

DRAFT

Legal Notice No.

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE GAMBLING (GAMING AND BETTING) CONTROL ACT, 2021

**THE GAMBLING (GAMING AND BETTING) CONTROL
(ELECTRONIC BETTING)
REGULATIONS, 2024**

	PART I PRELIMINARY
Citation	1. These Regulations may be cited as the Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control (Electronic Betting) Regulations, 2024.
Interpretation	2. In these Regulations – “betting kiosk” means a self-activated machine that patrons use to place bets, open betting accounts, make betting account deposits or withdrawals. “Betting Operator” means the person licensed by the Commission to accept electronic bets. “punter” means anyone who places an electronic bet with a Betting Operator; “Dedicated” means telecommunications systems used exclusively for the purpose of betting transactions, including landline phones, internet accounts, mobile phones, or other devices approved by the Commission; “electronic betting” means betting using a telecommunications network using either a telephone line, an internet-based communication, a mobile phone, or other means approved by the Commission and shall include

	<p>voice, electronic mail, text, and any other means approved by the Commission and “electronic bet” shall be construed accordingly;</p> <p>“MICS” means Minimum Internal Control Standards;</p> <p>“PIN” means Personal Identification Number;</p> <p>“password” means a secret word or phrase that must be used that allow access to a computer system or service;</p> <p>“system” means the telecommunications systems established for the purposes of electronic betting;</p> <p>“telephone calls” means calls or texts or facsimiles made using a landline or mobile phone;</p> <p>“text betting” means betting using a telecommunications network using short text messages sent between cell phones, pagers or other devices, such messages being sent through short message service (text bet) and shall be construed accordingly;</p> <p>“voice betting” means betting using a telecommunications network using either a telephone line or mobile telephone to register a bet, and “voice bet” shall be construed accordingly;</p> <p>“voucher” means a printed wagering instrument, usually issued for use in a betting kiosk, with a fixed dollar wagering value and is redeemable for cash or cash equivalents.</p>
	<p>PART II</p> <p>ELECTRONIC BETTING PROVISIONS</p>
Requirements	<p>3. (1) An operator who engages in electronic betting shall meet the following requirements established by the Commission:</p>

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| <p>(a) the operator has a dedicated bank of land telephones, internet addresses and mobile telephones to accept bets;</p> <p>(b) all telephone calls are made by punters on telephone lines or electronic mail addresses dedicated by the operator for the purposes of telephone betting, prior to the commencement of betting transactions;</p> <p>(c) the telephone lines, internet IP address, or mobile phones used by the operator must not be used for any purpose other than for the purpose of electronic betting;</p> <p>(d) the information and communications technology system must be capable of linking inward telephone calls and electronic mail messages to the account number assigned to the punter by the operator;</p> <p>(e) the system must be capable of screening and displaying the inward telephone number or electronic mail address and rejecting the call or message if the number or address is either unregistered or not displayed;</p> <p>(f) the system must be capable of allowing a punter to assign to himself or herself, and known only to himself or herself when assigned, a four-digit PIN and Password to be used by him for betting transactions;</p> <p>(g) the system must be capable of rejecting any attempt by the punter to bet if the correct PIN is not used when attempting to bet;</p> <p>(h) the system shall be capable of assigning an account number unique to each punter linked to his PIN and Password;</p> <p>(i) Any costs associated with the acquisition and or modification of the system to meet the requirements of the Commission, and the cost of implementation of the approved system shall be borne by the operator;</p> |
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- (j) all inward and outward telephone lines and electronic mail messages used for betting purposes shall have attached securable voice, electronic messaging and facsimile logging equipment or other type of recording equipment which is approved by the Commission;
- (k) consent to the voice, messaging, text or facsimile logging and recording of the electronic betting transactions must be obtained from all punters;
- (l) all electronic betting transactions shall be recorded through voice, messaging, text or facsimile logging or other type of recording equipment approved by the Commission;
- (m) the full details of each bet received, including the betting ticket number, account number, total amount of bet and levy payable, shall be confirmed with the punter to conclude the electronic bet;
- (n) all electronic storage media approved by the Commission, when used to record betting transactions, shall –
 - (i) be maintained for inspection or audit by any authorised officer;
 - (ii) be made available to facilitate the settlement of disputes and investigations where necessary;
 - (iii) be held by the operator for at least six years or for such period as the Commission shall direct and such information shall be destroyed only with the written approval of the Commission;
- (o) the voice logging or other type of recording equipment used shall be sealed by, and only accessible by or in conjunction with an authorised officer;
- (p) the system shall be designed to provide the Commission with access to all voice, messaging, text, facsimile, or other recordings on the dedicated lines;
- (q) the system shall be so designed to reject bets if there are insufficient funds in the account or the credit limit is exceeded, which shall be recorded and the punter accordingly;

