

LAW PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF BETTING AND RELATED MATTERS

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**LAW PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF BETTING AND  
RELATED MATTERS**

<p>Preamble</p> <p>72(I) of 2003</p> <p>174(I) of 2004</p>	<p>Because the present Law constitutes a technical rule under the Law on the Procedure for the Provision of Information on Certain Technical Rules, which transposes into Cypriot law Directive 98/34/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 June 1998 laying down a procedure for the provision of information in the field of technical standards and regulations and of rules on Information Society services, which was repealed and replaced by Directive (EU) 2015/1535 of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 9 September 2015,</p>
<p>Official Journal of the European Union: L 204 21.7.1998, p. 37 L 241, 17.9.2015, p. 1.</p>	<p>Consequently, the present Law refers to the said Laws as required by Article 9 thereof and to the said Directive (EU) 2015/1535 as required by Article 9 thereof,</p> <p>Hence, the House of Representatives hereby enacts the following provisions:</p>

**PART I**

**INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS**

<p>Short title</p>	<p>1. The present Law shall be cited as the 2019 Betting Law.</p>
<p>Interpretation</p>	<p>2. In the present Law, unless provided otherwise from the context:</p> <p>“bookmaker’s licence” shall mean a licence to provide betting services issued in accordance with Part III;</p> <p>“authorised agent’s licence” shall mean a licence to provide betting services on behalf of a Class A licensed bookmaker, issued in accordance with Part III;</p> <p>“premises licence” shall mean a licence to use premises to provide Class A betting services, in accordance with Part IV;</p>

“licensed bookmaker” shall mean the person for whose benefit the bookmaker’s licence is issued;

“licensed premises” shall mean the premises for which the premises licence has been issued;

“sports event” shall mean any sport played by natural persons which requires the exertion of physical strength and the use of a skill;

“minor” shall mean an individual aged under 18;

“betting exchange” shall mean a type of electronic bet conducted using online services provided by an intermediary, as part of which players set the odds on the outcomes of events and accept bets from other players, and a percentage of the players’ winnings is paid to the intermediary as commission;

Cap. 113. “officer” shall have the meaning attributed to this term in the Companies Law;

9 of 1968

76 of 1977

17 of 1979

105 of 1985

198 of 1986

19 of 1990

41(I) of 1994

15(I) of 1995

21(I) of 1997

82(I) of 1999

149(I) of 1999

2(I) of 2000

135(I) of 2000

151(I) of 2000

76(I) of 2001

70(I) of 2003

167(I) of 2003

92(I) of 2004  
24(I) of 2005  
130(I) of 2005  
98(I) of 2006  
124(I) of 2006  
70(I) of 2007  
71(I) of 2007  
131(I) of 2007  
186(I) of 2007  
87(I) of 2008  
41(I) of 2009  
49(I) of 2009  
99(I) of 2009  
42(I) of 2010  
60(I) of 2010  
88(I) of 2010  
53(I) of 2011  
117(I) of 2011  
145(I) of 2011  
157(I) of 2011  
198(I) of 2011  
64(I) of 2012  
98(I) of 2012  
190(I) of 2012  
203(I) of 2012  
6(I) of 2013  
90(I) of 2013  
74(I) of 2014  
75(I) of 2014  
18(I) of 2015  
62(I) of 2015  
63(I) of 2015  
89(I) of 2015  
120(I) of 2015



40(I) of 2016  
90(I) of 2016  
97(I) of 2016  
17(I) of 2017  
33(I) of 2017  
51(I) of 2017  
37(I) of 2018  
83(I) of 2018  
149(I) of 2018

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31.3.2015

15.6.2015

“Authority” shall mean the National Betting Authority, governed by Part II;

“betting slip” shall mean the electronic form on which a bet is entered, which is approved by the Authority in accordance with Part V and sets out the details of the bet and the amount concerned;

“Republic” shall mean the Republic of Cyprus;

“spread bet” shall mean a bet conducted in accordance with Article 86;

“remote”, when referring to bets, shall mean a bet offered without the contracting parties being present simultaneously;

“authorised activities”, in relation to a bookmaker’s licence, shall mean the activities authorised under a Class A licence;

“authorised agent” shall mean a person who provides betting services on behalf of a Class A licensed bookmaker;

“payable fee” shall mean the fee specified in accordance with Article 30;

“internal regulations” shall mean the regulations issued by the Authority pursuant to Article 9;

“electronic means” shall mean the equipment required for the electronic processing (including digital compression) or storage of data, through which a bet is offered at its starting point and is accepted at its end point; that bet being offered, sent and received entirely through telecommunications following a specific order from a bookmaker;

“electronic bet” shall mean a bet conducted remotely using electronic means via telecommunications;

“regulations” shall mean collectively the regulations of the Council of Ministers and the regulations of the Authority;

“regulations of the Authority” shall mean the regulations issued by the Authority pursuant to the present Law, which are not internal regulations;

“regulations of the Council of Ministers” shall mean the regulations issued by the Council of Ministers pursuant to Article 97;

“holder”, in relation to a Class A or B bookmaker’s licence or authorised agent’s licence or premises licence shall mean the person for whose benefit the respective licence has been issued;

‘Member State’ shall mean a Member State of the European Union, and/or a signatory to the Agreement on the European Economic Area, which was signed in Oporto on 2<sup>nd</sup> of May 1992 and adjusted by the Protocol signed in Brussels on 17<sup>th</sup> of May 1993, as thereafter amended;

“statutory auditing firm” shall mean an auditing firm (company or partnership or any other legal person) which has obtained a licence under the Auditors’ Law;

“statutory auditor” shall mean an auditor (natural person) who has obtained a licence under the Auditors’ Law;

“slot machine” shall mean any mechanical, electric or other device, appliance or machine which by either inserting a coin, banknote, token or similar item, or by using any other form of payment, allows the user to operate it and play a game of chance, enabling a payout in cash or valuable items or prizes or credits or tokens or anything else which yields economic value, irrespective of whether the payout of such is made automatically by the device, appliance or machine or in any other manner, including, but not limited to, the following machines:

- (a) poker machines or machines featuring any other similar type of card games or other variations or representations;
- (b) horse-racing machines or machines for races, such as dog racing, car racing or other;
- (c) machines known as ‘fruit machines’ or with similar or other representations or shapes or numbers, letters or colours;
- (d) bingo machines, irrespective of any adaptation or addition which tends to render them similar to another type of machine;
- (e) machines that have the ability to zero any result or indication and store such data to memory, either through the operator or by any other person;
- (f) any other type of gaming machine which in the Authority's view falls within the meaning of the term "slot machines";
- (g) any computer accessory or attachment which may be applied and operated with the use of a screen as a slot machine; and
- (h) a lottery game with numbers which involves precisely predicting a specific set of numbers -depending on the type of game- from a set of numbers generated in each case after a draw from a series of numbers; the draw to determine the

winners is made with the use of a raffle;

“illegal betting” shall mean a bet conducted in violation of the provisions of the present Law;

“provision of betting services” shall mean an invitation or offer by a person to a third party to take part in a bet in accordance with the arrangements made and under the terms laid down by that person;

“credit institution” shall mean an undertaking whose business is accepting deposits or other repayable funds and granting credit for its own account, and which holds the relevant operating licence by a Member State's competent authority, including a licensed credit institution within the meaning of the Business of Credit Institutions Law;

66(1) of 1997

74(1) of 1999

94(1) of 2000

119(1) of 2003

4(1) of 2004

151(1) of 2004

231(1) of 2004

235(1) of 2004

20(1) of 2005

80(1) of 2008

100(1) of 2009

123(1) of 2009

27(1) of 2011

104(I) of 2011

107(I) of 2012

14(I) of 2013

87(I) of 2013

102(I) of 2013

141(I) of 2013

5(I) of 2015

26(I) of 2015  
35(I) of 2015  
71(I) of 2015  
93(I) of 2015  
109(I) of 2015  
152(I) of 2015  
168(I) of 2015  
21(I) of 2016  
5(I) of 2017  
38(I) of 2017  
169(I) of 2017  
28(I) of 2018  
89(I) of 2018  
153(I) of 2018

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19.9.2003

“beneficial owner” shall mean the natural person or natural persons who ultimately own or control the legal person to whom the licence to provide betting services has been issued. Beneficial owner means, with regard to:

- (a) companies, at the very least:
  - (i) the natural person or natural persons who actually own or control the company, whether directly or indirectly holding or controlling a sufficient percentage of shares or voting rights in that company, inter alia, through bearer shares; a percentage of ten percent (10%) plus one share shall be deemed to meet this criterion, or
  - (ii) the natural person or natural persons who otherwise exercise control over the management and/or the administration of the company,
- (b) legal entities, such as institutions, and legal vehicles, such as

trusts, which manage or distribute funds, at the very least:

- (i) the natural person or natural persons entitled to ten percent (10%) or more of the assets of the legal vehicle or legal entity, when the future beneficiaries have already been designated, or
- (ii) the category of persons in whose interest the legal vehicle or legal entity has primarily been established or is acting, when the persons who are the beneficiaries of the legal vehicle or legal entity have not been designated yet, or
- (iii) the natural person or natural persons who exercise control over ten percent (10%) or more of the assets of the legal vehicle or entity;

“person” shall mean a natural or legal person;

“cash out” shall mean an offer, after the time of the placing of the bet but before the completion of the whole set of events to which the bet relates, either by the licensed bookmaker to the player, or by the player to the licensed bookmaker, of new odds, which is accepted by the person to whom the offer is made;

“significant interest” shall mean possession of shares in a company representing at least five percent (5%) of the share capital of the said company or voting rights which provide significant influence over the management of the company; the term 'holder of a significant interest' shall be interpreted accordingly;

“bet” shall mean any type of bet on sports events where the competitors are natural persons or on other type of events in which natural persons participate, which actually take place, provided that the winnings of each player are determined by the person who organises the bet, before or at the time of the placing of the bet, by reference both to the amount paid by each player in order to take part in the bet, as well as to the odds set for

the specific bet, which is conducted pursuant to a Class A or B bookmaker's licence as specified in the present Law;

Provided that, this definition shall not be interpreted as prohibiting cash out;

“Advisory Authority for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing” shall mean the Authority specified by the provisions of the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities;

188(I) of 2007

58(I) of 2010

80(I) of 2012

192(I) of 2012

101(I) of 2013

184(I) of 2014

18(I) of 2016

13(I) of 2018

158(I) of 2018

“blocking system” shall mean a system installed by an internet service provider which prevents traffic being routed and transferred from the terminal equipment of the internet user to specific internet website addresses;

‘relevant offence’ shall mean:

- (a) an offence containing the element of fraud or deceit, or
- (b) an offence containing the element of moral turpitude or the element of dishonesty, or
- (c) an offence in breach of the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering, or
- (d) an offence in breach of the Law on Betting Houses, Gaming Houses and Gambling Prevention, or

Cap. 151.

