

THE LEGAL & REGULATORY LANDSCAPE OF GAMING AND BETTING IN CYPRUS



NICHOLAS
KTENAS
& Co LLC

OVERVIEW

- **REGULATED ACTIVITIES**
- GAMBLING – CASINO (OFFLINE ONLY)
- BETTING – SPORTS & HORSE RACING (OFFLINE & ONLINE)
- LOTTERIES – NATIONAL LOTTERY, PRIVATE LOTTERIES & OPAP (OFFLINE & ONLINE)
- GAMING (SKILL MACHINES, GAME MACHINES & ENTERTAINMENT MACHINES)



OVERVIEW

- **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**
- BETTING EXCHANGE AND SPREAD BETTING
- DOG RACING BETTING
- BETTING ON UNLICENSED PREMISES
- GAMBLING (ONLINE & OFFLINE EXCEPT IN CASINO)



OVERVIEW



UNREGULATED – PERMITTED GAMING ACTIVITIES

- COMPETITIONS WITH PRIZES (dependant on skill)



OVERVIEW

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Betting Law of 2019 (Law 37(I)/2019, as amended)
- The Taxation of Horse Racing Betting and Lotteries Law (Law 48/1973, as amended)
- The Lotteries Law (CAP 74, amended)
- The Betting Houses, Gaming Houses and Prevention of Gambling Law (CAP. 151, as amended)
- The Certain Games of Chance Law of 2018 (Law 25(I)/2018)
- The Gaming Machines, Skill Machines and Entertainment Machines Law of 1996 (Law 32(I)/1996, as amended)
- The Casino Operation and Supervision Law of 2015 (Law 124(I)/2015, as amended)
- The Law on the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities (Law 188(I)/2007, as amended)

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OVERVIEW

REGULATORY AUTHORITIES

- THE NATIONAL BETTING AUTHORITY
- THE NATIONAL GAMING AND CASINO SUPERVISION COMMISSION
- THE DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
- THE NICOSIA HORSE RACING CLUB



GAMBLING

The Betting Houses, Gaming Houses and Prevention of Gambling Law

- General Prohibition on betting and gambling (games of chance/combined chance and skill):
 - slot machines
 - dice gambling
 - roulette
 - casino games
 - use of premises for betting and gambling



GAMBLING

Regulated

- “Kazanti”: Cypriot traditional pinball type game of chance used at local fairs
- License issued by the District Administrator subject to conditions



GAMING

The Gaming Machines, Skill Machines and Entertainment Machines Law of 1996

PROHIBITED

- Slot Machines

REGULATED

- Skill Machines
- Game Machine
- Entertainment Machine



BETTING

Licence (National Betting Authority)

- Types of Licences
- Class A: Physical (Licensed Premises)
- Class B: Electronic (Online)
- License Subjects
- Bookmaker (Class A or B)
- Authorised Representative (Class A)
- Premises (Class A)



BETTING

License Application for Bookmakers and Authorised Representatives

- Payment of Fee
- Submission of Form
- Proof that the Applicant:
 - Has not been convicted of a relevant offence
 - is 18 years old



BETTING

License Application for Bookmakers and Authorised Representatives

- Class B:
 - Application by company limited by shares, incorporated in the Republic or outside the Republic:
 - main activity: managing bets
 - issued and paid-up share capital is at least EUR 500.000
- Bank guarantee from credit institution for EUR 500.000, valid 6 months after the expiration date of the licence, with irrevocable obligation to pay any amount the bookmaker is obliged to pay



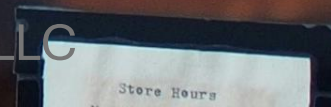
BETTING

Premises License

- Authorises the use of premises to provide **Class A** betting services
- payment of the relevant fee,
- Submission of form, with:
 - information and documents
 - written statement from the owner of the premises granting consent for the premises being used to provide Class A betting services



SHOP



BETTING

Obligations of Holder of Premises License

- display in a prominent location at premises:
 - the premises licence
 - a sign in Greek, Turkish and English that minors are prohibited from entering the premises
 - in Greek, Turkish and English, the terms and conditions under which betting services are provided
- Allow entry to members of the Cyprus Police and/or persons authorised by law, to check for compliance with the terms of the licence and the Law.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

...s apply whatever the purchaser's general purchasing conditions may be. ... stipulated in the order, will only be considered as accepted once our w... The order is considered as final only after our acknowledgement of the

Limit of the Offer

... offer apply exclusively to the supply of services specified her... The purchaser in no case will be allowed to put forward ... duly accepted by our company.