- (r) the system shall be capable of debiting and crediting an account subsequent to placing a bet on any race or other event in which wagering occurred;
- (s) each punter wishing to use this system shall establish an account in which deposits are to be made to facilitate betting;
- (t) all punters application/registration forms must be retained by the licensee for review by the Commission;
- (u) When an account is created, the operator shall disclose to the punter that all information relating to the account may be provided to the Commission at any time;
- (v) The release of all information relating to a punter's account shall not include the punter's PIN or Password;
- (w) the operator may establish a credit facility for the purposes of electronic betting;
- (x) any losses incurred by the operator as a result of establishing such a credit facility shall not be taken into account in calculating dividends, taxes, fees, penalties or other monies that are due and payable to the Commission or any other Statutory Authority;
- (y) all bets that have been recorded are deemed to have been made on the date and time that such a record was made;
- (z) the system shall be capable of generating reports to include print-outs or electronic transmission of the performance of each account, including opening balance, transactions for the day deposits made by each punter to replenish or augment the account, and amount withdrawn from the account by the punter and the ending balance;

	<p>(aa) the system must be capable of remotely connecting and electronically generating and submitting the necessary reports or returns to the Commission as required.</p> <p>(2) A person who contravenes or fails to comply with any provision under sub regulation (1) commits an offence and is liable to penalties under Section 84(2) of the Act.</p>
	<p>PART III</p> <p>SPECIFIC VOICE BETTING PROVISIONS</p>
Insertion of unique account number	4. The punter shall state his Password and PIN prior to placing a voice bet.
Punter to state details of bet	5. The Punter shall state the details of the bet being placed including: stake, market, bet type and selection.
Full details of bet to be confirmed with punter	6. The full details of each bet received, including the amount on each race or sports event, betting ticket number and account number, shall be confirmed with the punter before the conclusion of the telephone call and recorded on the computerised betting system.
	<p>PART IV</p> <p>SPECIFIC TEXT BETTING PROVISIONS</p>
Requirements for placing a text bet	7. The punter must enter his Password and enter his PIN prior to placing a text bet.
Punter texts sent in specified format	8. The Punter text bet shall state the details of the bet being placed including: stake, market, bet type and selection.
Operator to send verification text to punter	9. In order for the text bet to be confirmed, the operator shall send a text to the punter verifying the details of the text bet.
Confirmation of text bet	10. The punter shall confirm the text bet by re-entering his PIN, whereupon the text bet will be recorded on the computerised betting system.
Re-entering of PIN to confirm text bet	11. The re-entering of the punter's PIN shall be construed as confirmation of the text bet.
Text message sent to punter to confirm results	12. A text message shall be sent to the punter confirming the result and, in the event that the punter has won the bet, confirmation of the winnings.

PART V SPECIFIC INTERNET-BASED COMMUNICATION BETTING PROVISIONS	
Requirements for placing internet bets	13. The punter shall enter his Password and enter his PIN prior to placing an Internet bet.
Internet bet to be sent in specified format	14. The Punter internet bet shall state the details of the bet being placed including stake, market, bet type and selection.
Re-entering of PIN to confirm internet bet	15. An electronic mail will be sent to the punter with confirmation of the electronic bet.
Electronic mail sent to punter to confirm results	16. An electronic mail will be sent to the punter confirming the result of the race or event and in the event that the punter has won the bet, confirmation of the winnings, and the new balance in the account.
PART VI EQUIPMENT STANDARDS	
Race and sports computer system	<p>17. (1) The date and time generated by the race and sports computer system during ticket writing is to be tested each day by a supervisor independent of the ticket writing and cashiering function.</p> <p>(2) For linked premises, the test referred to in sub-regulation (1) is performed at the location where the administrative function is performed.</p> <p>18. Race and sports books must contact the Naval Observatory Master Clock to verify the correct time each day events are held and bets are accepted. The race and sports computer system should then be adjusted as required.</p> <p>(a) Note 1: A telephone number for the Naval Observatory Master Clock is (202) 762-1401.</p> <p>(b) Note 2: The above MICS does not apply to outstation and satellite books if the time cannot be changed by employees of such books.</p>
Race and sports books	
Adjustments due to discrepancies	

