



About the Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Commission

The Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Commission (GCC) stands as a distinctive Regulatory Authority, tasked with ensuring the integrity, fairness, and safety of gambling activities within Trinidad and Tobago.

The Authority was established by an Act of Parliament - The Gambling (Gaming and Betting) Control Act No. 8 of 2021, partially proclaimed on August 11th, 2021, for the appointment of the Board and for the Regulatory Authority to recruit its staffing complement. The Commission will be implementing a comprehensive and modern system of licensing, regulation, and enforcement mechanisms necessary to build a responsible, strong, and sustainable gambling industry.

The previous legislation was unable to address the expansive, modern gambling industry, which, today, is still experiencing significant technological advancement. Moreover, with gambling – gaming and betting, being one of the fastest growing industries in the world, and Trinidad and Tobago is no exception, it is conservatively estimated to yield more than \$16 billion per year in annual turnover (*pre-COVID 19*).

Already our industry has the potential to make a significant contribution to economic development by way of business growth, employment, revenue and taxation. The GCC will ensure that all gambling activities in Trinidad and Tobago will be conducted in a fair and transparent manner and that the revenue generated will redound to the benefit of all society.

The Commission has definitive authority to govern the operations of the gambling industry and one of its primary aims is to end deregulation and remove the apertures that can be created where illegitimate activity can take place.

While it will be responsible for ensuring law and order in the industry delivered through a comprehensive licensing regime, it will also play an important role in the safety and security of all stakeholders in the industry.

The functions of the GCC include:

- Regulating and providing oversight to the operation of Gambling in Trinidad and Tobago
- Collecting fees and levies;

- Providing information to regulatory, supervisory, and government agencies related to the gambling industry;
- Ensuring that licensed activities and all gambling activities conducted under the Act take place in a fair and honest manner;
- Addressing the harmful and adverse effects of Gambling, as well as providing support for the development of communities through areas such as sports, social and community activity, and arts and culture by establishing the Rehabilitation Fund and the Development Fund;
- Formulating and implementing policies, codes of practice, and other documents for the administration and control of the conduct of Gambling;
- Promoting Responsible Gambling in society, i.e. to minimise the potential adverse effects that Gambling can have on individuals and communities.

Under the Gambling Control Act 2021, and the intended licensing regime, persons owning or operating a gaming establishment, manufacturing gaming equipment, selling, importing, supplying and distributing gaming machines and gambling software, providing betting facilities, and utilising premises for betting, are required to apply for and obtain a licence in order to carry out the activities. There are several categories of licences under whose scope a person's operations may fall within, including:

- Gaming Operator's Licence – For the operation of a gaming establishment;
- Betting Operator's Licence – For the operation of a betting shop;
- Bookmaker's Licence – To conduct betting activities;
- Promoter's Licence – To stage live racing and pool betting activities;
- Premises Licence – For the conducting of activities at stipulated premises;
- Personal Licence – With respect to key employees; and
- Any other licence that may be deemed necessary.

The fines for engaging in activity without a licence are quite high and range from a fine of TTD 250,000.00 and imprisonment for three (3) years, up to TTD 10,000,000.00 and imprisonment for ten (10) years, based on the offence committed.