23 of 1965

19 of 1978

- 53(I) of 1995  
 15(I) of 1998  
 72(I) of 2006  
 168(I) of 2014  
 122(I) of 2015  
 15(I) of 2018
- 75(I) of 1997  
 176(I) of 2004  
 161(I) of 2007
- 106(I) of 2012  
 108(I) of 2012  
 212(I) of 2012
- 48 of 1973  
 23 of 1976  
 28(I) of 1999  
 162(I) of 2007  
 91(I) of 2012  
 63(I) of 2016
- 32(I) of 1996  
 50(1) of 1998  
 90(I) of 1999  
 192(I) of 2014
- (e) an offence in breach of the Laws of 1997 to 2007 on Collective Betting (Regulation and Tax), which were repealed by paragraph (1) of Article 92 of the Betting Laws of 2012, or
- (f) an offence in breach of the Betting Laws of 2012, which were repealed by paragraph (1) of Article 100 of the present Law, or
- (g) an offence in breach of the Law on Taxation of Horseracing Bets and Sweepstakes, or
- (h) an offence in breach of Article 4 or paragraph (2) of article 15 of the Laws of 2012 on Games Machines, Skill Machines and Entertainment Machines, which were repealed by paragraph (2) of Article 92 of the Betting Laws of 2012, or
- (i) an offence in breach of the provisions of the present Law;

‘telecommunications’ shall mean communications through the:



- (a) internet or
- (b) telephone or
- (c) television or
- (d) any other electronic means or other technology;

provided that for the purposes of this definition, terms used in relation to telecommunications which are not defined in the present Law shall have the meaning attributed to them in the Law on the Regulation of Electronic Communications and Postal Services;

112(I) of 2004

84(I) of 2005

149(I) of 2005

67(I) of 2006

113(I) of 2007

134(I) of 2007

46(I) of 2008

103(I) of 2009

94(I) of 2011

51(I) of 2012

160(I) of 2013

77(I) of 2014

104(I) of 2016

112(I) of 2016

‘odds’ shall mean the ratio between every monetary unit paid by any person participating in a bet and the winnings corresponding to it;

“location” includes any residence, office, room or building and any other place or location spot either indoors or outdoors, as well as any vehicle, landed aircraft and any ship, boat or other craft floating or not;

“Online casino games” shall mean online games of chance in which a direct link may be obtained either (a) through terminal machines interlinked with a central computerised system, or (b) with electronic computers through telecommunications as well as with any other appliance which may be used for such a link and includes, inter alia, online roulette, online poker and slot machines, as specified in the present Law;

“game of chance” shall mean a game whose outcome depends at least in part on luck and which is played either by paying money or moveable or immovable assets, or using credit or any other item of economic value, irrespective of whether it generates financial gain to the player or not;

“person in charge of premises” shall mean a person appointed as being in charge of the premises pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article 40;

“Minister” shall mean the Minister of Finance and includes any person authorised by him/her pursuant to Article 98.

## **PART II**

### **NATIONAL BETTING AUTHORITY**

National Betting  
Authority.

3.-(1) An authority by the name ‘National Betting Authority’ is hereby established, which is a legal entity governed by public law with all the characteristics of a legal entity; the Authority shall be governed by the present Law.

(2) The Authority shall exercise the duties, powers and competences granted to it by the present Law.

(3) The Authority is governed by a seven-member Board of Directors (hereinafter “The Board of Directors”) and acts through it and the Board of Directors manages the Authority’s property and resources and acts

upon its duties, powers and responsibilities.

(4) An independent person of recognised standing and honesty, holder of a university degree in the fields of law or economics or commerce, and with acknowledged experience in the relevant sector shall be appointed President of the Authority's Board of Directors.

(5) The Council of Ministers shall appoint the following persons as members of the Authority's Boards of Directors:

- (a) a representative of -
  - (i) The Accountant General's Office,
  - (ii) The Ministry of Finance,
  - (iii) The Ministry of Justice & Public Order and
- (b) three (3) individuals of recognised standing and honesty with specialised knowledge consistent with the Authority's competences.

37(I) of 2019 (6) Notwithstanding the above paragraphs (1) to (5) of this Article and the provisions of Article 100, the President and the members of the Authority, as established pursuant to the 2012 Betting Laws and as it stands on the date of entry into force of the present Law, shall be deemed to be the President and the members of the Board of Directors of the Authority and shall exercise their powers in accordance with the present Law, until the date on which their term of office would have expired, as if the said Laws had not been repealed.

(7) The President and members of the Board of Directors of the Authority as well as any person working for the Authority have no civil liability for any act or omission when performing their duties or exercising their powers under the present Law, unless it is proven that the act or omission was done in bad faith.

Conflict of interests of the members of 4. The President and the members of the Board of Directors of the Authority shall have no financial or other interest related to the exercise

the Authority's Board of Directors	of the Authority's powers.
Duration of the term of office of the Authority's Board of Directors	5. The term of office of the President and the members of the Authority's Board of Directors is three years and may be renewed once for a second consecutive three-year term, in accordance with this Part. For the purposes of this Article, the term of office in paragraph (6) of Article 3 shall not be taken into account.
Terms and conditions of service and remuneration of the President and compensation of members of the Authority's Board of Directors	<p>6.-(1) The conditions of service and remuneration of the President of the Authority's Board of Directors shall be set by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>(2) The members of the Board of Directors of the Authority shall be paid a compensation fee for each meeting, the level of which shall be set by the Council of Ministers.</p> <p>(3) The cost of the President's remuneration and of the compensation of the rest members of the Board of Directors shall be covered by the Authority's annual budget.</p>
Vacancy of the President's position	<p>7. The position of the President of the Authority shall fall vacant in the event of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) his death or</li> <li>(b) resignation submitted in writing to the Council of Ministers, or</li> <li>(c) he or she is deprived of the office by the Council of Ministers in accordance with Article 8.</li> </ul>

Disqualification of the President and members of the Authority's Board of Directors

8. The Council of Ministers shall remove the President or a member of the Authority's Board of Directors from their post, when the President or such member:

- (a) under the laws applicable in the Republic, is declared bankrupt or agrees on a settlement with his/her creditors, or
- (b) under the laws applicable in the Republic, is declared mentally incapable, or
- (c) is convicted of a relevant offence, or
- (d) is incapable of performing his/her duties, due to physical disability or illness, or
- (e) acquires a financial or other interest which may affect the impartiality of his judgement and does not submit his/her resignation, or
- (f) abuses his/her position so that any continuation of his/her term of office would be detrimental to the public interest, and does not submit his/her resignation, or
- (g) following a recommendation from the Authority in the case of unjustified absence from the exercise of his/her duties and in particular after unjustified absence from the Authority's meetings for three consecutive times.

Authority's office and personnel

9.-(1) The Authority shall have an office and personnel. The Authority's structure, departments and operation shall be laid down in regulations issued by the Council of Ministers;

provided that where it is not possible to recruit personnel, and until such recruitment, the Authority may use personnel seconded from the

civil service.

73(I) of 2016	<p>(2) The Authority may appoint and enter into contracts with, under the terms and conditions it may define, any inspectors and agents considered necessary to effectively perform its functions and carry out its duties, provided that such appointments and contracts shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Law on the Regulation of Procedures for the Award of Public Contracts and Related Matters, or are not in conflict with them.</p>
Financial Year	<p>10. The Authority's financial year shall commence on 1 January and end on 31 December of the same year.</p>
Account-keeping	<p>11. The Authority shall keep full and accurate accounts which shall be audited by the Auditor General of the Republic and submitted to the Minister.</p>
<p>Annual Report and Financial Statements 20(I) of 2014 123(I) of 2016 133(I) of 2016 159(I) of 2017.</p>	<p>12.-(1) The Authority must prepare a report and financial statements for the previous financial year, according to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Systems Law.</p>
Annual budget	<p>13.-(1) The Authority must prepare and submit an annual budget for the next fiscal year, according to the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Systems Law.</p> <p>(2) The Authority's net profits for each financial year and the Authority's accumulated surplus from previous years, apart from the 1% contribution collected by the Authority in support of mechanisms and programmes destined to protect young people and pathological players pursuant to subparagraph (b) of paragraph (3) of Article 74 shall be allocated as follows:</p>

- (a) twenty percent (20%) share of net profits shall be transferred to the capital reserves,
  - (b) eighty percent (80%) share of net profits shall be transferred to the Consolidated Fund of the Republic, and
  - (c) the accumulated surplus shall be transferred to the Consolidated Fund of the Republic.
- (3) Upon approval from the Minister, the Authority may transfer an amount equal to the capital reserves referred to in subparagraph (a) of paragraph (2) or part thereof to its budget for the current year.

Operation of the  
Authority

14.-(1) The President shall be the head of the Authority, convene its meetings, sign the minutes and all other important documents.

(2) The President shall ensure that decisions are enforced and that the Authority's powers are exercised, and shall represent the Authority before the courts or other authorities;

provided that the President may authorise another person to represent the Authority before the courts.

(3) The President shall convene a meeting of the Board of Directors whenever he/she considers it necessary, but at least once a month, and when so requested in writing by at least two (2) members of the Board of Directors, who also determine the items on the agenda, the meeting shall be convened as soon as possible.

