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**Consultation on application to make and amend casino game rules**

**November – December 2014**

## Details of the Applications

### New Game – Snake Eyes

SkyCity Management Limited (SCML) has applied to make rules for the new casino table game Snake Eyes.

Snake Eyes is a simplified version of Craps with players betting on the outcome of the roll (or rolls) of two dice. Like Craps, players have the option of rolling the dice.

If the Secretary approves this application, the game will be available to all New Zealand Casinos. Section 2.1 of Division 1 – General Rules for Table Games will require amendment to add the game of Snake Eyes to the list of games to which that Division applies.

The full rules for Snake Eyes are attached at Appendix A.

### Amendments to Division 1 – General Rules for Table Games

SCML has applied for amendments to the General Rules for Table Games as follows:

* Amendments to the interpretation section to remove the term ‘Approved Procedures’ and include the term ‘Minimum Operating Standards’
* References to ‘Approved Procedures’ have been substituted by references to ‘Minimum Operating Standards’
* Amendments to rule 1.2 to clarify references within the rules
* Amendment to rule 2.1 to include the game Snake Eyes (should it be approved)
* A new rule 2.2 to state that capitalised terms used in all game rules have the meanings ascribed to them by the Interpretation section of the General Rules
* New rule 10.6 to remove ambiguity around legality of altering/making/removing bets should a Dealer fail to call “no more bets”
* Amendment to rule 14.2 to address ambiguity with a minimum operating standard
* Amendments to section 17 to account for technological developments (mobile phones)
* Minor amendments to rules 2.1, 2.3, 9.2, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 12.2, 14.1, 17.3, 17.4 and 18.1 for clarity and renumbering where necessary
* Capitalisation of terms from the Interpretation section throughout the body of the rules

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix B. Deletions to the original rules are shown in strikethrough red font, and any additions are shown in underlined red font.

### Amendments to the Rules of Casino Promotions

SCML has applied to amend the Rules of Casino Promotions as follows:

* Amendments to the interpretation section to the definitions of ‘Gambling Area’, ‘Match Play Coupon’ and ‘Minimum Operating Standards’
* References to ‘approved procedures’ have been substituted by references to ‘Minimum Operating Standards’
* Amendment to rule 4.3A to provide Casinos discretion to use Match Play Coupons in combination with Chips
* Minor amendments to rules 4.2, 5.5 and 7.3 for clarity
* Capitalisation of terms defined in the Interpretation section of the rules and in the Interpretation section of the General Rules

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix C. Deletions to the original rules are shown in strikethrough blue font, and any additions are shown in underlined blue font.

### Amendments to Division 5 – Baccarat

SCML has applied for amendments to the rules for Baccarat as follows:

* Amendment to rule 5.14 (restrictions on wagers after “no more bets” has been called) to align with the rule for Blackjack
* Amendment to rule 8.3 to give the Casino discretion to deal rounds without wagers
* Capitalisation of terms defined in the Interpretation section of the General Rules

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix D. Deletions to the original rules are shown in strikethrough blue font, and any additions are shown in underlined blue font.

### Amendments to Division 7 – Tournament Play

SCML has applied for amendments to the rules for Tournament Play as follows:

* Amendments to the tiles of Section 9 and Section 10 in the list of contents
* Amendments to the interpretations of “Applicant”, “Electronic Terminal”, “Entry Fee”, “Play-off”, “Player”, “Tournament”, ”Tournament Chips” and “Tournament Director”
* Amendments to the following rules to provide for the use of electronic table games (currently Electronic Money Wheel and Electronic Roulette in tournament games):
  + 3.5, 4.2, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.9, 4.13, 4.14, 4.15, 5.5, 5.6
* New rule 1.2 to clarify references within the rules
* New rule 2.2(e) for clarity around the Casino Operator determining the use of Pass Cards and Secret Wager Cards
* New rule 2.2(i) for clarity around the Casino Operator determining how players progress in the Tournament
* Amendments to rule 2.3(f) together with deletion of existing rule 2.4 to allow the Casino to use Entry Fees to fund the cost of running the Tournament
* Amendments to rules 4.1 and 4.6 to allow a Tournament Director’s representative to be present rather than the Tournament Director him/herself
* Minor amendments to the following rules for clarity and renumbering where necessary
  + 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5 (current 2.4), 2.6 (current 2.5), 2.7 (current 2.6), 2.8 (current 2.7)
  + 3.1, 3.2, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8
  + 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 4.10, 4.13, 4.14 and 4.15
  + 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7(a), 5.8, 5.9, 5.10, 5.11, 5.12 and 5.13
  + 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 6.7
  + 7.1, 7.2, 7.3 and 7.4
  + 8.1, 8.2, 8.3 and 8.4
* Current sections 9 and 10 deleted in their entirety and replaced with:
  + New section 9 covering Electronic Roulette; and
  + New section 10 covering Electronic Money Wheel
* Capitalisation of terms defined in the Interpretation section of the rules and in the Interpretation section of the General Rules

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix E. Deletions to the original rules are shown in strikethrough blue font, and any additions are shown in underlined blue font.

