SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

PROBLEMS TO BE SOLVED BY THE INVENTION

[0005]

Embodiments of the present invention seek to enhance the security management of casino items given identification information.

SOLUTION TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS

[0005a]

According to an aspect, there is provided a casino system in a casino that uses casino items, each casino item having an RFID tag that stores identification information, the casino system comprising: a registration device configured to register the identification information of the casino items to be used in the casino; and a storage device configured to store a list including the identification information registered by the registration device and status information indicating whether or not a casino item is available for use, wherein the status information indicating that the casino item is not available for use includes multiple types of information; and the registration device is configured to set the status information of a casino item from available to not available when the casino item satisfies a first condition.

[0006]

One type of casino system is a casino system in a casino that uses a casino item to which an RFID tag storing identification information is attached, and is equipped with a registration device that registers the identification information of the casino item that can be used in the casino, and a storage device that stores a list of the identification information registered by the registration device. The registration device performs an invalidation process to invalidate the registration of the identification information of the casino item when the casino item whose identification information is stored in the storage device as usable casino item meet the specified conditions.

[0007]

With this configuration, the registration of casino item that meet the predetermined conditions for invalidating the registration can be invalidated, and the invalidation process can be performed for casino item that were once registered but later became in a state where they should not be registered. The invalidation process includes deleting the item from the list of the storage device, storing the information that the item is invalid in the list of the storage device, and further includes storing the information that the item is suspicious, needs attention, or is a candidate for invalidation in the list of the storage device.

[0008]

In the casino system described above, the system is further equipped with a reader that reads the identification information from the RFID tag of the casino item to be registered. The identification information of the casino item that is determined to be genuine can be registered as the identification information of the usable casino

CLAIMS:

1. A casino system in a casino that uses casino items, each casino item having an RFID tag that stores identification information, the casino system comprising:

a registration device configured to register the identification information of the casino items to be used in the casino; and

a storage device configured to store a list including the identification information registered by the registration device and status information indicating whether or not a casino item is available for use, wherein

the status information indicating that the casino item is not available for use includes multiple types of information, and

the registration device is configured to set the status information of a casino item from available to not available when the casino item satisfies a first condition.

2. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the status information indicating that the casino item is not available is at least one of the following: (1) information indicating that the casino item is unavailable, (2) information indicating that the casino item is suspected of being fraudulent, (3) information indicating that the status is unknown, (4) information indicating that the casino item requires caution, (5) information indicating that the casino item is a candidate for being not available, or (6) information indicating that the casino item has been discarded.

3. The casino system according to claim 2, wherein

the registration device is configured to set the status information indicating that the casino item is not available as (1) information indicating that the casino item is unavailable when the status information indicating that the casino item is not available is (2) information indicating that the casino item is suspected of being fraudulent, (3) information indicating

that the status is unknown, (4) information indicating that the casino item requires caution, or (5) information indicating that the casino item is a candidate for being not available and a second condition is satisfied.

4. The casino system according to claim 2, wherein

the registration device is configured, when moving a casino item for which the status information is available, to set the status information as (5) information indicating that the casino item is a candidate for being not available, and to set the status information as the information indicating that the casino item is available after completion of the move.

5. The casino system according to claim 2, wherein

the registration device is configured, when moving a casino item for which the status casino item is available, to set the status information as (5) information indicating that the casino item is a candidate for being not available, and to set the status information as (1) information indicating that the casino item is unavailable when a predetermined time elapses without completion of the move.

6. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the registration device is configured to set the status information to indicate that the casino item is available when the casino item that has already been registered and is stored in a storage area is taken out of the storage area for use in the casino.

7. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the registration device is configured to store the identification information in the list in the storage device when the identification information in a manufacturer's list provided by a manufacturer of the casino item matches the identification information stored in the RFID tag of the casino item.

8. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the registration device is configured to store the identification information in the list of the storage device for a casino item for which a manufacturer determines that the identification information in the manufacturer's list and the identification information stored in the RFID tag of the casino item match.

9. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reader device configured to read the RFID tags of a plurality of casino items housed in a case, wherein

the registration device is configured to register the identification information of the plurality of casino items read by the reader device.

10. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the registration device is configured to re-set the status information of a casino item, which is set to indicate that the casino item is unavailable, to indicate that the casino item is available when a third condition is satisfied.

11. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reader device configured to read the identification information from the RFID tag of the casino item, wherein

the registration device is configured to set the status information of the casino item, for which the identification information cannot be validly read by the reader device, to indicate that the casino item is unavailable.

12. The casino system according to claim 11, further comprising:

a reader device configured to read the identification information from the RFID tag of the casino item, wherein

the casino item carries information for identifying the casino item by means other than the RFID tag,

the registration device is configured, for the casino item whose identification information cannot be read by the reader device, to identify the casino item for which status information is to be set to indicate that the casino item is unavailable based on information for identifying the casino item, and to set the status information to indicate that the casino item is unavailable.

13. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the registration device is configured to set the status information for the casino items related to or suspected of being related to a rigged game as (2) information indicating that the casino items are suspected of being related to a rigged game.

14. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reader configured to read the identification information from the RFID tag of the casino item, wherein

the casino item carries information for identifying the casino item by means other than the RFID tag,

the registration device is configured to, when the identification information read from the RFID tag of the casino item by the reader is not registered in the storage device as identification information of the available casino item, identify the casino item for which the status information should be set to an unavailable status using the information to identify the casino item.

15. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the RFID tag stores manufacturing information indicating the manufacturing status of the casino item, type information indicating the type of the casino item, and/or information on the casino where the casino item is used,

the storage device is configured to store, together with the identification information, the manufacturing information,

the type information, and/or the information of the casino corresponding to the identification information,

the registration device is configured to disable the status information for the casino item having the identification information when the manufacturing information, the type information, and/or the casino information stored in the RFID tag does not match the manufacturing information, the type information, and/or the casino information stored in the storage device.

16. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the registration device is configured to store information indicating the year and month of registration of the identification information of the casino item in the storage device, and refer to the storage device to disable the status information of the casino item for which a predetermined period of time has elapsed since the year and month of registration.

17. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a management device configured to notify the registration device of the identification information of the casino items that should be de-registered as available casino items at each of a plurality of casino item handling locations within the casino,

the registration device is configured to set the status information to an unavailable status for the casino items in question based on the notification from the management device.

18. The casino system as recited in claim 17, further comprising:

a storage tray configured to store the casino items owned by the casino at the casino item handling location; and

a reader device configured to monitor the casino items by periodically reading RFID tags of the casino items stored in the storage tray, wherein

the status information is set to an unavailable status for the casino items that have been unauthorizedly removed from the storage tray based on reading results of the reader device.

19. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the casino uses multiple types of the casino items,

the registration device is configured to store the types of the casino items along with the identification information for each of the multiple types of casino items in the storage device,

the registration device is configured to set the status information to an unavailable status for a particular type of the casino item.

20. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reader device provided at each of a plurality of casino item handling locations within the casino and configured to read the identification information from the RFID tags of the casino items, wherein

the registration device is configured to, when the same identification information is read by the reader device at a plurality of casino item handling, and when the combination of such readings satisfies a condition for determining fraud, disable the status information for the casino item having such identification information.

21. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reader device provided at each of a plurality of casino item handling locations within the casino and configured to read the identification information from the RFID tags of the casino items, wherein

the registration device is configured to disable the status information of the casino item having the identification information that has not been read by the reader device at any

of the casino item handling locations within the casino for a predetermined period of time or longer.

22. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a reader device configured to read the identification information from the RFID tag of the casino item to be deactivated, wherein

the registration device is configured to disable the status information for the identification information read by the reader device.

23. The casino system according to claim 1, further comprising:

a detection device configured to detect the casino items brought in from outside the casino, wherein

the registration device is configured to disable the status information for the casino items detected by the detection device.

24. The casino system according to claim 1, wherein

the registration device is configured to store in the storage device the identification information of casino items that meet a predetermined condition of the casino items for which the status information is an unavailable status as identification information that is not registrable, and is further configured to, when a new registration is made, if the identification information of the casino items for which the registration is made is stored in the storage device as identification information that is not registrable, prohibit the registration.

25. The casino system according to any of claims 1-24, wherein the casino item can be used by a player in the casino to place bets in a game and can be redeemed for cash.