

GAMBLING COMMISSION

Conditions and Codes of Practice applicable to:

Non-remote General Betting Licences

Non-remote Pool Betting Licences

Non-remote Betting Intermediary Licences

December 2008

Your licence is subject to certain conditions and codes of practice, these are detailed in the following pages

Statutory conditions attached by virtue of the Act

Social responsibility

This licence is subject to a condition that the licensee ensures compliance with any relevant social responsibility provision of a code of practice issued by the Commission. The social responsibility provisions that are relevant to the activities authorised by this licence are set out in the section entitled Codes of Practice.

(Sections 24 and 82(1) Gambling Act 2005)

Return of stakes to children

The following condition applies to all operating licences except pool betting operating licences restricted to football only

This licence is subject to a condition that if the licensee (or anyone employed by the licensee to perform an operational function within the meaning of Section 80 of the Act) becomes aware that a child or young person is using or has used facilities for gambling provided in reliance on the licence, the licensee:

- (a) must return any money paid in respect of the use of those facilities (whether by way of fee, stake or otherwise) by the child or young person as soon as is reasonably practicable; and
- (b) may not give a prize to the child or young person.

This condition does not apply to use of a Category D gaming machine.

(Section 83(1))

The following condition applies to pool betting operating licences restricted to football only

This licence is subject to a condition that if the licensee (or anyone employed by the licensee to perform an operational function within the meaning of Section 80 of the Act) becomes aware that a child is using or has used facilities for gambling provided in reliance on the licence, the licensee;

- (a) must return any money paid in respect of the use of those facilities (whether by way of fee, stake or otherwise) by the child as soon as is reasonably practicable, and
- (b) may not give a prize to the child.

This condition does not apply to use of a Category D gaming machine.

(Section 83(1))

Other statutory conditions

This licence is subject to a condition that nothing may be done in reliance on the licence in relation to a bet on the outcome of a lottery which forms part of the National Lottery.

(Section 95(2))

The following condition applies to all general betting operating licences only

This licence is subject to a condition that bets may be accepted on behalf of the licensee only by:

- (a) the licensee;
- (b) a person employed by the licensee under a written contract of employment; or
- (c) the holder of another general betting operating licence.

(Section 92(1))

The following condition applies to all pool betting operating licences only

This licence is subject to a condition that bets may be accepted on behalf of the licensee only:

- (a) by the licensee,
- (b) by a person employed by the licensee under a written contract of employment,
- (c) by the holder of another pool betting operating licence, or
- (d) by an agent, provided the agent is authorised by the licensee in writing to accept bets on behalf of the licensee, the agent is an adult, at the time of accepting the bet the agent is on a track, the bet is accepted in reliance on an occasional use notice and the bet is in connection with a horse race or dog race
- (e) where this pool betting operating licence authorises (whether expressly or impliedly) the provision of facilities for football pools, by an adult or young person authorised by the licensee in writing to make documents or other facilities available in connection with the licensed activities, to receive entries on behalf of the licensee, to receive payments on behalf of the licensee, or to make payments of winnings on behalf of the licensee.

(Section 93(1),(2) &(3))

Commission General Conditions

The Commission's complete suite of Licence Conditions to be attached to operating licences pursuant to section 75 of the Act includes some conditions which may not apply to your licence. Where that is the case the irrelevant conditions have not been reproduced below. The full list of Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice are contained within the Commission's Publication "Licence Conditions and Codes of Practice"

Qualified persons and personal licences

Qualified persons

The following condition applies to all operating licences issued to small-scale operators

In this condition the terms 'small-scale operator', 'qualifying position' and 'qualified person' have the meanings respectively ascribed to them by the Gambling Act 2005 (Definition of Small-scale Operator) Regulations 2006.

Schedule X¹ lists those individuals notified to the Commission as qualified persons.

If, whilst the licensee remains a small-scale operator, an individual begins or ceases to occupy a qualifying position in relation to the licensee, the licensee must within 28 days apply to the Commission under s104(1)(b) for amendment of the details of the licence set out in Schedule X¹.

An application for amendment under s104(1)(b) may be made in advance of an individual beginning or ceasing to occupy a qualifying position provided it specifies the date from which the change to which it relates is to be effective.

The following condition applies to all general betting licences issued to small-scale operators

Schedule Y¹ to this licence lists those of the licensee's employees whose details have been provided to the Commission as authorised by the licensee to accept bets on the licensee's behalf on a track otherwise than under the supervision of a qualified person present on the same track.

¹ The schedules mentioned here will be attached to individual licences.