(4) The invitation to meetings must be in writing and addressed to all members of the Authority's Board of Directors, at least two (2) days before the date set for the meeting;

provided that, in extraordinary and justified cases, the invitation may be given to members of the Board of Directors twenty-four (24) hours before the date set for the meeting.

(5) The agenda shall be prepared by the President and sent along with the invitation to the meeting;

provided however that if the Authority's Board of Directors so decides in extraordinary and justified cases, it may discuss an item not on the agenda raised by either the President or a member.

(6) The Board of Directors shall have a quorum when the President and at least three (3) members are present at a meeting.

(7) The decisions of the Board of Directors shall be taken by majority and in the case of a tie the President shall have the casting vote.

(8) When examining applications submitted on the basis of the present Law, the Board of Directors may, when it considers it necessary, invite the applicant to appear in person and/or with a lawyer.

Competences of the  
Authority

15. The main competences of the Authority are listed below:

- (a) to prepare draft regulations which shall be submitted via the Minister to the Council of Ministers;
- (b) to prepare and issue Authority regulations and Directives on the improved implementation of the present Law. These Directives are binding, and their implementation is mandatory for the persons they are addressed to and the Authority shall oversee their implementation by Class A or B licensed bookmakers and authorised agents;
- (c) to issue Directives to Class A or B licensed bookmakers and authorised agents and holders of premises licences concerning the implementation of preventive measures to combat money laundering, in accordance with the Law on the Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering Activities, in collaboration with the Advisory Authority for Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing,



which is provided for in the said Laws. These Directives are binding, and their implementation is mandatory for the persons they are addressed to and the Authority shall oversee their implementation by Class A or B licensed bookmakers and authorised agents;

- (d) to carry out suitable checks and in general to supervise the holders of Class A or B bookmakers licences, authorised agent licenses and premises licenses in order to ascertain that they are complying with the conditions laid down in their licenses, the provisions of the present Law, the regulations and the Directives issued by the Authority;
- (e) to examine applications for Class A or B bookmakers, authorised agents and premises licences and to issue the relevant licenses in accordance with Parts III and IV;
- (f) to carry out inspections of unlicensed premises, in collaboration with the competent prosecution authorities and to obtain the necessary court orders to close premises for which there are reasonable grounds to believe that illegal betting is conducted or other offences are committed, as specified in Articles 79, 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87;
- (g) in general, to oversee and supervise the market and, in collaboration with the prosecution authorities, to suppress illegal bets or other related offences committed by any person;
- (h) to define, through Authority regulations, the procedure for submitting complaints and for the examining of such complaints by the Authority regarding a Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent or premises licence holder;
- (i) to collaborate and discuss with national organising

authorities and international organisations in relation to betting regulation issues;

- (j) to collaborate and discuss with international organisations issues relating to the protection of young people and vulnerable groups from betting and to implement specific prevention and protection measures;
- (k) to collaborate and engage in dialogue with various organisations and public services to ensure proper and effective implementation of the provisions of the present Law, including the option to set up advisory committees;
- (l) to prepare the Authority's opinions on issues of compliance with the Law and to notify its views to licensed bookmakers concerned;
- (m) to draft and maintain a betting advertising code of practice;
- (n) to evaluate the results of the tax regime on betting and to make relevant recommendations;
- (o) to prepare recommendations on amendments needed to the existing legislation concerning betting and related sectors;
- (p) to prepare studies at regular intervals, to consult with the citizens on the impact of betting on young people, vulnerable groups and the general public, and to frequently submit recommendations to the competent services regarding the measures to be taken for the protection of young people, vulnerable groups and the general public;
- (q) to issue regulations and Directives on how to protect young people and pathological players, with the possibility to consider in advance the views of other competent agencies or other stakeholders to that end;

- (r) to monitor developments relating to illegal bets, to prepare statistical studies and to draw up recommendations to eliminate such betting;
- (s) to inform internet service providers through electronic means about all website addresses providing betting services not covered by a Class B bookmaker's licence and/or services prohibited by the present Law;
- (t) to collect the contribution paid by Class A or B licensed bookmakers, in accordance with Part VIII;
- (u) to impose sanctions on any person who violates the provisions of the present Law.

### **PART III**

## **BOOKMAKER'S AND AUTHORISED AGENT'S LICENCE**

### CHAPTER A - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Licence to provide betting services

16.-(1) Betting services shall only be provided by a person who holds a Class A bookmaker's licence or a Class A bookmaker authorised agent's licence or a Class B bookmaker's licence issued by the Authority following a request to that effect, in compliance with the provisions of this Part, which licence - depending on its Class- shall authorise the provision of the betting services specified in paragraph (2).

(2) The Authority shall, pursuant to paragraph (1) issue:

- (a) a Class A bookmaker's licence authorising the provision of services to conduct bets at licensed premises, excluding Class B betting services and horse-racing betting;
- (b) a Class B bookmaker's licence authorising the provision of electronic betting services, excluding slot machines, online

casino games and electronic horse-racing betting;

- (c) a Class A bookmaker authorised agent's licence authorising the provision of services to conduct bets on behalf of a Class A bookmaker at licensed premises, excluding Class B betting services and horse-racing betting.

Licence format

17. The Class A or B bookmaker's or authorised agent's licence shall be issued in the format specified in the Authority's regulations and shall include:

- (a) the person for whose benefit the licence has been issued;
- (b) the Class for which it has been issued;
- (c) its period of validity; and
- (d) any conditions imposed on the licence by the Authority in accordance with the provisions of the present Law and the Regulations.

Application to obtain or renew a Class A or B bookmaker's licence and authorised agent's licence

18.-(1) The application to obtain or renew a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence shall be submitted to the Authority along with the payment of the relevant fee, with the use of the form issued by the Authority and shall include -but is not limited to- the following information:

- (a) the Class of the licence which is being applied for;
- (b) the postal address within the Republic to which the Authority shall send any document, notice or other form of communication to the applicant; and
- (c) when the application is submitted by a legal person, the identity details and the place of residence of the beneficial owner, officer and holder of a significant interest. Where the

same person applies for a Class A bookmaker's licence and a Class B bookmaker's licence, the applications shall be submitted on separate forms and independently of each other.

(2) The application to renew a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence shall be submitted at least three (3) months prior to the expiry date of the licence.

(3) The application submitted according to paragraph (1), is accompanied with the following details of the applicant, in the case of a natural person, or the details of the ultimate beneficiary, officer and holder of significant interest, in the case of a legal entity:

- (a) the terms and conditions under which the applicant intends to provide betting services to players;
- (b) financial information;
- (c) involvement in lawful activities which include but are not limited to any interest in any other commercial activity;
- (d) criminal record;
  - (i) from the Republic,
  - (ii) from the country of nationality, in the case of a natural person, or from the country where the registered office is located, in the case of a legal person,
  - (iii) from the country of habitual residence, in the case of a natural person, and
  - (iv) from the country where the person concerned carries out its main business or professional activity;
- (e) information relating to the applicant's financial and other interests;
- (f) any additional information and documents which are

considered necessary by the Authority.

Conditions for issuing or renewing a Class A or B bookmaker's licence and authorised agent's licence

19.-(1) No Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence shall be issued or renewed unless the Authority is satisfied that the applicant, officer, beneficial owner and holder of a significant interest in the legal person: -

- (a) has not been convicted of a relevant offence by a competent Court of the country referred to in subparagraph (d) of paragraph (3) of Article 18; and
- (b) has, at the time the application is submitted, turned 18 years old.

(2) When examining the application to issue or renew a licence, where the Authority considers that the legal or natural persons referred to in paragraph (1) meet the conditions of that paragraph, it shall, for the purpose of determining the suitability of those persons, take into account the following:

- (a) the current financial situation and background of the person, which includes but is not limited to financial resources available for the provision of the specific betting services;
- (b) in the case of a non-clear criminal record, the nature of previous convictions, the type of penalty imposed and its level.

Decision of the Authority on the application

20.-(1) When examining the application for the issuing or renewal of a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence, the Authority may:

- (a) where it is satisfied that the conditions set out in the provisions of this Part are met, approve the application and impose the conditions required in its view to ensure better

implementation of the provisions of the present Law and of the Regulations, or

(b) reject the application.

(2) Within a reasonable period of time from the date of approval of the application for a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence, the Authority shall notify accordingly the applicant and issue the licence.

(3) In case the Authority rejects the application for a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence, it shall provide a justification for its decision and notify it to the applicant within a reasonable period of time.

Amendment of the conditions in a Class A or B bookmaker's licence and authorised agent's licence

21.-(1) The Authority may, where it considers it necessary for the better implementation of the provisions of the present Law and of the regulations, amend or cancel conditions of a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence or impose new conditions, having taken into account the circumstances under which they were imposed in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) Before amending, cancelling or imposing new conditions, the Authority shall notify the licence holder in writing of its intention and shall invite him/her to submit in writing the reasons why he/she considers that the proposed amendment, cancellation or imposition of new conditions is not justified, within a deadline of no less than three (3) weeks from the date of the notice.

Notification to credit institutions and disclosure

22. Each Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence issued by the Authority and each revocation or suspension of a licence and each amendment, cancellation or imposition of new conditions shall be notified to the credit institutions and published by the Authority.

Prohibition on the transfer or

23. A Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence may not be transferred or assigned, nor its use may be licensed in any

assignment of a manner to any other person.  
 Class A or B  
 bookmaker's licence  
 and authorised  
 agent's licence

Intended change in 24.-(1) Without written consent from the Authority, no Class A or B  
 the circumstances of licensed bookmaker or authorised agent is entitled to make or agree to  
 a licensed Class A or any change or to take any steps relating to the following:  
 B bookmaker and  
 authorised agent

- (a) acquisition of a significant interest in a Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent, from a person who does not hold a significant interest in it;
- (b) the holder of a significant interest ceases to hold such an interest in a Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent;
- (c) change in the Board of Directors or officers of the management of a Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent;
- (d) change or alteration to the information or data submitted to the Authority for the purpose of issuing or renewing a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence;
- (e) a decision or resolution or notice or application or action filed before a court or any other steps taken which could lead to that legal person being dissolved or liquidated;
- (f) an agreement between a Class A licensed bookmaker and an authorised agent under which the authorised agent will receive a percentage of the income or winnings from betting services offered by the same;



- (g) a change of the beneficial owner of a Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent.

