100 bonus-only offer, that is $3,000 versus $4,000.
2. **Confirm what counts.** Check contribution rates, excluded games, and any progressive-jackpot restrictions.
3. **Check the cashout cap.** A low cap can erase much of the appeal of a bonus, even when wagering is lower.
4. **Review deadlines and bet limits.** Note when wagering expires and the maximum permitted wager while the bonus is active.
5. **Consider the theoretical cost.** Use eligible-game RTP as a rough estimate, while remembering that results vary and RTP is not a guarantee.
6. **Read the withdrawal rules.** Check verification, payment, minimum withdrawal, and processing requirements.

So, is 30x on $100 better than 40x?

For the wagering requirement alone, yes. If both multipliers apply to the same $100 bonus, the 30x offer requires $3,000 in eligible wagers, compared with $4,000 at 40x—a $1,000 reduction. Under a simplified 96% RTP assumption, that lower volume also reduces theoretical loss by about $40.

But that conclusion only holds when the other terms are comparable. A different wagering base can double the required volume. Low game contribution can make the practical playthrough much larger. Progressive exclusions, a restrictive max cashout, a tight deadline, or withdrawal friction can outweigh the benefit of the lower multiplier.

Make the comparison in dollars, not just “30x” versus “40x.” Confirm the wagering base, calculate the total eligible betting volume, and read the bonus-specific terms before you opt in. If the numbers are unclear, do not assume the most favorable interpretation.

Play responsibly

Bonuses are not a way to guarantee profit or recover losses. Set a budget you can afford to lose, do not borrow to gamble, and stop if play is causing stress or affecting your finances or relationships. The National Council on

Problem Gambling at ncpgambling.org offers information and support resources. If you are concerned about your gambling, consider using account limits or self-exclusion tools and reaching out for help.