Should the licensee wish to add an individual to the list or remove the name of an individual from the list the licensee must make application to the Commission under s104(1)(b) for amendment of that detail of the licence. Any employee the licensee wishes to add to the list may act unsupervised pending amendment of the licence provided a valid amendment application has been lodged with the Commission.

In this condition 'qualified person' has the same meaning as in the Gambling Act 2005 (Definition of Small-scale Operator) Regulations 2006.

Personal licences

(a) Subject to (e) and (f) below licensees must ensure:

- (i) that each individual who occupies one of the management offices specified in (b) below in or in respect of the licensee or in connection with the licensed activities holds a personal licence authorising the performance of the functions of that office (hereafter 'a personal management licence')
- (ii) that at least one person occupies at least one of those offices.

(b) The specified management offices are those offices (whether or not held by a director in the case of a licensee which is a company, a partner in the case of a licensee which is a partnership or an officer of the association in the case of a licensee which is an unincorporated association) the occupier of which is by virtue of the terms of their appointment responsible for:

- the overall management and direction of the licensee's business or affairs
- the licensee's finance function as head of that function
- the licensee's gambling regulatory compliance function as head of that function
- the licensee's marketing function as head of that function
- the licensee's information technology function as head of that function in so far as it relates to gambling-related information technology and software
- oversight of the day to day management of the licensed activities at an identified number of premises licensed under Part 8 of the Act or across an identified geographical area
- in the case of casino and bingo licences only, oversight of the day to day management of a single set of premises licensed under Part 8 of the Act.

(c) Licensees must take all reasonable steps to ensure that anything done in the performance of the functions of a specified management office is done in accordance with the terms and conditions of the holder's personal management licence.

(d) Where an individual is authorised by a personal licence and that licence comes under review under section 116(2) of the Act, the operating licensee must comply with any conditions subsequently imposed on that licence by the Commission about redeployment, supervision, or monitoring of the individual's work and any requirements of the Commission in respect of such matters applicable during the period of the review.

(e) Paragraphs (a) to (d) above shall not apply to a licensee for so long as the licensee is a 'small-scale operator' as defined in the Gambling Act 2005 (Definition of Small-scale Operator) Regulations 2006 ('the Regulations').

(f) During the period of 3 years commencing with the date on which a licensee ceases to be a small-scale operator paragraphs (a) to (e) above shall apply subject to the proviso that the phrase 'each individual' in paragraph (a)(i) shall not include any individual who was a 'qualified person' (as defined in the Regulations) in relation to the licensee 28 days immediately prior to the licensee ceasing to be a small-scale operator.

Financial robustness

Notification of shareholders

All company licensees must notify the Commission of the name and address of any person who becomes a shareholder in the company or its holding company holding 3% or more of the issued share capital of the company or its holding company; or any existing shareholder who acquires a holding of 3% or more of the issued share capital of the company or its holding company.

In this condition 'holding company' has the meaning ascribed to that term by section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof.

Protection of customer funds

Licensees who hold customer funds for use in future gambling must set out clearly, in information made available to customers in writing, whether they protect customers' funds in the event of insolvency and the method by which this is achieved.

Cash handling

Licensees, as part of their internal controls and financial accounting systems, must have and put into effect policies and procedures concerning the handling of cash, and cash equivalents (ie bankers drafts, cheques and debit cards), designed to minimise the risk of crimes such as money laundering, to avoid the giving of illicit credit and to provide assurance that gambling activities are being conducted fairly.

General 'fair and open' provisions

Licensees must satisfy themselves that the terms on which gambling is offered are not unfair under the Unfair Terms in Consumer Contracts Regulations 1999 and, where applicable, meet the reasonableness test under the Unfair Contract Terms Act 1977. An accurate summary of the contractual terms on which gambling is offered must be made available to customers and set out in plain and intelligible language.

Customers must be notified of changes to terms before they come into effect.

Betting intermediaries

The following condition applies to betting intermediary operating licences only

Licensees must not lay bets on their own behalf when operating in their capacity as a public tic-tac on a track.

Tic-tacs must act only in relation to bets between holders of general betting operating licences (whether acting as principal or agent or through their authorised employees).

Pool betting

The following condition applies to all pool betting operating licences except those restricted to football only

Licensees must inform the Commission, within 14 days, in writing, of any person they authorise under section 93(2) of the Act to offer pool betting on a track in connection with a horserace or dog race in reliance on an occasional use notice. In doing so, they must include the terms and conditions under which this has been agreed, and provide contact details of the management and key staff of those that are authorised.