<p>Date and time stamping machines</p> <p>Person independent of the book</p>	<p>(c) Note 3: The above MICS does not apply when the time within the race and sports computer system is kept accurate through the use of an independent automated update process.</p> <p>19. Any adjustments necessary due to discrepancies, is documented in a log which includes the station number, date, time of test, time per race and sports computer system, name or signature of the employee performing the test, and any other relevant information. For outstation and satellite books the logs must be made available to the Commission upon request and shall be kept for seven years by the licensee.</p> <p>20. All date and time stamping machines used for voided tickets and manual payouts are directly and permanently wired to the electrical supply system or have a back-up power source to ensure an accurate time in the event of power loss to the machines.</p> <p>21. A person who holds a Technical Operator’s Licence, independent of the book, shall have access to fuses or other similar power control mechanisms used in connection with the stamping machines.</p>
<p>Person independent of the ticket writing function</p>	<p>22. (1) A person who holds a Technical Operator’s Licence, independent of the ticket writing function shall at least once a day examine and test the stamping machines to ensure the date and time accuracy to the nearest minute.</p> <p>(2) For satellite books this test can be performed by the ticket writer.</p> <p>(3) Where the stamping machine interfaces with an automated time clock, such that the time on the stamping machine is kept accurate through the use of an independent automated update process, then this procedure is not required.</p>

<p>Daily examination and testing of stamping machines</p> <p>Test and adjustments due to discrepancies</p>	<p>23. A person who holds a Technical Operator’s Licence, independent of the ticket writing function shall at least once a day examine and test the stamping machines to ensure the date and time accuracy to the nearest minute.</p> <p>24. The test, and any adjustments necessary due to discrepancies, is documented in a log which includes the station number, date, time of test, time on machine, name or signature of employee performing the test, and any other relevant information. The information shall be made available to the Commission upon request and kept for seven years by the licensee.</p> <p>25. Keys to the date and time stamping machines are maintained and used by personnel who are independent of the ticket writing and cashiering functions.</p>
	<p>PART VII</p> <p>PAYOUT PROCEDURES FOR ELECTRONIC BETTING</p>
<p>Receipt of original winning race or sports tickets and vouchers</p> <p>Record of the winning race or sports tickets and vouchers</p> <p>Validation and cancellation of winning race or sports tickets and vouchers</p>	<p>26. (1) Accounting or audit personnel or personnel independent of the race and sports book record the winning race or sports tickets and vouchers on a log as a mail pay.</p> <p>(2) The log referred to in sub-regulation (1), shall include the date received, patron’s name, and race or sports ticket numbers and voucher numbers.</p> <p>27. The winning race or sports tickets and vouchers shall be entered into the race and sports computer system by race and sports personnel or accounting or audit personnel for validation and cancellation.</p> <p>28. (1) Accounting or audit personnel shall compare the “paid” winning race or sports tickets and “paid” vouchers to the mail pay log and the race and sports computer system report for paid winning race and sports tickets and vouchers.</p>

<p>Discrepancies with paid winning race or sports tickets and vouchers</p>	<p>(2) Any discrepancies identified in sub-regulation (1) shall be documented and reviewed with race and sports and accounting management personnel.</p> <p>29. (1) Accounting or audit personnel, independent of the individual who processed the mail pay winning tickets and vouchers, shall review the patron’s correspondence submitted, the winning race or sports tickets and vouchers, the mail pay log and the race and sports computer system report for “paid” winning race and sports tickets and “paid” vouchers for any discrepancies.</p> <p>(2) Any discrepancies identified in sub-regulation (1) shall be documented and resolved prior to remitting the proper payment amount to the patron.</p>
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Dated this day of ,2024

Minister of Finance