(2) Any request submitted for authorisation pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be accompanied by the necessary information and documents decided upon by the Authority in each case.

(3) Within a reasonable period of time, the Authority shall notify the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent of its decision and in case the application is rejected, it shall provide the reasons for its decision.

(4) In case a Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent implements any changes or takes any steps without prior approval from the Authority, the Authority may suspend or revoke the licence pursuant to Articles 25 and 26 respectively or impose sanctions.

Suspension of a Class A or B bookmaker's licence and authorised agent's licence

25.-(1) The Authority shall for a specific period of time which may not exceed six (6) months, suspend a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence in case the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent:

- (a) does not comply with any conditions contained in the licence or with any obligation laid down in the present Law or the regulations or Directives; or
- (b) fails without good cause to perform its financial obligations in respect of the provision of betting services.

(2) In case the Authority suspends a Class A bookmaker's licence in accordance with paragraph (1) it shall also suspend any corresponding authorised agent's licence for the same period.

(3) Any suspension of the licence shall not prejudice the Authority's general power to impose administrative fines in accordance with Part X

on the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or on the authorised agent.

Revocation of a  
Class A or B  
bookmaker's licence  
and authorised  
agent's licence

26.-(1) The Authority shall revoke a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence in case:

- (a) the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent is convicted of a relevant offence; or
- (b) any holder of significant interest or officer or beneficial owner of a Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent, in case of a legal person, is convicted of any relevant offence; or
- (c) the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent is in liquidation or bankruptcy proceedings or has gone bankrupt; or
- (d) the Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence was obtained through fraudulent acts or false representations or fraud; or
- (e) the actual circumstances which applied at the time it was issued have changed significantly, and those circumstances constitute under the present Law a condition for the issuance of the licence; or
- (f) the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or the authorised agent does not implement the procedures to prevent money laundering activities in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering, which are laid down in the relevant Directives issued by the Authority, pursuant to paragraph (c) of Article 15; or
- (g) the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent

provides credit to a player or to a player's account or acts as a representative of a person who provides such credit, or acts in a manner which facilitates the granting of credit to a player or to a player's account; or

- (h) the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or the authorised agent or the natural persons who are responsible for implementing the provisions of the present Law on the premises pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article 40, provide credit facilities to a player or establish direct or indirect methods for the provision of similar facilities; or
- (i) the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent fails to comply with any condition contained in the licence or to perform any obligation after a six (6) month period starting from the expiry date of the licence suspension period according to the Article 25; or
- (j) the Class B licensed bookmaker is convicted in accordance with Article 59; or
- (k) the Class A or B licensed bookmaker fails to comply with Article 71.

(2) In case the Authority revokes a Class A bookmaker's licence in accordance with paragraph (1) it shall also revoke any authorised agent's licence.

(3) Any revocation of the licence shall not prejudice the Authority's general power to impose administrative fines in accordance with Part X on the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or on the authorised agent.

Procedure for the suspension or revocation of a Class A or B bookmaker's 27.-(1) Before suspending or revoking a licence according to Articles 25 or 26 respectively, the Authority shall invite the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or the authorised agent and/or any other person who has an interest in the licence being granted, to submit their views within a period

licence and authorised agent's licence.

of at least three (3) weeks from the date of the notice. The Authority may invite the person to whom the notice is addressed to submit any information or any documents which the Authority considers necessary under the circumstances.

(2) Having considered any views, information or documents presented to it pursuant to paragraph (1), and having formed the view that it is justified in taking any measures, the Authority may:

- (a) suspend a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence for a period it considers necessary, which may not exceed six (6) months, or may revoke the licence, and/or
- (b) send a written notice inviting the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent to comply with any other measures specified in the said notice, and

in any case, the Authority discloses its decision in writing to the Class A or B bookmaker or the authorized agent or any other person who holds an interest in issuing the license.

(3) In case the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent does not comply, within a specified reasonable period of time, with the decisions issued according to paragraphs (1) and (2) regarding the suspension or the imposition of measures, the Authority may revoke the licence.

Validity of a Class A or B bookmaker's licence and authorised agent's licence.

28.-(1) A Class A or B bookmaker's licence shall be valid for a period of one or two (2) years, from the date of issue or renewal, depending on the time period specified in the application.

(2) Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 37, the authorised agent's licence shall be valid for such time as the Class A bookmaker's

licence is valid, and in this regard, it may be issued for a period of less than 1 year.

Register of Class A or B bookmakers' licences and authorised agents' licences.	29. The Authority shall keep a register of Class A or B bookmakers' licences and authorised agents' licences which contains the information referred to in the application and shall post a list of Class A and B licensed bookmakers and authorised agents on the Authority's website.
Payable fee	30. The fees for issuing or renewing a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence shall be defined in regulations issued by the Authority.
Refund of the payable fee	31. The payable fee shall be paid upon submission of the application to issue or renew a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence and in the event the application is rejected, it shall be returned reduced by twenty five percent (25%).

#### CHAPTER B - BOOKMAKER'S LICENCE

Application to obtain or renew a Class A or B bookmaker's licence	<p>32.-(1) An application for a Class A or B bookmaker's licence may only be submitted by a company limited by shares, incorporated either in the Republic or outside the Republic, which complies with Part VIII of the Companies Law, and whose main activity is managing bets and whose issued and paid-up share capital is at least five hundred thousand euros (EUR 500.000).</p> <p>(2) The application for a Class A or B bookmaker's licence shall be accompanied by a bank guarantee from a credit institution for the sum of five hundred thousand euros (EUR 500.000), whose validity shall extend to a period which ends six (6) months after the expiration date of the bookmaker's licence requested in the application form:</p>
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Provided that the bank guarantee places the credit institution under an irrevocable obligation to pay any amount which the licensed bookmaker

is obliged to pay but fails to do so:

- (a) to a player who participated in a bet and won,
- (b) to the Republic as betting tax,
- (c) to the Authority as contribution,
- (d) any other debts to the Republic:

It is further provided that, if the Authority ascertains that the bank guarantee does not cover ten percent (10%) of the Class A or B licensed bookmaker's annual turnover, it may request an increase in the amount up to the figure which covers ten percent (10%) of its annual turnover.

(3) The applicant for a Class B bookmaker's licence shall, in addition to the application form, submit information and data relating to its obligation to install a backup server in the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, which will be connected in parallel to the main server, and on which data and information specified by the Authority and the support computerized system will be stored. The use of electronic equipment and its technical specifications, as well as any minimum time difference which may intervene when copying data from the main to the backup server shall be decided on, and may be revised, by the Authority, whenever it considers it necessary, by issuing relevant Directives.

Capability and suitability of a Class A or B bookmaker.

33. A person is considered capable of and suitable for acquiring a Class A or B bookmaker's licence when the Authority finds that that person:

- (a) has or can secure appropriate resources and maintain the minimum reserves required -which are decided on by the Authority- to ensure that winnings are paid to players,
- (b) maintains a suitable control and accounting control system in

place for the betting services offered,

- (c) applies terms and conditions when providing betting services which, in the Authority's view, ensure appropriate player protection, and
- (d) ensures the suitability of the operation of any other equipment which may be used.

Examination of the application for issuing or renewing a Class A bookmaker's licence

34. When examining the application for issuing or renewing of a Class A bookmaker's licence, the Authority shall not issue or renew the licence unless it has first approved the computerized system proposed by the applicant, in accordance with Article 55.

Failure to pay betting tax or contribution

35. Without prejudice to the provisions of Article 79, the Authority shall revoke the licence of a Class A or B licensed bookmaker in case it fails within one month from the expiration date of the payment deadline, to pay the amounts of tax or contribution due in accordance with the present Law or any other legislation.

#### CHAPTER C - AUTHORISED AGENT'S LICENCE

Application for an authorised agent's licence

36. The application for an authorised agent's licence may be submitted by any natural person or company limited by shares incorporated in the Republic whose main activity is taking bets on behalf of or in the name of a Class A licensed bookmaker.

Termination of an authorised agent's licence

37. An authorised agent's licence shall cease to be valid:

- (a) when revoked by the Authority, in case the Class A bookmaker's licence of the person on whose behalf or in whose name the authorised agent conducts bets is revoked;
- (b) when suspended by the Authority, in case the Class A

bookmaker's licence of the person on whose behalf or in the interest of whom the authorised agent conducts bets is suspended for any reason and for such time as it is suspended; and

- (c) following written notice sent to the Authority, in which the bookmaker or authorised agent terminates their collaboration.

Agreement between a Class A bookmaker and an authorised agent 38. The authorised agent shall submit to the Authority a written agreement between the agent and the Class A licensed bookmaker, which explicitly states that the agent will provide betting services as an agent, on behalf of and in the name of the Class A licensed bookmaker. The Authority may specify and publish on its website the minimum mandatory provisions of the agreement between the authorised agent and the Class A licensed bookmaker.

#### **PART IV PREMISES LICENSE**

Nature and format of the premises licence 39. A premises licence authorises the use of premises to provide Class A betting services, and sets out:

- (a) the person for whose benefit the licence has been issued;
- (b) the place of residence and work address of the person for whose benefit the licence is issued, in the case of a natural person, or the address of its registered office in the case of a legal person;
- (c) the premises for which it is issued;
- (d) any conditions imposed by the Authority pursuant to the Article 42;



- (e) the architectural plan of the premises; and
- (f) any other information the Authority may request.

Application for a premises licence

40.-(1) An application for a premises licence shall be submitted to the Authority by a Class A licensed bookmaker or authorised agent along with the payment of the payable fee, in the format specified in regulations issued by the Authority, and shall include the information and documents decided upon by the Authority and shall be accompanied by a written statement from the owner of the premises granting his consent to the premises being used to provide Class A betting services.