Licensees and any person they so authorise must produce and retain a record of the transactions relevant to each pool that they offer. The record must be capable of identifying individual bets into the pool and relating these to subsequent payment of winnings where applicable. Licensees must make this information available to the Commission on request.

The following condition only applies to all pool betting operating licences which authorise football pools

Licensees must inform the Commission, within 14 days, in writing, of any person they authorise under Section 93(3) of the Act in respect of football pool betting. In doing so, they must include the terms and conditions under which this has been agreed.

Licensees and any person they so authorise must produce and retain a record of the transactions relevant to each pool that they offer. The record must be capable of identifying individual bets into the pool and relating these to the subsequent payment of winnings where applicable. Licensees must make this information available to the Commission on request.

The following condition applies to all pool betting operating licences only

Licensees must produce annual accounts which should be certified by a qualified independent accountant. Licensees must make copies available to the Commission.

Access to premises

Licensees must have and put into effect policies and procedures (including staff training programmes) designed to ensure that their staff co-operate with the Commission's enforcement officers in the proper performance of their compliance functions and are made aware of those officers' rights of entry to premises contained in Part 15 of the Act.

Information requirements

Reporting suspicion of offences etc

Licensees must provide the Commission with any information that they:

- know relates to or suspect may relate to the commission of an offence under the Act, including an offence resulting from a breach of a licence condition or a code provision having the effect of a licence condition
- suspect may lead the Commission to consider making an order to void a bet.

Licensees who accept bets, or facilitate the making or acceptance of bets between others, on the outcome of horse races or other sporting events governed by one of the sport governing bodies for the time being included in Part 3 of Schedule 6 to the Act must also provide the relevant sport governing body with sufficient information to conduct an effective investigation if the licensee suspects that information in their possession may:

- lead the Commission to consider making an order to void a bet
- relate to a breach of a rule on betting applied by that sport governing body.

Reporting 'Key Events'

A key event is an event that could have a significant impact on the nature or structure of a licensee's business. Licensees must notify the Commission of the occurrence of any of the following key events as soon as reasonably practicable and in any event within five working days of the licensee becoming aware of the event's occurrence².

- in the case of licensees which are companies, a petition being presented for their winding up or the winding up of any group company of theirs, or they or any group company being placed in administration or receivership: in this condition a 'group company' is any subsidiary or holding company of the licensee – as those terms are defined in section 1159 of the Companies Act 2006 or any statutory modification or re-enactment thereof – and any subsidiary of such holding company
- in the case of a licensee who is an individual (or a partner in a partnership licensee) their being presented with a petition for their bankruptcy or sequestration or their entering into an individual voluntary agreement
- where the licensee is required to have their accounts independently audited, any unplanned change of auditor including a change prompted by a dispute or resulting from auditors being unable or unwilling to sign an unqualified audit report
- the departure from the licensee's business of any person occupying a 'qualifying position' as defined by Regulation 2(2) of the Gambling Act 2005 (Definition of Small-scale Operator) Regulations 2006
- any breach of a covenant given to a bank or other lender
- any default in making repayment of the whole or any part of a loan on its due date
- any court judgments remaining unpaid 14 days after the date of judgment
- the commencement of any material litigation against the licensee
- the imposition of a disciplinary sanction, including dismissal, against the holder of a personal licence or a person occupying a qualifying position for gross misconduct; or the resignation of a personal licence holder or person occupying a qualifying position following commencement of disciplinary proceedings in respect of gross misconduct against that person
- in the case of remote gambling, the commencement or cessation of trading on website domains (including WAP URLs) or broadcast media through which the licensee provides gambling facilities.

General and Regulatory Returns

On request, licensees must provide the Commission with such information as the Commission may require about the use made of facilities provided in accordance with this licence, and the manner in which gambling authorised by this licence and the licensee's business in relation to that gambling are carried on, including in particular information about:

- the numbers of people making use of the facilities and the frequency of such use
- the range of gambling activities provided by the licensee and the numbers of staff employed in connection with them
- the licensee's policies in relation to, and experiences of, problem gambling.

In particular, within 28 days of the end of each quarterly or annual period as the case may be, licensees must submit a Regulatory Return to the Commission containing such information as the Commission may from time to time require³.

