Consultation on applications to amend casino game rules

October 2015



## Details of the Applications

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

The Secretary proposes amendments to the General Rules for Table Games as follows:

* Amendment to Rule 13.1 to allow for processes equivalent to the issue of Chip Purchase Vouchers
* Amendments to Rules under 14.0 to accommodate the use of promotional chips and corresponding amendments to the Table of Contents and Interpretation Rule 1.1.

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix A. 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

SkyCity Management Limited (SCML) has applied for amendments to the rules for Baccarat as follows:

* Amendment to the list of contents to add new Rules under 15.0 “International Baccarat”
* Amendment to Interpretation Rule 1.0 to include the definition for “International Baccarat”
* Amendments to Rules 8.11, 8.13, 8.14 and 8.15 to clarify the potential involvement of a “Nominee”
* Addition of new Rules under 15.0 to introduce a new variation of Baccarat known as “International Baccarat” which provides for the following:
	+ Revising the definition of “Nominee” for this variation of the game to allow a player to nominate more than one person to act as their nominee
	+ New Rule 15.4 to allow the Dealer to pass the first and second cards from the initial deal to different nominees, or to one nominee and to the person on whose behalf the nominee is acting
	+ New Rule 15.5 to specify the process that follows after the initial 2 cards have been passed out
	+ New Rule 15.6 to allow the player to whom 2 initial cards are passed out together to allocate one or both cards to another nominee (subject to provisos)
	+ New Rule 15.7 to specify a process whereby the casino operator may direct a player who would not otherwise be entitled to receive and handle the cards to do so
	+ New Rule 15.8 retains the casino operator’s discretion to direct the Dealer to retain and turn the cards (similar to existing Rule 8.18) while allowing for the circumstances provided for in Rule 15.7
	+ New Rule 15.9 to allow the casino operator the discretion (at the player’s request) to void a hand(s) in circumstances where the Dealer has inadvertently delivered cards to the wrong area of the layout or to the wrong players
	+ New Rule 15.10 to provide the casino operator with discretion to permit players to adjust their bets after the Dealer has called ‘no more bets’ and where 1 or more of the first 4 cards have been removed from the shoe but have not been exposed or handled.

The amended rules in full have been attached at Appendix B. 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 list of contents to add new Rules under 11.0 for “Electronic Baccarat” and new Rules under 12.0 “Electronic Tai Sai”
* New Rules under 11.0 to allow Electronic Baccarat as a game that may be played by way of a Tournament
* New Rules under 12.0 to allow Electronic Tai Sai as a game that may be played by way of a Tournament.

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 8 – Roulette

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

* Amendment to Rule 2.6(g) to make the bell a piece of optional equipment
* Amendment to Rule 4.3 to allow the Dealer to signal “No more bets” by making a horizontal waving motion with their hand (rather than ringing the bell).

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 11A – Snake Eyes

SCML has applied to amend the rules for Snake Eyes as follows:

* Amendment to Rule 3.4(a) to allow either the Dealer or Game Supervisor to use the stick to collect and pass the Active Dice
* Amendment to Rule 5.6 that will allow either the Dealer or Game Supervisor may attend to the functions set out in Rule 5.6 (currently restricted to the Dealer)

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 22 – Lunar Poker

Christchurch Casinos Limited has applied for amendments to Lunar Poker as follows:

* Addition of new Rules 5a to allow for a new optional bet / wager where the patron could also make a Super Bet wager on the Dealer’s hand or on the hands for any other player
* Amendments to Rules 3.3 and 5.9 to accommodate changes under Rules 5a
* Amendments to Rules 11.20 and 11.21 to clarify procedure when cards are dealt out of sequence.

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.

## 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 of the Act is valued, with particular reference to whether any of the proposed amendments to the existing games, or the introduction of the new variation International Baccarat 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](http://www.dia.govt.nz/pubforms.nsf/URL/GamingOperationalPolicy.pdf/%24file/GamingOperationalPolicy.pdf)

Please address your submissions to sharlene.hogan@dia.govt.nz or:

Sharlene Hogan
Policy Advisor, Operational Policy
Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua
PO Box 805
Wellington 6140

Should you require further information on these proposals, please contact Sharlene on the above email address or on telephone number 04 495 7207 or Cath Anyan, Senior Advisor, on 04 495 7271.

Any submissions need to be received by 5 pm on Friday 27 November 2015.

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.