(2) Where the Class A licensed bookmaker or authorised agent employs staff, it must appoint one or more natural persons as responsible for implementing the present Law at the premises and notify the Authority in that regard.

Conditions for issuing or renewing a premises licence

41.-(1) The Authority shall not issue or renew a premises licence for which an application has been submitted unless it is reasonably satisfied that:

- (a) the only activity carried out at the licensed premises is the provision of betting services by a Class A licensed bookmaker or authorised agent, and that only authorised activities will be carried out there in accordance with the Class A bookmaker's licence and any other type of authorised betting or authorised game of chance, in accordance with the provisions of any other legislation;
- (b) the premises are separate, are not directly or indirectly connected to any other shop, office, business or premises apart from the management offices of the Class A licensed bookmaker;
- (c) the person or persons responsible appointed pursuant to paragraph (2) of Article 40 have not been convicted of a

relevant offence and have turned eighteen (18) years of age;

- (d) the premises meet all the terms and conditions laid down in the present Law and the Regulations;
- (e) the applicant and any person employed at the premises meet the conditions laid down in the present Law and the Regulations; and
- (f) the area where the premises are located is considered suitable in accordance with the conditions and restrictions laid down in Directives issued by the Authority.

(2) In order to take any decision, for the purposes of this Part, the Authority may consider representations made by any person.

Approval or rejection of an application for a premises' licence 42.-(1) When examining the application for a premises licence, the Authority may approve an application with or without conditions or reject the application and notify the applicant within a reasonable period of time.

(2) Where the Authority rejects the application for a premises licence, it shall provide a justification for its decision and notify it to the applicant.

Conditions of a premises licence 43.-(1) The Authority shall be empowered to revoke existing or impose new conditions on premises licences and shall invite the holder of a premises' licence in writing to express, within a period of three (3) weeks from receiving the notice, his views in writing.

(2) Before taking a decision on this matter the Authority shall consider any representations made within the period specified in paragraph (1).

(3) Revocation of an existing condition or imposition of new conditions shall not give rise to any civil rights.

Validity of a premises licence 44. Subject to the provisions of this Part, the validity period of the premises licence is the same as the validity period of the Class A

bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence.

Obligations of the premises licence holder

45.-(1) The premises licence holder displays and maintains in a prominent location at the licensed premises:

- (a) the premises licence;
- (b) a sign indicating in Greek, Turkish and English that minors are prohibited from entering the licensed premises; and
- (c) in Greek, Turkish and English, the terms and conditions under which betting services are provided, in a manner specified by the Authority.

(2) The premises licence holder or the person in charge must allow members of the Cyprus Police and/or representatives of the Authority and/or other persons suitably authorised by the Minister or authorised pursuant to any other law, to freely enter the licensed premises in order to check on the proper and strict application of the terms under which the licence was granted, the provisions of the present Law and the Regulations, as well as the Directives issued by the Authority pursuant to paragraph (c) of Article 15.

(3) Where the premises licence holder or the person in charge does not comply with paragraphs (1) or (2) without good cause, he shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months or to a fine not exceeding five thousand euros (EUR 5.000), or both.

Suspension of a premises licence

46.-(1) The Authority may suspend a premises licence in case it finds that the Class A licensed bookmaker or authorised agent does not comply with any of the terms contained in the licence.

(2) The suspension shall be lifted if the Authority considers that the grounds on which the suspension was ordered no longer apply.

(3) The suspension of the validity of the premises licence does not affect any obligation of the licence holder which arose before the suspension.

Revocation of a premises licence

47.-(1) The Authority may revoke a premises licence in the case where:

- (a) the premises licence holder fails to comply with any condition contained in the licence after a six (6) month period starting from the date of suspension of the licence in accordance with Article 48; or
- (b) the premises licence holder or any holder of significant interest or officer of the company holding the premises licence, or any person appointed in accordance with the paragraph (2) of Article 40 is convicted of a relevant offence; or
- (c) the premises licence was obtained on the basis of false, unsubstantiated or misleading representations or in another irregular manner; or
- (d) the Class A bookmaker's licence has been revoked; or
- (e) the revocation is considered necessary and reasonable for reasons of public interest.

(2) Revocation or expiry of the premises licence does not affect any obligation of the licence holder for any matter which arose before the revocation or expiry.

Procedure for the suspension or revocation of a premises licence

48.-(1) Before suspending or revoking a premises licence according to Articles 46 and 47 respectively, the Authority shall invite the premises licence holder or any other person who in the Authority's view is responsible for the licence being suspended or revoked, to submit their views within a period of at least three (3) weeks from the date of the notice. The Authority may invite the person to whom the notice is addressed to submit any information or any documents which the

Authority considers necessary under the circumstances.

(2) Having considered any views, information or documents presented to it pursuant to paragraph (1), and having formed the view that it is justified in taking any measures, the Authority may:

- (a) suspend the licence for a period which it considers necessary or revoke the licence, and/or
- (b) send a written notice inviting the premises licence holder to comply with any other measures specified in the notice,

and in all events, it shall notify the premises licence holder or any other person who has an interest in the licence being granted or who has raised an issue with the Authority relevant to issue at hand, of its decision in writing.

(3) When the premises licence holder does not comply, within the specified reasonable period of time, with the decisions issued pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2) the Authority may revoke the licence.

Transfer of premises licence 49. A premises licence may only be transferred:

- (a) by a Class A licensed bookmaker to another Class A licensed bookmaker, or
- (b) by a Class A licensed bookmaker to a licensed authorised agent, or
- (c) by a licensed authorised agent to another licensed authorised agent, or
- (d) by a licensed authorised agent to a Class A licensed bookmaker,

and it is carried out after an application to that effect has been submitted to the Authority in the format set out in the regulations issued by the

Authority, and has been approved by the Authority, in which case a new premises licence shall be issued under the same terms and conditions which applied prior to the transfer.

Register of premises licences 50. The Authority shall keep a register of premises licences with the information contained in the application form and shall post a list of licensed premises to its website.

## **PART V**

### **CONDUCTING BETTING WITH BETTING SLIPS - CLASS A**

Conducting and accepting bets using a computerised betting slip marking system 51.-(1) Conducting and accepting Class A bets shall only be carried out with an approved computerised betting slip marking system using betting slips issued and provided by a Class A licensed bookmaker in a format approved by the Authority.

(2) Each Class A licensed bookmaker provides the Authority with any information requested relating to the provision of Class A betting services or any transaction related to the operation of the system.

Application for approval of the computerised betting slip marking system 52.-(1) An applicant for a Class A bookmaker's licence submits an application to the Authority for the approval of the computerised betting slip marking system before conducting or accepting bets based on that system.

(2) The application for approval of the computerised betting slip marking system in accordance with paragraph (1) must necessarily state the complete specifications of the proposed system and must also include:

- (a) the general procedures to be followed;
- (b) details and specifications of the software to be used;
- (c) the accounting systems and procedures;
- (d) procedures and standards for the maintenance, safety,

storage and transportation of the hardware;

- (e) procedures for creating and maintaining safety facilities, including general compliance and internal audits in relation to access to critical systems;
- (f) the disaster recovery plan;
- (g) a satisfactory data storage system; and
- (h) any information the Authority may specify.

(3) The provisions of this Article shall also apply in the case where the Class A licensed bookmaker intends to amend or replace the computerised betting slip marking system which has already been approved by the Authority.

Obligation of Class A licensed bookmakers to retain betting slips	53. A Class A licensed bookmaker must retain betting slips and any other document related to the provisions of betting services for a period of five (5) years and must not destroy them after this five (5)-year period without the Authority's prior approval.
Offences for infringement of Articles 51, 52 or 53	54. A person who infringes the Articles 51, 52 or 53 shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding one hundred fifty thousand euros (EUR 150.000), or both.
Inspection of the computerised system	55. The applicant submits the proposed computerised betting slip marking system or the already approved computerised system for inspection before operating it and shall bear the cost of such inspection.
Examination of an application for approval of computerised system by the Authority.	56.-(1) When examining an application for approval of the computerised betting slip marking system or for amendment or replacement of an approved computerised betting slip marking system, the Authority shall consider whether:

- (a) the proposed computerised betting slip marking system is fully in line with the specifications provided for in the present Law and the Regulations;
- (b) the proposed computerised betting slip marking system ensures satisfactory and effective control of the bets conducted and of the player's name;
- (c) the equipment needed, including the electromechanical parts, the main and backup server and the software of the computerised betting slip marking system are and will remain installed in the Republic.

(2) After examining the application pursuant to paragraph (1), the Authority may approve the application with or without conditions or reject the application, and in case of rejection, its reasoned decision shall be notified to the applicant.

Approval of an application for a computerised system

57.-(1) When the Authority approves an application with conditions, it shall notify the applicant within a reasonable period of time and shall indicate the changes or amendments which must be made to the system within the time period specified.

(2) Failure to comply with the Authority's recommendations is sufficient ground for rejecting the application or suspending or revoking the Class A bookmaker's licence in accordance with the present Law.

## **PART VI**

### **CONDUCTING ONLINE BETTING – CLASS B**

Right to participate in online betting

58.-(1) Only a person who is registered as a player pursuant to Article 60 and who has an account pursuant to Article 61 is permitted to participate in online betting.

(2) A person who registers as a player is not allowed to have more than one account.



Offence for infringement of Article 58	<p>59. A Class B licensed bookmaker who allows any person to participate in online betting in breach of Article 58 shall be guilty of a misdemeanour and, if convicted for the first time, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding fifty thousand euros (EUR 50.000), or both, and in the case of a second conviction, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two (2) years or a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand euros (EUR 100.000), or both.</p>
Player registration	<p>60.-(1) A Class B licensed bookmaker shall allow a person to register as a player provided that this person submits a relevant application for registration.</p> <p>(2) The application for registration must be submitted online and includes at least the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) confirmation that the player is aged eighteen 18 years old or over;</li> <li>(b) the player's identity details;</li> <li>(c) the player's home address;</li> <li>(d) a valid email address; and</li> <li>(e) confirmation that the player has been informed on the terms of the bet and the way it is conducted, including the amount he may be required to pay to the Class B licensed bookmaker.</li> </ul> <p>(3) In case the Class B licensed bookmaker discovers that the person has submitted false information, the bookmaker does not register that person as a player and, if the said person has already been registered, the bookmaker immediately cancels the registration.</p> <p>(4) The Class B licensed bookmaker, within a period of thirty (30) days from the submission of the application for registration, verifies the</p>

player's identity and confirms the information provided by the player pursuant to paragraph (2).