² Key events can be reported securely online at the Commission's website at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or by email to key.events@gamblingcommission.gov.uk or posted to Key Events, Compliance Administration Team, Gambling Commission, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham B2 4BP

³ Regulatory returns can be submitted securely online at the Commission's website at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk For operators unable to access this system, the forms and a guide to completing them can be requested from the Commission and returned by email to Regulatory>Returns@gamblingcommission.gov.uk or by post to Regulatory Returns, Compliance Administration Team, Gambling Commission, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP

Secretary of State General Conditions

None at present

Codes of practice

Introduction

This is the Commission's principal code of practice, issued under section 24 of the Gambling Act 2005, as revised with effect from 1 January 2009. There are two types of provision in the code:

- social responsibility provisions: compliance with these is a condition of licences; therefore any breach of them by an operator may lead the Commission to review the operator's licence with a view to suspension, revocation or the imposition of a financial penalty and would also expose the operator to the risk of prosecution; and
- ordinary code provisions: these do not have the status of licence conditions, but are admissible in evidence in criminal or civil proceedings and must be taken into account in any case in which the court or tribunal think them relevant and by the Commission in the exercise of its functions. Any breach of ordinary code provisions by an operator may be taken into account by the Commission on a licence review, but cannot lead to imposition of a financial penalty. These code provisions generally set out good practice in these areas.

Financial requirements

The following code applies to all general betting operating licences, all betting intermediary operating licences and all pool betting operating licences, except those restricted to football pools only

Ordinary code provision

As part of their procedures for compliance with the requirements in respect of the prevention and detection of money laundering in the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 and the Terrorism Act 2000, licensees should:

- unless there is a specific reason not to do so, appoint one or more nominated officers whose duty it is to take overall responsibility for the anti-money laundering procedures within the operation, in particular with respect to Suspicious Activity Reporting; and ensure, through appropriate training and guidance, that all staff who handle money or accounts or accept bets are aware of their duties under anti-money laundering legislation to report all suspicious activity to the nominated officer in a timely manner or, where there is no such nominated officer, directly and promptly to the police. It is the nominated officer's duty to consider such reports and to forward them where appropriate to the Serious Organised Crime Agency
- adopt (or reflect in their procedures) the Association of British Bookmakers' guidelines.

Ordinary code provision

In order to help prevent activities related to money laundering licensees should take into account the Commission's advice on the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, *Duties and responsibilities under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002. Advice for operators (excluding casino operators)*.

Protection of children and other vulnerable persons

Combating problem gambling

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must have and put into effect policies and procedures intended to promote socially responsible gambling.

Licensees' policies and procedures for socially responsible gambling must include but need not be confined to:

- the specific policies and procedures required by the following provisions of section 2 of this code
- a commitment to and how they will contribute to research into the prevention and treatment of problem gambling
- a commitment to and how they will contribute to public education on the risks of gambling and how to gamble safely
- a commitment to and how they will contribute to the identification and treatment of problem gamblers.

Access to gambling by children and young persons

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must have and put into effect policies and procedures designed to prevent underage gambling, and monitor the effectiveness of these.

This must include procedures for:

- checking the age of apparently underage customers
- removing from adult-only licensed premises anyone who appears to be underage who tries to access the gambling facilities and cannot produce an acceptable form of identification
- taking action when there are attempts by under-18s to enter adult-only premises
- refusing entry to any adult-only area of a track to anyone unable to produce an acceptable form of identification
- taking action when there are unlawful attempts to enter the adult-only areas.

Licensees must not deliberately provide facilities for gambling in such a way as to appeal particularly to children or, except in the case of football pools, young people, for example by reflecting or being associated with youth culture.

In premises restricted to adults, service must be refused in any circumstances where any adult is accompanied by a child or young person.

Licensees must take all reasonable steps to ensure that all staff understand their responsibilities for preventing underage gambling. This must include appropriate training which must cover the legal requirements on returning stakes and not paying prizes to underage customers.

Licensees must only accept identification which:

- contains a photograph from which the individual can be identified
- states the individual's date of birth
- is valid
- is legible and has no visible signs of tampering or reproduction.

In the case of non-remote pool betting licensees, where pool entries or payments are collected door to door by the licensee or the licensee's authorised agent the licensee's procedures must include procedures for:

- checking the age of apparently underage entrants to the pool; and
- taking action when there are unlawful attempts to enter the pool.

Ordinary code provision

The Commission considers acceptable forms of identification to include any identification carrying the PASS logo (for example Citizencard or Validate); a driving licence (including a provisional licence) with photocard; or a passport.

Licensees should put into effect procedures that require their staff to check the age of any customer who appears to them to be under 21.

Licensees should consider permanent exclusion from premises for any adult accompanied by a child or young person on more than one occasion to premises restricted to adults, or if there is reason to believe the offence was committed knowingly or recklessly.