BETTING

Conducting Betting - Class A (Physical)

- Betting slips format approved by the Authority
- Slips and any other document related to the provisions of betting services must be retained for a period of 5 years



BETTING

- Conducting Betting - Class B (Online)
- Registration
 - Online application:
 - Age confirmation
 - ID Details
 - Home address
 - Email address
 - confirmation of knowledge of terms of bet and way conducted, including amount he may be required to pay

SPORTS BETTING
LIVE



TEAM A		0-0		TEAM B	
GAME 1					
TEAM A	1	3.04	2.54	1.56	1.23
TEAM B	0	5.09	4.56	3.33	2.89
GAME 2					
TEAM A	0	3.26	2.88	1.96	1.43
TEAM B	2	4.38	3.69	2.43	2.89
GAME 3					
TEAM A	1	13.5	13.4	10.69	5.66
TEAM B	4	13.36	15.63	13.36	4.69
GAME 4					
TEAM A	1	1.36	3.69	8.69	4.69
TEAM B	0	2.36	1.58	1.25	1.20
FOOTBALL					
GAME 1					
TEAM A	1	3.04	2.54	1.56	1.23
TEAM B	0	5.09	4.56	3.33	2.89

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BETTING

- Player's account credited from the player's bank account or by:
 - credit cards, or
 - debit cards, or
 - electronic transfer, or
 - electronic money, issued by authorised EMI.



BETTING

E-sports

- No legal definition
- Organised competitive video game play
- professional component: players and teams operating as businesses



BETTING

E-sports

- Directive 4.2020 of the NBA: esports = “sports”
- Submission for approval by the Authority of the terms and conditions and a list of tournaments



BETTING

ISP Obligation to Implement Blocking System

- Prevent users-customers from accessing providers of betting services without Class B licence, and:
 - slot machines
 - online casino games
 - Betting Exchanges
 - Spread Betting
 - Dog Racing



BETTING

Safer Gambling Strategy 2022-2025

(www.safergambling.gov.cy)

- Framework for adopting a safer gambling approach to ensure players and communities are safe while realizing the social and economic benefits of gambling
- Priority areas:
 - Education of society and stakeholders
 - Promotion of safer gambling
 - Prevention and combating gambling addiction
 - Protection of young people and vulnerable social groups from gambling addiction

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ADDICTION

BETTING

Player Self-Protection Measures

- determine the limit he may bet for a specific period
- determine the limit he may lose for a specific period
- determine the limit of time within which he may bet
- exempted from betting for a specific or indefinite time



BETTING

Helplines

- **1454:** Advisory Services of the Multiple Intervention Centre (For adults 22+)
- **1456:** PERSEAS Counselling Center for Adolescents and Family (For adolescents & young adults until 22)



BETTING

Criminal Offences

- Provision of betting services without a license
- Participation in unlicensed betting activities
- Provision of prohibited gambling activities
- Unlicensed Premises (owner/ occupier/ manager)



BETTING

Enforcement

- Search Warrant
- Injunctions
- Administrative Fines by NBA (up to €100,000)



THE CASINO

The Casino Operation and Supervision Law of 2015

- the Cyprus Gaming and Casino Supervision Commission
- Single Integrated Casino Resort 15-year License granted in 2017 to 'Integrated Casino Resorts Cyprus Limited'
- 1 ICR and 4 satellite Casinos



THE CASINO

Regulated Matters

- working times
- entry requirements
- exclusion orders Dispute resolution process
- Casino layout, gaming machines, equipment.
- Licensing of Casino employees and executives.
- Internal audits.
- Regulation and supervision of operations
- Offences
- Powers of supervision and investigation
- Taxation

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LOTTERIES

The Lotteries Law

- any plan for the distribution of prizes by a raffle or by a way which depends on chance



LOTTERIES

Permitted Lotteries

- Government Lottery
 - The Lotteries Director
 - Income from the sale of Government Lotteries deposited in the State Fixed Fund after deduction of monetary prizes distributed



LOTTERIES

Small Lotteries (ancillary to celebration events)

- All income from the celebration event, after the deduction of costs must be made available for purposes other than private gain
- lottery prizes not of monetary value
- Lottery tickets cannot be sold
- Opportunity of participating in lottery is not the only or the essential motive for attending the event



LOTTERIES

Private Lotteries

- Restricted for sale by organisers to:
 - Members of organisation not relevant to games of chance/ betting/ lotteries;
 - Persons who all work on the same premises;
 - Persons who all reside on the same premises



LOTTERIES

Private Lotteries

- Conditions:
 - income, after deduction of printing costs, allocated to the prizes (if participants are members of organisation, for prizes and/or for the purposes of the organisation)
 - no written announcement/advertisement
 - price of every lottery ticket must be the same
 - names and addresses of organisers
 - lottery ticket must be fully paid and non-refundable
 - no lottery ticket can be sent by post



LOTTERIES

Competitions with Prizes

- Prohibited
 - predicting outcome of future event, or past event the outcome of which is not yet known
- Permitted
 - Competitions, the success of which depends on skill



LOTTERIES

OPAP

- The Certain Games of Chance Law
- OPAP CYPRUS since 1969
- Concession Contract between the government of the Republic of Cyprus and OPAP - Exclusive license issued by the National Betting Authority on 26/6/2024
- LOTTO, TZOKER, PROTO, KINO, SUPER 3, EXTRA 5, PROPO, PROPO GOAL
- OPAP CYPRUS: 202 betting shops



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