(5) A person who has not turned eighteen (18) years old is prohibited to be registered as a player.

(6) A Class B licensed bookmaker keeps a secure list in electronic format of all registered players with the information referred to in paragraph (2), and any disclosures of all or part of that information shall be a criminal offence under the Law on Processing of Personal Data (Protection of the Individual).

138(I) of 2001

37(I) of 2003

105(I) of 2012.

Player's account.

61.-(1) A Class B licensed bookmaker keeps an account for each registered player and credits the registered player's account with all amounts:

(a) received by the Class B licensed bookmaker from or on behalf of the player; and

(b) owed by the Class B licensed bookmaker to the player.

(2) A Class B licensed bookmaker keeps the account of each registered player for a period of at least five (5) years from the date of the last transaction and is not allowed to destroy any data relating to that account unless that five (5)-year period has elapsed, and prior approval from the Authority has been obtained.

Accepting a player's bet

62.-(1) A Class B licensed bookmaker must not accept a bet unless the player's account contains sufficient funds to cover the amount of the bet.

(2) The amounts in the player's account are credited from the player's bank account or by using:

- (a) credit cards, or
  - (b) debit cards, or
  - (c) electronic transfer, or
  - (d) electronic money, issued by a person entitled or authorised to issue electronic money in accordance with the provisions of the Law on Electronic Money,
- 81(I) of 2012  
30(I) of 2018

and a Class B licensed bookmaker is not allowed to accept cash deposits in the player's account or the placing of bets with cash.

(3) A Class B licensed bookmaker must not provide credit to a player or player's account or act as an agent of a person who provides credit, or act in a manner which facilitates the granting of credit to a player or a player's account.

Payout of winnings 63.-(1) A Class B licensed bookmaker shall not pay any amount from the player's account to the player before verifying the player's identity, address and age.

(2) A Class B licensed bookmaker, at the request of the player in whose name the account has been opened, transfers the amounts due to the player within five (5) working days from the date of receiving the request, having first ascertained that the player is registered, having carried out security checks in relation to the player's account and having ensured that the terms and conditions relating to the payout of winnings to players are being complied with.

(3) Any amount paid to the player by a Class B licensed bookmaker may only be paid into the bank account from which the amounts used for the bet came from.

Transactions by a Class B licensed 64.-(1) A Class B licensed bookmaker shall not perform any transaction regarding an amount credited to the player's account other than:

bookmaker

- (a) to debit the account with an amount corresponding to the bet placed by the player; or
- (b) to transfer an amount at the player's request; or
- (c) to pay bank charges relating to the depositing or withdrawal of amounts; or
- (d) for any other purpose he is authorised to enter into transactions under the present Law.

(2) In case no transaction has been made in the player's account for a period of twenty four (24) months, the Class B licensed bookmaker transfers the balance of the player's account to an account specified by the player or, if the player cannot be located, the amount shall be transferred to the Authority. The amounts deposited with the Authority are to be used according to regulations issued by the Council of Ministers.

Provided that, there is no right to raise any claim against a Class B licensed bookmaker who has transferred an amount from the player's account to the Authority in accordance with the provisions of this Article.

Clients' bank  
account

65.-(1) A Class B licensed bookmaker keeps player amounts in a special clients' bank account at a credit institution and these amounts must be kept separate from its own funds.

(2) The amounts deposited in the clients' account, including amounts involved in offsetting by banks or credit card companies, must be at least equal to the total amount credited to the players' accounts maintained by the Class B licensed bookmaker;

Provided that when the amount deposited in the clients' account is less than the total amount credited to the players' accounts held by the Class B licensed bookmaker, the Class B licensed bookmaker makes up for that deficit from his own funds within three (3) days from the end of

the month in which the deficit emerged.

Credit institutions' obligations

66. A Class B licensed bookmaker submits proof to the Authority that the following obligations have been undertaken by the credit institution at which the Class B licensed bookmaker holds its clients' account:

- (a) that the credit institution shall not apply or impose any charge, write off or other claim on the clients' account,
- (b) that the credit institution shall not consolidate a clients' account with any other account in relation to any debt of the Class B licensed bookmaker which is not related to the clients' account and
- (c) that the credit institution shall credit any interest payable in relation to the clients' account only to that account.

Class B licensed bookmaker's website for online betting services

67. A Class B licensed bookmaker maintains a website which shall contain in its home page all of the following information:

- (a) the registered name of its company;
- (b) its registered address;
- (c) the official number and issue date of the licence to provide betting services;
- (d) a statement that the Class B licensed bookmaker's activities are regulated by the Authority;
- (e) hyperlinks to websites of organisations specialised in providing help to people addicted to gambling which have been approved by the Authority;
- (f) hyperlinks to the terms and conditions under which betting

services are provided by the Class B licensed bookmaker;

- (g) provision that the use of betting services provided by the Class B licensed bookmaker by minors is explicitly prohibited according to the present Law;
- (h) the fact that the player, by means of an electronic notice to the Class B licensed bookmaker, may:
  - (i) set limits on the amount which can be bet for a specific time period;
  - (ii) set limits on the amount which can be lost for a specific time period;
  - (iii) set the duration of the time period during which he can place bets; and
  - (iv) exclude himself from betting for a specific or indefinite period of time;
- (i) the method for submitting and the procedure for handling complaints from registered players; and
- (j) any other information specified by the Authority.

Provided that, the Authority may require that the above information is presented in a specific manner.

Website address	68. The Class B licensed bookmaker provides betting services only through a specialised website, accessible only via internet addresses ending in “.com.cy”.
Obligation of internet service providers to implement a blocking system and obligation of the	69.-(1) Internet service providers implement a blocking system which prevents their users-customers from accessing providers of betting services who do not have a Class B bookmaker’s licence and providers of the services specified in Articles 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87 provided that they have been notified by the Authority pursuant to paragraph (2). The blocking system shall be implemented within seventy-two (72) hours

Authority to notify	<p>from the time the providers are notified by the Authority.</p> <p>(2) The Authority must notify internet service providers, via electronic means, about all website addresses which are offering betting services not covered by a Class B bookmaker's licence or services specified in Articles 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87.</p> <p>(3) Internet service providers have no liability for the transmission of services provided by betting services providers or in case of automatic or intermediate or temporary storage of information from betting services providers.</p>
Offences for infringement of Articles 62, 63, 64, 65, 67, 68 or 69	<p>70.-(1) A Class B licensed bookmaker who infringes the provisions of the Articles 62, 63, 64, 65, 67 or 68 and an internet service provider who fails or refuses to comply with the notification of the Authority specified in Article 69 shall be guilty of a misdemeanour, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two (2) years or a fine not exceeding one hundred seventy thousand euros (EUR 170.000), or both.</p> <p>(2) A Class B licensed bookmaker who infringes Directives issued pursuant to paragraph (c) of Article 15 in relation to the duty to disclose knowledge of or reasonable suspicions that a person is involved in committing money laundering to the Unit for Combating Money Laundering shall be guilty of a criminal offence and Article 27 of the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing shall apply accordingly.</p>

## **PART VII**

### **ACCOUNTS AND REGISTERS**

Annual Accounts and annual reports	<p>71.-(1) Every year, all Class A or B licensed bookmakers submit to the Authority, no later than 30 June, annual accounts for the previous year, which have been prepared in accordance with the International</p>
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Accounting Standards and have been audited by a statutory auditor or statutory auditing firm.

(2) Every year, all Class A or B licensed bookmakers must provide the Authority, no later than 30 June, with an annual report for the previous year, which must include the following:

- (a) all amounts already paid to the Class A or B licensed bookmaker relating to bets conducted during the year concerned;
- (b) all amounts paid by the Class A or B licensed bookmaker as winnings to players during the year concerned, irrespective of when the bet was conducted;
- (c) the names of the authorised agents of the Class A licensed bookmaker and the details of any amounts paid to them as commission; and
- (d) any other information requested by the Authority.

(3) The Authority may issue Directives on the submission of audited accounts by authorised agents of the Class A licensed bookmakers.

(4) In case a Class A or B licensed bookmaker does not submit audited accounts, the Authority shall in a written notice invite the Class A or B licensed bookmaker to do so within a period of one month from the date of receipt of the notice and, if it fails to comply, the Authority may trigger the provisions of Articles 25 to 27.

#### Books and records

72.-(1) All Class A or B licensed bookmakers enters in specific books or records details of each document in electronic or hard copy, electronic form or bet delivered to it and submits, within the specified time and in the specified manner, a statement of the amounts collected, or amounts receivable, either by the bookmakers or by any of their authorised agent.



(2) The Authority may issue Directives on how authorised agents are to keep the books and records specified in paragraph (1) and relating to the points specified in the said paragraph.

Books and records in electronic format 73. Without prejudice to Article 53, books and records kept pursuant to this Part are kept in electronic format, following approval from the Authority granted upon request.

### **PART VIII BETTING TAX**

Betting tax 74.-(1) Each Class A or B licensed bookmaker shall pay the Republic betting tax and the Authority a contribution in relation to bets conducted by it and its authorised agents, in accordance with the provisions of this Part.

(2) The amount of the betting tax, which is collected by the Authority and paid by it to the Republic's Consolidated Fund in each accounting period, shall amount to ten percent (10%) of the net revenue of the Class A or B licensed bookmaker from betting for the corresponding accounting period.

