

Bookmaking and Racing & Sports Betting

Bookmaking

Under the Gambling Act 2003, it is illegal to operate as a bookmaker in New Zealand.

Bookmaking activities include taking bets, organising pool betting, matching gamblers, and laying or offering odds.

However, there are three exceptions to the prohibition on bookmaking.

These are:

- Private gambling
- Casino gambling
- Racing and sports betting offered by the New Zealand Racing Board under the Racing Act 2003.

See Fact Sheet 3 'Classes of Gambling' for more information on private gambling and casino gambling.

Racing and sports betting

On 1 August 2003, the Racing Act 2003 came into force, replacing the Racing Act 1971. The new legislation modernised the law governing racing and betting, and simplified racing administration.

The Racing Act 2003 disestablished the Racing Industry Board and the Totalisator Agency Board, and established the New Zealand Racing Board as the industry's principal policy body, and as the sole New Zealand provider of racing and sports betting services.

The objectives of the New Zealand Racing Board are to:

- Promote the racing industry
- Facilitate and promote racing betting and sports betting
- Maximise its profits for the long-term benefit of racing.

The New Zealand Racing Board conducts totalisator and fixed-odds racing and sports betting under the 'TAB' brand, in accordance with the Betting Rules. These rules are made by the board itself, however, they are deemed to be regulations. This means that they can be scrutinised by Parliament.

The New Zealand Racing Board distributes its profits to the national organising bodies for thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing. In turn, these bodies distribute the funds to their constituent racing clubs. Racing clubs use this money for the upkeep of racetracks and amenities, and to fund race day stake monies.

For more information on racing go to the Department's website: www.dia.govt.nz (look under 'Resources' - 'Policy Advice Areas' - 'Racing Policy').

The New Zealand Racing Board also has a website: www.nzracingboard.co.nz