Procedures should be put into effect for dealing with cases where a child or young person repeatedly attempts to gamble on premises restricted to adults, including oral warnings, reporting the offence to the Gambling Commission and the police, and making available information on problem gambling.

Information on how to gamble responsibly and help for problem gamblers

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must make information readily available to their customers on how to gamble responsibly and how to access information about, and help in respect of, problem gambling.

The information must cover:

- any measures provided by the licensee to help individuals monitor or control their gambling, such as restricting the duration of a gambling session or the amount of money they can spend
- timers or other forms of reminders or 'reality checks' where available
- self-exclusion options
- information about the availability of further help or advice.

The information must be directed to all customers whether or not licensees also make available material which is directed specifically at customers who may be 'problem gamblers'.

For gambling premises, information must be available in all areas where gambling facilities are provided and adjacent to ATMs where these are not located in a gambling area. As a minimum, information must be displayed prominently on posters appropriate to the size and layout of the premises and contained in leaflets that may be taken away. Licensees must take all reasonable steps to ensure that this information is also readily accessible in locations which enable the customer to obtain it discreetly.

Ordinary code provision

Licensees who market their services in one or more foreign languages should make available in that, or those, foreign languages:

- the information on how to gamble responsibly and access to help referred to above
- the players' guides to any game, bet or lottery required to be made available to customers under provisions in this code
- the summary of the contractual terms on which gambling is offered, which is required to be provided to customers as a condition of the licensee's operating licence.

Customer interaction

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must put into effect policies and procedures for customer interaction where they have concerns that a customer's behaviour may indicate problem gambling. The policies must include:

- identification of the appropriate level of management who may initiate customer interaction and the procedures for doing so

- the types of behaviour that will be logged/reported to the appropriate level of staff and which may trigger customer interaction at an appropriate moment
- the circumstances in which consideration should be given to refusing service to customers and/or barring them from the operator's gambling premises
- training for all staff on their respective responsibilities, in particular so that they know who is designated to deal with problem gambling issues.

But such policies and procedures must be consistent with, and implemented with due regard to, licensees' duties in respect of the health and safety of their staff.

Self-exclusion

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must have and put into effect procedures for self-exclusion and take all reasonable steps to refuse service or to otherwise prevent an individual who has entered a self-exclusion agreement from participating in gambling.

Licensees must, as soon as practicable, take all reasonable steps to prevent any marketing material being sent to a self-excluded customer.

Licensees must take steps to remove the name and details of a self-excluded individual from any marketing databases used by the company or group (or otherwise flag that person as an individual to whom marketing material must not be sent), within two days of receiving the completed self-exclusion notification.

This covers any marketing material relating to gambling, or other activities that take place on the premises where gambling may take place. However, it would not extend to blanket marketing which is targeted at a particular geographical area and where the excluded individual would not knowingly be included.

Licensees must close any customer accounts of an individual who has entered a self exclusion agreement and return any funds held in the customer account. It is not sufficient merely to prevent an individual from withdrawing funds from their customer account whilst still accepting wagers from them. Where the giving of credit is permitted, the licensee may retain details of the amount owed to them by the individual, although the account must not be active.

Licensees must put into effect procedures designed to ensure that an individual who has self-excluded cannot gain access to gambling. These procedures must include:

- a register of those excluded with appropriate records (name, address, other details, and any membership or account details that may be held by the operator)
- photo identification (where available and in particular where enforcement of the system may depend on photographic ID), and a signature
- staff training to ensure that staff are able to enforce the systems
- the removal of those persons found in the gambling area or attempting to gamble from the premises.

Ordinary code provision

Self-exclusion procedures should require individuals to take positive action in order to self-exclude. This can be a signature on a self-exclusion form.

Wherever practicable, individuals should be able to self-exclude without having to enter gambling premises.

Before an individual self-excludes, licensees should provide or make available sufficient information about what the consequences of self-exclusion are.

Licensees should take all reasonable steps to extend the self-exclusion to premises of the same type owned by the operator in the customer's local area. In setting the bounds of that area licensees may take into account the customer's address (if known to them), anything else known to them about the distance the customer ordinarily travels to gamble and any specific request the customer may make.

Licensees should encourage the customer to consider extending their self exclusion to other licensees' gambling premises in the customer's local area.

Customers should be given the opportunity to discuss self-exclusion in private, where possible.