(3) The amount paid to the Authority as a contribution shall amount to three percent (3%) of the net revenue of the Class A or B licensed bookmaker from betting for each accounting period and shall be distributed as follows:

- (a) two percent (2%) of the net revenue from betting shall be paid to the Cyprus Sports Organisation which shall automatically distribute the entire amount as follows:
  - (i) one and a half percent (1.5%) to the Cypriot federation that organises the annual football championship, to be used to support football clubs and their academies;
  - (ii) half percent (0.5%) to the other Cypriot team sports federations, to be used to support their teams and

academies;

provided however that the said teams have fulfilled their tax obligations resulting from the tax years since the entry into force of the present Law;

37(I) of 2019 (b) one percent (1%) of the net revenue from betting shall be used by the Authority to support mechanisms and programmes for the protection of young people and pathological players.

(4) For the purposes of this Part, each calendar month shall be an accounting period.

(5) For the purposes of this Part, the amount of net revenues from betting for a Class A or B licensed bookmaker in a specific accounting period shall be equal to "X" minus "Y" where:

(a) "X" is the total amount paid to the Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent in the specific accounting period in relation to bets conducted by him/her; and

(b) "Y" is the total amount paid by the Class A or B licensed bookmaker in the specific period as winnings to players, irrespective of when the bets were placed or carried out.

(6) When calculating the amount due to a player from a bet, regard shall be had to any other benefits secured for the player, and no regard shall be had to the Class A or B licensed bookmaker's expenses.

(7) Where a player participates in a bet, in the context of a special offer which allows him not to pay any amount or to pay an amount less than the amount he would have to pay if the special offer did not exist, he shall be considered for the purposes of this Part to be obliged to pay that amount to the Class A or B licensed bookmaker and authorised agent at the time the bet was placed.

(8) For the purpose of subparagraph (b) of paragraph (5):

- (a) the reference to the payment of amounts to a player includes a reference to the amounts kept on behalf of the said player in case the said person can withdraw those amounts on first demand, and
- (b) the return of the amount of a bet is considered as payout of winnings.

Deadline for paying the betting tax and contribution 75. Every Class A or B licensed bookmaker pays the amount of betting tax and contribution due to the Republic and the Authority respectively, by the end of the calendar month following every accounting period, in the end of every accounting period, in accordance with this Part.

Fines for delayed payments 76.-(1) In case that, the betting tax due or the contribution due are not paid by the Class A or B licensed bookmaker in time in accordance with Article 75, a fine equal to five percent (5%) of the amount of the betting tax due or contribution due shall be added to it and the betting tax due or contribution due plus the fine shall become payable along with default interest, calculated based on the relevant default interest rate applicable for the State which is set by a Decree issued by the Minister of Finance pursuant to the Law on Single Public Default Interest Rate.

167(I) of 2006  
118(I) of 2012

(2) Any fine and interest imposed pursuant to this Article shall be collected as betting tax or contribution due.

(3) Where the bookmaker continues to fail to pay the betting tax or contribution for the specific accounting period, for a period of more than sixty (60) days from the date on which the debt arose, the Authority may seize the amount owed from the bank guarantee specified in paragraph (2) of Article 32.

Recovery of betting tax, contribution, interest and/or fines 77. Any betting tax, contribution, default interest and fines payable under Articles 74 to 76 may be recovered by the Authority using appropriate legal remedies, which in the case where the recovered amounts relate to

non-payment of betting tax shall be paid into the Republic's Consolidated Fund, as a debt owed to the Republic, and in the case where the recovered amounts relate to non-payment of the contribution shall be held by the Authority and used in the manner specified in paragraph (3) of Article 74.

Refunds of betting tax and contribution 78. Where, with the Authority's consent, it is proven that the Class A or B licensed bookmaker has paid betting tax or contribution higher than the amount due or if the tax assessment changes owing to an appeal lodged pursuant to Article 146 of the Constitution, as a result of which the bookmaker is in the position of having paid betting tax higher than the amount due, the Authority refunds the excess amount collected to the bookmaker, with the relevant default interest referred to in paragraph (1) of Article 76, as applicable, from the first day of the calendar month following the date on which it was collected:

Provided that, no default interest shall be paid if the excess payment is due to an error on the part of the Class A or B licensed bookmaker; if the excess amount collected relates to betting tax, the Authority shall recover that amount from the Republic's Consolidated Fund and then refund it to the Class A or B licensed bookmaker.

## **PART IX OFFENCES AND SANCTIONS**

Unlicensed provision of betting services 79. Any person who provides betting services without holding a Class A or B bookmaker's licence or authorised agent's licence shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years or a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand euros (EUR 300.000), or both.

Provision of betting services in violation of the conditions of 80. Any person who provides betting services in violation of the terms of the licence shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three (3) years or a fine not

the licence	exceeding one hundred seventy thousand euros (EUR 170.000), or both.
Participation in bets in violation of the provisions of the present Law	81. Any person who participates in a bet conducted in violation of the present Law or participates as a player in a slot machine or in online casino games, in bets conducted via a betting exchange, spread bets and bets on dog races conducted in violation of Articles 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87, shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding fifty thousand euros (EUR 50.000), or both.
Offences in relation to premises' operations	<p>82.-(1) Any person who operates premises to provide betting services without being a holder of a premises licence or in violation of any of the conditions of the licence shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two (2) years or a fine not exceeding one hundred thousand euros (EUR 100.000), or both.</p> <p>(2) A Class A licensed bookmaker or authorised agent or a person operating licensed premises who conducts a bet in violation of Articles 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87 shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three (3) years or a fine not exceeding one hundred seventy thousand euros (EUR 170.000), or both.</p> <p>(3) Any person who operates premises or a place to provide online casino games or to provide services for slot machine or betting via a betting exchange or spread bets or bets on dog races shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding three (3) years or a fine not exceeding one hundred seventy thousand euros (EUR 170.000), or both.</p> <p>(4) When imposing a sanction pursuant to this Article, the Court may also order closure of the premises until the relevant licence is obtained or until illegal bets are no longer conducted there, as appropriate.</p>
Prohibition on slot	83. Any person who holds or operates slot machines or provides services

- machines to operate slot machines in the Republic shall be guilty of a felony, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years or a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand euros (EUR 300.000), or both.
- Prohibition on online casino games 84. Any person who holds or operates machines which provide services, or provides services to operate online casinos in the Republic shall be guilty of a felony, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years or a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand euros (EUR 300.000), or both.
- Prohibition on betting exchanges 85.-(1) It is prohibited to conduct bets via betting exchanges.
- (2) Any person who provides services to conduct bets via betting exchanges shall be guilty of a felony, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years or a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand euros (EUR 300.000), or both.
- Prohibition on spread bets 86.-(1) It is prohibited to conduct or provide services in order to conduct spread bets.
- (2) Any person who conducts or provides services in order to conduct spread bets shall be guilty of a felony, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years or a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand euros (EUR 300.000), or both.
- (3) For the purposes of this Article, “spread bet” includes betting, the winnings and cost of which:
- (a) are not and cannot be known at the time the bet is carried out; or
  - (b) depend on the deviation of the outcome of the horse race, competition, game or other event; or

(c) depend on the extent of such deviation.

Prohibition on dog racing bets 87.-(1) It is prohibited to conduct or provide services in order to conduct bets on dog races.

(2) Any person who conducts or provides services in order to conduct bets on dog races shall be guilty of a felony, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years or a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand euros (EUR 300.000), or both.

Fraudulent deceit 88.-(1) Any person who fraudulently deceives another person through an illegal act or omission in respect of a bet shall be guilty of a felony, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding seven (7) years or a fine not exceeding five hundred thousand euros (EUR 500.000), or both.

(2) For the purposes of paragraph (1), the fact that the other person is winning or that his or her chances of winning the bet are increasing does not constitute a defence.

(3) For the purposes of paragraph (1) fraudulent deceit in bets includes deceiving, misleading, intervening or inciting in relation to the betting procedure or to a game, a horse race, or any other event related to betting, or an attempt at such deception, misleading, intervention or incitement.

Prohibition of specific forms of advertising 89.-(1) Any person who advertises a bet so as to:

(a) imply that it promotes or is related to social acceptance, personal or financial success or resolution of any personal, financial or social problems, or

(b) include the support of well-known personalities in a manner which implies that it is related to their success, or

(c) possibly influence minors in any manner in taking part in

bets, or

(d) promote betting using services provided by a person who is not a Class A or B licensed bookmaker or authorised agent, or

(e) goes beyond the boundaries of decency and propriety,

shall be guilty of an offence and, if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six (6) months or a fine not exceeding thirty thousand euros (EUR 30.000), or both.

(2) Any person who advertises the provision of services relating to activities prohibited by the provisions of Articles 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87 shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment of up to one year or a fine which does not exceed fifty thousand euros (EUR 50.000), or both.

Offence in relation to the provision of information to the Authority 90. Any person who intentionally provides the Authority with incomplete, inaccurate, misleading or false information shall be guilty of an offence, and if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding fifty thousand euros (EUR 50.000), or both.

Offence in relation to betting by minors 91. Any person who invites, incites or permits a minor:

(a) to participate in betting activities, or

(b) to enter licensed premises

shall be guilty of an offence and if convicted shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding one year or a fine not exceeding fifty thousand euros (EUR 50.000), or both.

