

RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING

Both the Gambling Commission and local authorities take very seriously those aspects of the Gambling Act 2005 that cover social responsibility. Consequently permit holders are required to:

• Provide information

Information must be made available to members and guests on how to gamble responsibly and where to access a source of help if they are concerned about their gambling.

Best practice is to have on display 'Stay in control' leaflets. These may be obtained from the charity GamCare:

GamCare, 2/3 Baden Place, Crosby Row, London SE1 1YW. T 020 7378 5200
www.gamcare.org.uk

• Offer customer interaction

There should be a positive response to a member or guest who approaches staff or someone on the club's committee, and indicates they have a problem with their gambling.

Best practice is to make sure they have a 'Stay in control' leaflet, are encouraged to ring the GamCare helpline on 0845 6000 133 and are asked if they wish to exclude themselves from the club.

• Offer self-exclusion.

Any member or guest who indicates they have a gambling problem should be offered the opportunity to self-exclude. They may just ask for help to stay off the machines. This option is difficult for them and puts a great responsibility on staff.

Best practice is to suggest that they exclude themselves from using the clubhouse, or bar where machines are located, for a specified period of time (a minimum of six months). This leaves responsibility with the individual to seek help for their problem with gambling. A record should be kept of all those people who have excluded themselves from the clubhouse.

• Address third party concerns

A friend or relation of a club member may express concern about a member's gambling. You should respond positively but cautiously to such comments.

Best practice is to give the person who expresses concern a 'Stay in control' leaflet and advise them to ring the helpline. You could also let them know the member could be excluded from the clubhouse should that member so choose. Suggest that they come back together to discuss this possibility.

GAMBLING ACT 2005

Permit applications & Social responsibility requirements



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One voice for sport and recreation

GENERAL

The Gambling Act 2005 specifies that non-commercial clubs may apply for either a Club Machine or Club Gaming Permit. Most sports clubs will have a Club Machine Permit.



SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY CODES & AGE RESTRICTIONS

The Gaming Machine Permits Code of Practice can be found on the Gambling Commission website:

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

As a condition of that permit, permit holders will be required to abide by the Gambling Commission Codes of Practice on socially responsible policies and procedures.

Permits that may be applied for, and the conditions of socially responsible practice that must be observed, are outlined in this leaflet.

For more detailed information you should contact the Licensing Unit of your local authority.

This leaflet has been developed after consultation with the regulator from where more information can be obtained:

PERMITS

Clubs may apply for either:

A Club Machine Permit:

Allows any combination of gaming machines from the categories listed below, but no more than three machines in total:

B4 - £250 payout C - £25 payout
B3(A) - £500 payout D - £5 cash payout

This does not allow games such as poker. It should also be noted that clubs affiliated to the Committee of Registered Clubs' Association should abide by its voluntary agreement to place only one category B3(A) machine per club.

or:

A Club Gaming Permit:

Allows machines as above, and games such as poker with limited stakes and prizes.

Regardless of when your Permit expires, the new Code of Practice should be observed from 1 September 2007.

Section A must be carried out and Sections B and C are advisory – both should be read by your club's management.

All machines are required to be situated in clubs so that they can be supervised by whoever has responsibility for the clubhouse.

Under 18s are not allowed to gamble on Category B or C machines. Signage to this effect must be displayed on the machines.

Permit holders are required to ask any member or guest that appears to be under 18 for age identification. Acceptable ID is confined to a passport, driving licence with photo ID or PASS (Proof of Age Standard Scheme) Accredited proof-of-age card.

The Gambling Commission
Victoria Square House
Victoria Square
Birmingham B2 4BP
T 0121 230 6666

info@gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Applying for a new Permit

Once your Part III expires after 1 September 2007, you must apply to your **local licensing authority** to convert it to a Club Machine Permit.

The permit holder or any other adult commits an offence if they invite or allow a person under 18 to gamble on an age-restricted machine.

Leaflet compiled by Responsible Gambling Solutions Ltd.
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