Licensees should take steps to ensure that:

- the self-exclusion period is a minimum of six months and give customers the option of extending this to a total of at least five years
- a customer who has decided to enter a self-exclusion agreement is given the opportunity to do so immediately without any cooling-off period. However, if the customer wishes to consider the self-exclusion further (for example to discuss with problem gambling groups) the customer may return at a later date to enter into self-exclusion
- at the end of the period chosen by the customer (and at least six months later), the self-exclusion remains in place, unless the customer takes positive action in order to gamble again. No marketing material should be sent to the individual unless the individual has taken positive action in order to gamble again, and has agreed to accept such material
- where a customer chooses not to renew the self-exclusion, and makes a positive request to begin gambling again, the customer is given one day to cool off before being allowed access to gambling facilities. The contact must be made via telephone or in person.

The licensee should retain the records relating to a self-exclusion agreement at least until the agreement has been formally ended.

(Please note that the Commission does not require the licensee to carry out any particular assessment or make any judgement as to whether the previously self-excluded individual should again be permitted access to gambling. The requirement to take positive action in person or over the phone is purely to a) check that the customer has considered the decision to access gambling again and allow them to consider the implications; and b) implement the one day cooling-off period and explain why this has been put in place.)

Employment of children and young persons

The following code applies to all pool betting operating licences restricted to football only

Ordinary code provision

Licensees who employ young persons (16 and 17 year olds) to sell tickets, collect payments or pay out winnings should have and put into effect policies and procedures designed to ensure that all staff, including staff who are young persons themselves, are made aware that the law prohibits underage gambling, and that tickets may only be sold to persons aged 16 or over.

The following code applies to all general betting and all pool betting operating licences only

Ordinary code provision

Licensees who employ children (under-16-year-olds) and young persons (those aged 16 and 17) should be aware that it is an offence:

- a) to employ children to provide facilities for gambling in connection with football pools;
- b) otherwise to employ children and young persons to provide facilities for gambling;
- c) if gaming machines are sited on the premises, for their contracts of employment to require them, or for them to be permitted, to perform a function in connection with a gaming machine at any time; and
- d) to employ them to carry out any other function on betting licensed premises while any gambling activity is being carried on in reliance on the premises licence.

As to c) it should be noted that in the Commission's view the relevant provision of the Act applies to any function performed in connection with a gaming machine. This includes servicing or cleaning such a machine.

Accordingly, licensees should have and put into effect policies and procedures designed to ensure that:

- children are never asked to perform tasks within (a) above
- children and young persons are never asked to perform tasks within b) above
- all staff, including those who are children or young persons themselves, are instructed about the laws relating to access to gambling by children and young persons

and should consider adopting a policy that:

- children and young persons are not employed to work on betting licensed premises at any time when the premises are open for business
- gaming machines are turned off if children and young persons are working on the premises outside the hours when the premises are open for business.

Provision of credit by licensees and the use of credit cards

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees who choose to accept credit cards must:

- accept payment by credit card for gambling only where that payment is made to a customer account
- make available for gambling, funds deposited via credit card only after the card issuer has approved the transaction.

The following code applies to all general betting and all pool betting operating licences only

Ordinary code provision

Licensees who choose to offer credit to members of the public who are not themselves gambling operators should also:

- have procedures for checking and scoring applications for credit from such customers, for setting, and for the increase of, credit limits
- explain these procedures to customers
- set a maximum credit limit for each customer and not permit customers to exceed that limit without further application
- apply a 24-hour delay between receiving a request for an increase in a credit limit and granting it in those cases where the limit exceeds that which the operator had previously set

- not require a minimum spend within a set time period
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that offers of credit are not sent to vulnerable persons, including those who have self-excluded from gambling
- ensure that information about an offer of credit includes a risk warning of what may happen in the event of default.

Money lending between customers

The following code applies to all general betting operating licences only

Ordinary code provision

Licensees should seek to prevent systematic or organised money lending between customers on their premises. As a minimum, they should have arrangements in place to ensure staff are requested to report any instances of substantial money lending when they become aware of them.

‘Fair and open’ provisions

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must be able to provide evidence to the Commission, if required, showing how they satisfied themselves that their terms are not unfair.

The following code applies to all general betting and all betting intermediary operating licences only

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must set out within the full rules that they make available, the core elements for the acceptance and settlement of bets. These rules must cover:

- the circumstances under which the operator will void a bet
- treatment of errors, late bets and related contingencies
- availability of odds for any ante-post, early show or starting price betting, and treatment of place, forecast bets etc
- treatment of withdrawals, non-runners, and reformed markets
- maximum payout limiting liability for a specific betting product or generally
- any charges made to customers for the use of betting services or products, and how these are calculated (including deductions from winnings for commission, or in respect of withdrawn horses etc)
- means or medium by which the outcome of an event will be determined
- the rules for the event itself to be specified (eg horserace bets only to be accepted where the racing is subject to Horseracing Regulatory Authority rules)
- where bets are accepted on ‘pari-mutuel’ terms
- any special arrangements for settling bets on ‘coupled’ horses.