### Amendments to Division 9 – Tai Sai

Christchurch Casinos Limited (CCL) has applied to amend the rules for Tai Sai as follows:

* Amendment to titles, “Section 6” and addition of title “Section 6A” and “Appendix 3” to the contents section
* Creation of a new style of Tai Sai in which the players throw the dice, rather than the Dealer activating a tumbler. This new style is incorporated in new section 6A, with new rules 3.1A, 3.4(h), 5(e), 7.1 (e) (f) (g), (h) and (i) and amendments to rules 3.4(e), 7.1(a), (b), (c) and (d) to account for new section.

While amending the rules for Tai Sai, the Secretary also proposes to capitalise terms defined in the Interpretation sections of these rules and of the General Rules.

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix F. Deletions to the original rules are shown in strikethrough blue font, and any additions are shown in underlined blue font.

### Amendments of Division 10 – Money Wheel

SCML has applied to amend the rules for Money Wheel as follows:

* Amendments to rule 4.3 to allow the Dealer to call “no more bets” while the money wheel is rotating (rather than before beginning the spin)
* New rule 4.6 that will allow the Casino Operator or its representative to invite a person to spin the wheel in place of the Dealer from time to time
* Capitalisation of terms defined in the Interpretation section of the rules and in the Interpretation section of the General Rules.

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix G. Deletions to the original rules are shown in strikethrough blue font, and any additions are shown in underlined blue font.

### Amendments to Division 10A – Electronic Money Wheel

SCML has applied for amendments to Electronic Money Wheel as follows:

* Amending rule 3.1 to allow for a maximum of 30 terminals that may be used in any one game
* Removal of the words ‘. . . for Internal Affairs’ in rule 1.2
* Capitalisation of terms defined in the Interpretation section of the rules and in the Interpretation section of the General Rules

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix H. Deletions to the original rules are shown in strikethrough blue font, and any additions are shown in underlined blue font.

### Amendments to Division 22 – Lunar Poker

CCL has applied for amendments to Lunar Poker as follows:

* Amendments to rule 5.9 to allow for alternative pay tables to be used at the Casino Operator’s discretion
* Amendment to rule 8.7 to allow the Casino Operator flexibility in relation to the dealing of additional cards for players who elect to use the Draw options in the game
* Capitalisation of terms defined in the Interpretation section of the General Rules

While amending the rules for Lunar Poker, the Secretary also proposes to capitalise terms defined in the Interpretation section of the General Rules

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix I. Deletions to the original rules are shown in strikethrough blue font, and any additions are shown in underlined blue font.

### Amendments to Division 5A – Electronic Baccarat

The Department has been considering an application by SCML for the introduction of Electronic Baccarat and will soon be making rules. These rules incorporate many of the requirements and styles of the manual game into an electronic format. Since the consultation was run on Electronic Baccarat, changes have been made to the rules of manual Baccarat to introduce new variations and side wagering options which SCML would also like available in the electronic format.

These proposed variations and wagering options, previously consulted upon and approved for the manual game of Baccarat, are:

* Any Pairs Wagers (see Section 11C of the Baccarat Rules)
* Luck Match Wagers (see Section 11D of the Baccarat Rules)
* 2 to 1 Baccarat (see Section 13 of the Baccarat Rules)
* Ante Up Baccarat (see Section 14 of the Baccarat Rules)

If approved for Electronic Baccarat, these variations and wagers would be incorporated into the rules by reference to the relevant sections of Division 5 – Baccarat. Further information on these variations can be found in the rules for Division 5 – Baccarat available on the Department’s website:

<http://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Baccarat-Division5-Replacement-Rules-21-Aug-2014-pdf/$file/Baccarat-Division5-Replacement-Rules-21-Aug-2014.pdf>

## Submissions

The proposed amendments described above will be assessed in accordance with the purposes of the Gambling Act 2003. The Department seeks your comment on the applications. Comment in relation to the purposes Act is valued, with particular reference to whether any of the proposed amendments to the existing games, or the introduction of the new game Snake Eyes will impact on the purposes to:

* Prevent and minimise the harm caused by gambling, including problem gambling
* Ensure the integrity and fairness of games
* Limit opportunities for crime and dishonesty
* Facilitate responsible gambling

We ask you to make your submission with these particular purposes in mind.

### Analysis of harm

In particular, the Department assesses the potential effect of such applications with respect to harm minimisation and prevention. As such, we ask you specifically to comment on whether the proposals may raise harm prevention and minimisation issues that you believe require consideration.

### Assessment of application against relevant guidelines

The Department of Internal Affairs will form its assessment of the application under the 'Operational Policy Harm Prevention, Harm Minimisation and Responsible Gambling Guidelines'. These guidelines require the Department to take, in the absence of evidence, a precautionary approach in decision making where there is a reasonable concern that significant and/or widespread harm may occur. In the absence of evidence, the Department makes an assessment of these proposals against known harm determinants.

A copy of these guidelines can be found on the Department’s website at:

<http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/GamingOperationalPolicy.pdf/$file/GamingOperationalPolicy.pdf>

Please address your submissions to [sue.clarke@dia.govt.nz](mailto:sue.clarke@dia.govt.nz) or:

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Should you require further information on these proposals, please contact Sue on the above email address or on telephone number 04 495 9438 or Angus Hyatt, Senior Advisor, on 04 495 7271.

Any submissions need to be received by 5 pm on 15 December 2014.

If any amendments are made to these rules following this consultation, a notice will be published in the New Zealand Gazette stating that the game rules have been amended, made or revoked and the date on which the changes take effect.