Legal presumptions 92. Any premises or any location, in which entry is carried out under the provisions of the present Law, shall be presumed, until proven otherwise,



to operate as premises where online casino services are provided or where slot machine services are provided, in any of the following cases:

(a) if any objects associated with the provision of the services referred to in Articles 83 and 84 of the present Law are found there or on any person present in those premises or escaping from those premises;

(b) if any police officer acting pursuant to the provisions of the present Law or any of his/her assistants is deliberately impeded or prevented or delayed from entering or approaching those premises or any part thereof;

(c) if any passage or staircase or means of access to any part of those premises is unusually narrow or steep or otherwise difficult to access or any part thereof is equipped with unusually or uncommonly large numbers of means which impede, prevent or delay entry or with any device that enables persons located within the premises to see or be alerted about persons approaching or entering or to raise an alarm or facilitate escaping from the premises;

(d) if the operation of slot machines or terminals connected to a central computerised system or computer located inside the location is interrupted when a police officer or any authorised person accompanying him/her enters the location;

(e) if a method or means which could be used to interrupt the operation of slot machines or terminals connected to a central computerised system or computer or the power supply to them or to restart them is located inside the location;

(f) if slot machines or terminals connected to a central computerised system or computer located inside the premises are equipped with and run programmes capable of rebooting the system to its original state by deleting all data relating to their use prior to the police officer or any authorised person accompanying him/her entering the location;

(g) if slot machines or terminals connected to a central computerised

system or computer situated at the location are equipped with and run programmes that provide full or partial encryption of digital data on storage devices, such as hard disks and portable memory drives;

(h) if slot machines or terminals connected to a central computerised system or computer situated at the location are equipped with and run programmes that do not allow the user's activity log to be recorded on the computer and a backup of the random access memory (RAM) to be taken or the IP address to which they are connected to be located by the police officer acting under the provisions of the present Law or any authorised person accompanying him/her.

#### Search warrants

93. Where the court is satisfied on the basis of a sworn written statement that there is reasonable cause to believe that a location or premises are being used for or in relation to committing an offence, according to the present Law, it may issue a warrant which authorises a police officer or other authorised person accompanied by a member of the police to enter the location or premises at any time, to carry out an investigation of the location or premises and to seize anything reasonably suspected as having been used or being used or about to be used for or in relation to committing an offence under the provisions of the present Law, or as providing proof of committing such offence.

#### Order banning betting or the provision of betting services or suspending the operation of premises.

94.-(1) The Authority or a member of the Police on orders from the Chief of Police, may submit an ex parte application before the Court, at any stage after the indictment registration for infringement of Articles 79, 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87 has been filed, and the Court may issue an interim order banning betting or the provision of betting services, or the possession or operation of slot machines or the provision of services to operate slot machines or the possession or operation of machines which provide online casino services or the provision of such services, and/or an order suspending the operation of any premises or location associated with the offence being examined; this order may be designated as order to be returned to the court, if the court is satisfied that:

- (a) the charges contain a reference to the offences referred to in this Article; and
- (b) there is eyewitness testimony associating the specific person or premises with the offence being examined.

Provided that, for the purposes of this Article, Order 48 of the Procedural Rules of Civil Procedure Law shall apply pro rata.

(2) A Court which finds a person guilty of any offence in violation of Articles 79, 83, 84, 85, 86 and 87 may, in addition to imposing the sentence, and after having taken into account the extent to which there is a reasonable risk of a new similar offence being committed in the future, order that person:

- (a) to terminate or suspend any activities or practices or services related to the offence for which he has been convicted, and/or
- (b) close and keep close any premises connected to the offence for which he/she has been convicted,

immediately or within a reasonable deadline and under conditions which the Court considers necessary or appropriate to set out in the order, for the purpose of ensuring more effective implementation of the provisions of the present Law and the Regulations.

Cap. 155. (3) Where such an order is issued in accordance with the provisions of  
 93 of 1972 paragraphs (1) or (2), and the person the order relates to fails or neglects  
 2 of 1975 to comply within the time period specified in it, the Chief of Police shall  
 12 of 1975 enforce the order and the enforcement costs shall be borne by the person  
 41 of 1978 the order relates to and will be assessed and collected as a fine in  
 162 of 1989 accordance with the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Law.  
 142 of 1991  
 9 of 1992  
 10(I) of 1996

89(I) of 1997  
 54(I) of 1998  
 96(I) of 1998  
 14(I) of 2001  
 185(I) of 2003  
 219(I) of 2004  
 57(I) of 2007  
 9(I) of 2009  
 111(I) of 2011  
 165(I) of 2011  
 7(I) of 2012  
 21(I) of 2012  
 160(I) of 2012  
 23(I) of 2013  
 16(I) of 2014  
 42(I) of 2014  
 186(I) of 2014  
 110(I) of 2018  
 129(I) of 2018

(4) Any person against whom an order under the provisions of this Article has been issued, and who fails or neglects to comply with that order within the time period specified therein, irrespective of whether the Chief of Police commenced enforcement or enforced the order, shall be guilty of an offence and, if convicted, shall be liable to imprisonment for a period not exceeding five (5) years or a fine not exceeding three hundred thousand euros (EUR 300.000), or both.

## **PART X**

### **ADMINISTRATIVE FINE**

Administrative fine. 95.-(1) In case the Authority finds that a person has performed an act, or has omitted to do so, either in breach of a condition in a Class A or B bookmaker's or authorised agent's licence, or in breach of the present

Law, or in breach of the regulations, or in breach of the Directives issued by the Authority pursuant to Article 15, the Authority may impose an administrative fine on that person which may not exceed one hundred thousand euros (EUR 100.000), depending on the seriousness of the offence, regardless of whether that person is criminally liable under the provisions of the present Law or under any other legislation.

(2) Before imposing an administrative fine, the Authority shall notify the person concerned of its intention to impose such administrative fine and inform the person of the reasons for which it intends to do so, and shall at the same time grant that person the right to submit his/her views within a reasonable deadline from the date of notification.

(3) The Authority shall impose the administrative fine under the provisions of paragraph (1) by means of a written, justified decision which is dispatched to the person concerned and:

- (a) which sets out the infringement; and
- (b) which informs the person concerned:
  - (i) of its right to appeal against the decision under Article 146 of the Constitution, and
  - (ii) of the deadline within which the person can lodge an appeal under Article 146 of the Constitution; and
- (c) which shall become enforceable from the moment of dispatch to the person concerned.

(4) If a person on whom an administrative fine has been imposed under the provisions of the present Law refuses or fails to pay the said fine to the Authority, the Authority shall initiate judicial measures and shall collect the amount due as a civil debt owed to the Republic.

**PART XI**  
**FINAL PROVISIONS**

Implementation of betting agreements	96. Notwithstanding the provisions of any other legislation, a dispute relating to an agreement pertaining to a bet conducted under the provisions of the present Law shall not consist an impediment to nor shall it prevent the initiation of any litigation to implement the agreement, in compliance with any legal act or provision of law on the nullity of the agreement due to illegality.
Regulations of the Council of Ministers	97. The Council of Ministers may issue regulations to ensure better implementation of the present Law.
Transfer of powers and duties of the Minister	98.-(1) The Minister has the power to transfer in writing to any official serving with the Ministry of Finance the exercise of any power and the performance of any duty that the present Law or the regulations of the Council of Ministers grant or assign to the Minister.

Provided that, in the event of such transfer the Minister shall retain the power to exercise the said transferred power and to perform the said transferred duty from the date of and during the term of such transfer.

(2) A person to whom the exercise of a power or performance of a duty is assigned, pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be obliged to exercise the power and perform the duty in accordance with any instructions from the Minister.

(3) The Minister has the power to amend and revoke the transfer effected pursuant to paragraph (1) by written notice to the person to whom the transfer was made.

(4) Where, pursuant to this Article, two (2) or more persons exercise simultaneously the same power or perform the same duty, the person holding a hierarchically lower position shall take the appropriate measures so that powers are not exercised or duties are not performed in relation to the same facts as his/her superior, unless the latter permits this,

and this is done in accordance with any instructions from the latter.

(5) Where, pursuant to this Article, a person exercises power or performs duty which the present Law or the regulations of the Council of Ministers grant or assign to another person, the present Law and the regulations of the Council of Ministers shall apply as if they had expressly granted the said power to the person exercising it and had expressly assigned the said duty to the said person.

Regulations issued by the Authority 99. Without prejudice to the general power of the Authority to issue regulations pursuant to the present Law, when the Authority requires a specific form to be used for applications, the format shall be laid down by the Authority in regulations issued by the same.

Repeal of laws. 100.-(1) The 2012 Betting Laws are hereby repealed.

106(I) of 2012

108(I) of 2012

212(I) of 2012

(2) Where a law other than the present Law or a regulatory administrative act refers to the 2012 Betting Laws which are repealed under paragraph (1), the said reference shall be deemed, to be a reference to the present Law.

Transitional Provisions 101.-(1) The regulations of the Council of Ministers and the regulations and any Directives issued by the Authority pursuant to the 2012 Betting Laws, which are in effect on the date the present Law enters into force shall, unless contrary to the present Law, remain in effect as if they had been issued pursuant to the present Law, until the time they are repealed, amended or replaced.

75(I) of 1997

176(I) of 2004

16(I) of 2007

(2) Regulations, decrees and notifications issued pursuant to the Law on Collective Betting (Regulation and Taxation) shall, unless contrary to the present Law, remain in effect as if they had been issued pursuant to the present Law, until such time as they are repealed, amended or replaced.

(3) Legal persons which on the date of entry into force of the present Law

37(I) of 2019 hold a licence to conduct online betting issued in a Member State of the European Union, may continue to provide betting services only in relation to betting permitted under the provisions of the present Law, and shall be deemed to operate in the context of the present Law until a relevant licence is issued by the Authority, provided however that they have submitted an application to obtain a licence under the provisions of the present Law within one month from the notification of the date on which the Authority is accepting applications.

(4) Individual administrative acts issued by the Authority pursuant to the 2012 Betting Laws shall remain in effect under the terms and conditions under which they were issued, unless amended or revoked by the Authority or annulled by a competent Court.

37(I) of 2019 (5) The appointment of the President and of each member of the Authority's Board of Directors who are in office on the date of entry into force of the present Law, which took place pursuant to the Betting Laws of 2012, shall not be affected by the provisions of the present Law and shall remain in effect until the position of the said President or member falls vacant in accordance with the provisions of Articles 7 or 8.

37(I) of 2019 (6) The Authority shall continue the procedure of handling cases, examining complaints and carrying out ex officio investigations which, on the date of entry into force of the present Law, are pending before it, under the provisions of the 2012 Betting Laws, based on the provisions of the present Law, without the validity of its relevant decisions being affected in whatever manner.

*In case of discrepancy between English and Greek versions, the Greek version supersedes*