Where special rules have been agreed in relation to a particular bet these must not be overridden by any conflicting rules or subsequent rule changes.

Licensees must issue a betting slip or an electronic acknowledgement (other than in the case of telephone betting) for each transaction which includes information as to the operator’s name and contact details, and words equivalent to ‘Bets are accepted in accordance with the operator’s rules’.

The following code applies to all general betting operating licences only

Social responsibility code provision

In their terms on which bets may be placed (required to be displayed in accordance with mandatory conditions attaching to their premises licences) licensees must give prominence to their rules concerning voiding, late bets and maximum payouts.

When providing facilities for betting on-course, licensees must display on their 'joints' in an intelligible format:

- any rules that differ from Tattersalls' 'Rules on Betting' or the British Greyhound Racing Board's 'Regulations for the conduct of on-course bookmaking' as applicable⁴
- any types of unorthodox bets accepted (such as forecast betting, betting without the favourite, distance betting etc)
- whether win-only or each way bets are accepted
- any concessions or bonuses offered
- all of the runners and the odds available to the public
- the operator's trading name and contact address
- the minimum bet accepted
- the maximum guaranteed liability.

Licensees operating within the ring at horserace tracks must issue customers with a betting slip or ticket for each transaction accepted. Betting slips or tickets must include the following information:

- operator's name and contact details
- race day name or code, date and race number
- name and/or number of the selection
- the stake and potential return
- the odds, or whether the bet will be settled according to the Starting Price
- the type of bet.

Any special rules which have been agreed in relation to a particular bet must not be overridden by any conflicting rules or subsequent rule changes.

Ordinary code provision

Where licensees offer to accept bets, or facilitate the making or acceptance of bets between others, on the outcome of a sport regulated by a sport governing body for the time being included in Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Act they should take all reasonable steps to familiarise themselves with the rules applied by that body on betting, in particular betting by registered participants.

Marketing

Social responsibility code provision

If a licensee makes available to any customer or potential customer any incentive or reward scheme or other arrangement under which the customer may receive money, goods, services or any other advantage (including the discharge in whole or in part of any liability of his) ('the benefit') the scheme must be designed to operate, and be operated, in such a way that:

- a) the circumstances in which, and conditions subject to which, the benefit is available are clearly set out and readily accessible to the customers to whom it is offered;

⁴ The references to Tattersalls' 'Rules on Betting' and the British Greyhound Racing Board's Regulations for the conduct of on-course bookmaking' reflect the current position and may need to be amended in future.

b) neither the receipt nor the value or amount of the benefit is:

- (i) dependent on the customer gambling for a pre-determined length of time or with a pre-determined frequency; or
- (ii) altered or increased if the qualifying activity or spend is reached within a shorter time than the whole period over which the benefit is offered;

c) if the value of the benefit increases with the amount the customer spends it does so at a rate no greater than that at which the amount spent increases;

and further that:

d) if the benefit comprises free or subsidised travel or accommodation which facilitates the customer's attendance at particular licensed premises the terms on which it is offered are not directly related to the level of the customer's prospective gambling.

Ordinary code provision

Licensees should only offer incentive or reward schemes in which the benefit available is proportionate to the type and level of customers' gambling.

Ordinary code provision

All advertising of gambling products and services should be undertaken in a socially responsible manner. In particular, licensees should comply with the advertising codes of practice which apply to the form and media in which they advertise their gambling facilities or services, and for media not explicitly covered should apply the principles included in these codes of practice as if they were explicitly covered. Licensees should also follow any relevant industry code of practice on advertising.

However, the particular restriction on allowing people aged under 25 to appear in adverts need not be applied to point of sale advertising material, provided that the images used depict the sporting activity that may be gambled on and not the activity of gambling itself and do not offend any other aspect of the advertising codes.

Complaints and disputes

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must put into effect a written procedure for handling customer complaints and disputes.

In this code a 'complaint' means a complaint about any aspect of the licensee's conduct of the licensed activities, and a 'dispute' is any complaint which:

- a) is not resolved at the first stage of the complaints procedure; and
- b) relates to the outcome of the complainant's gambling transaction.

Licensees must ensure that:

- customers are told the name and status of the person to contact about their complaint
- customers are given a copy of the complaints procedure on request or on making a complaint
- all complaints are handled in accordance with the procedure.

Licensees must also ensure that they have arrangements in place for disputes to be referred to an independent third party. Customers whose disputes are not resolved to their satisfaction by use of the operator's complaints procedure may refer those disputes to this independent third party.

The arrangements under which such complaints are referred may, but need not, provide for the third party's decision to be binding on the licensee and the customer.

Licensees must keep a record of all complaints that are not resolved at the first stage of the complaints procedure.

Licensees must arrange for a copy of the decision on, or a note of the outcome of, each dispute referred to the independent party to be provided to the Commission quarterly, either by the independent party or by the licensee.

Gambling licensees' staff

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees must take all reasonable steps to ensure that staff involved in the provision of facilities for gambling are made aware of advice on socially responsible gambling and of where to get confidential advice should their gambling become hard to control.

Pool betting

The following code applies to all pool betting operating licences only

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees or any person they authorise to offer pool betting on their behalf under authority of section 93 of the Act must publish their rules relevant to the following:

- the deduction levels for overheads, taxes, profits etc, expressed as a percentage, from each available pool
- the rounding of winning dividends to a whole unit
- the procedure for when there is no winner of the pool, and the circumstances in which the pool is carried over
- the period of time in which a winning bet may be claimed from the pool operator.

The following code applies to all pool betting operating licences authorised to offer pool betting on dog races

Social responsibility code provision

Licensees or any person they authorise to offer pool betting on their behalf under authority of section 93 of the Act, must only accept bets through equipment capable of communicating bets to a central recording system.

The equipment must supply the person placing the bet with a betting slip or ticket containing the following information:

- the date on which the bet is made
- the amount of the stake
- the identity of the track, the number or time of the race and the pool in respect of which the bet is made
- the selection or selections or combination of selections as indicated
- means of identifying the equipment recording the bet.

The central recording system must collect all bets made to each of the operator's pools and all information required to calculate the winnings of each pool and be capable of storing this information for subsequent retrieval if required by the Commission.

Licensees and any person they authorise to offer pool betting on their behalf under authority of section 93 of the Act must:

- provide a public display system within sight of all of the operator's terminals capable of accepting pool bets situated on-course. The system must display the potential dividend returns in respect of win and place outcomes from each pool operated, and in at least one place the units staked on all types of combination bets offered. This information is to be updated whilst the pool market is open. Following conclusion of the event to which the pool relates, the total amount payable as winning dividends must be displayed as soon as practicable
- display prominently the minimum stake that will be accepted as a bet.

Information requirements

Ordinary code provision

The Commission expects licensees to work with the Commission in an open and cooperative way and to inform the Commission of any matters that the Commission would reasonably need to be aware of in exercising its regulatory functions. These are matters that will have a material impact on the licensee's business or on the licensee's ability to conduct its business. Such matters, which should be notified to the Commission as soon as reasonably practicable⁵, include the following:

- the departure from the licensee's business of any person named in the licence application, or that person's successor, who holds a personal management licence, but who does not occupy a 'qualifying position'
- any reduction in the number of staff employed by the licensee where that has a material impact on the licensee's business
- the acquisition or disposal by the licensee of gambling premises or pitches where that has a material impact on the size or nature of the licensee's business
- in the case of corporate licensees, the disposal or acquisition of any group company where that has a material impact on the licensee's ability to conduct its business
- any disposal of the licensee's assets where that has a material impact on the licensee's business
- any investigation by a professional, statutory, regulatory or government body into the licensee's activities, or the activities in relation to the licensed entity of a personal licence holder or a person occupying a qualifying position employed by them, where such an investigation could result in the imposition of a sanction or penalty which, if imposed, could reasonably be expected to raise doubts about the licensee's continued suitability to hold a Gambling Commission licence
- any instance of criminal activity, including repeated instances of small-scale theft or fraud, where that has a material impact on the licensee's business
- any major breach in the licensee's information security where that adversely affects the confidentiality of customer data or prevents customers from accessing their accounts for a substantial period of time
- any other matters that have a material impact on the licensee's business or on the licensee's ability to conduct its business.

⁵ These matters can be reported securely online at the Commission's website at www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk or by email to key.events@gamblingcommission.gov.uk or posted to Key Events, Compliance Administration Team, Gambling Commission, Victoria Square House, Victoria Square, Birmingham, B2 4BP

Gambling Commission December 2008

Keeping gambling fair and safe for all

For further information or to register your interest in the Commission please visit our website at: **www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk**

Copies of this document are available in alternative formats on request.

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