

BELIZE:

GAMING AND LOTTERIES CONTROL ACT, 2026

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SCHEDULE I

SCHEDULE II



No. 3 of 2026



I assent,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F. Tzalam'.

(H.E. DAME FROYLA TZALAM)
Governor-General

23rd February, 2026.

AN ACT to repeal, replace, and consolidate the Gambling Prevention Act, Chapter 109 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; the Computer Wagering Licensing Act, Chapter 149 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; the Lotteries Control Act, Chapter 151 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and the Gaming Control Act, Chapter 152 of the Substantive Laws of Belize, Revised Edition 2020; and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

(Gazetted 24th February, 2026)

BE IT ENACTED, by and with the advice and consent of the House of Representatives and Senate of Belize and by the authority of the same, as follows:

PART I

Preliminary

1. This Act may be cited as the

Short title.

GAMING AND LOTTERIES CONTROL ACT, 2026.

Interpretation. 2. In this Act—

“Administrator” means an officer appointed by the Board on the advice of the Executive Director to oversee all accounting, auditing, human resource, and compliance functions of the Commission;

“applicant” means a person who applies for a licence under this Act;

“associate” means a person who is an associate of a licensee or an applicant for a gaming licence who—

- (a) holds or will hold any relevant financial interest, or is or will be entitled to exercise any relevant power, whether on their own behalf or on behalf of any other person, in the business of the licensee or applicant, and by virtue of that interest or power, is able or will be able to exercise significant influence over or with respect to the operation of that premises to be used for gaming; or
- (b) holds or will hold any relevant position, whether on their own behalf or on behalf of any other person, in the business of the licensee or applicant;

“Auditor” means an officer appointed by the Board on the advice of the Executive Director to be engaged in the inspection and monitoring of the compliance by gaming and lottery licensees with all required financial reporting and auditing standards, policies, and guidelines as may be defined by the Act and by the Board;

“authorised officer” means any person authorised by the Board, in writing, to perform a specific function under this Act;

“bank” means any financial institution which is licensed to carry on banking business in Belize under the Domestic Banks and Financial Institutions Act;

CAP. 263.

“Board” or “Board of Directors” means the Board of Directors of the Gaming and Lotteries Commission established under section 6;

“boledo lottery” means the lottery in which the winning number comprises two digits and is drawn or held daily with the exception of Saturdays, Sundays, and public holidays;

“Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Gaming and Lotteries Commission;

“Commission” means the Gaming and Lotteries Commission established under section 3;

“Commissioner” means the Director General appointed under section 4 of the Tax Administration and Procedure Act;

CAP. 51.

“Compliance Officer” means a person appointed as such by the Board under section 10;

“computer user” means any person who utilises a computer system, network, or related technology resources for the purpose of participating in gaming or lottery services regulated under this Act;

“Deputy Chairperson” means the Deputy Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Gaming and Lotteries Commission;

“Enforcement Officer” means a person appointed as such by the Board under section 10;

“Executive Director” means an executive officer appointed by the Board to oversee all daily operations and functions of the Commission;

“fair play” means the conduct of gaming and lotteries in a manner that ensures integrity, transparency, and equal opportunity for all participants;

“fit and proper” means, in relation to any person, the standard determined by the Commission after conducting such investigations and inquiries as necessary and considering the following–

- (a) whether the person or associate of the person has been found guilty of financial fraud by local or foreign authorities;
- (b) the competence and soundness of the person’s judgment for fulfilling the conditions of any licence granted in relation to the applicant;
- (c) the diligence with which the person is fulfilling or is likely to fulfill the conditions of any licence granted in relation to the person;
- (d) whether the person is of sound and stable financial background;
- (e) whether the person concerned in or associated with the management or operation of premises to be used for gaming and lotteries, is of good repute, having regard to their character, honesty and integrity;
- (f) whether the applicant has, or has arranged, a satisfactory ownership structure that is transparent, legal and appropriate for gaming and lotteries;
- (g) whether the applicant holds or is able to obtain–

- (i) financial resources adequate to ensure the financial viability of the premises or establishment to be used for gaming or lotteries; and
 - (ii) the services of persons who have sufficient experience in the operation of the premises to be used for gaming or lotteries;
- (h) whether the applicant has sufficient knowledge, experience and skills to successfully operate the premises or establishment to be used for gaming or lotteries;
- (i) whether the applicant or associate of the applicant, the person concerned in or associated with the management or operation of premises to be used for gaming and lotteries, has any business association with any person who, in the opinion of the Commission, is not of good repute, having regard to the character, honesty and integrity of that person, or who has undesirable or unsatisfactory financial resources;
- (j) that each director, partner, trustee, executive director, secretary and any other officer or person determined by the Commission to be associated or connected with the operation, ownership, administration or management of the premises or establishment to be used for gaming and lotteries, or the operations or business of the person, is a suitable person to act in that capacity; and

- (k) whether any other matter that may be prescribed, or condition that may be imposed on the licence, is fulfilled;

“gamble” means to play at or to engage in any game of chance, or pretended game of chance, for money or money’s worth;

“game of chance” means any contest or scheme in which the outcome depends in a material degree upon any element of chance, notwithstanding that skill of the contestants may also be a factor;

“gaming” means the playing of any game of chance for winnings in money’s worth, and includes gambling and online gaming;

“gaming establishment” means any entity or location licensed to operate between twelve and forty gaming machines, and includes any other requirement as determined by the Board under this Act;

“gaming machine” means a machine that is designed or adapted for use by individuals to gamble or play games of chance to win money;

“gaming premises” means any location licensed under this Act to operate more than forty gaming machines, to conduct live games and sport betting, and to operate a hotel;

“government lottery” means boledo lottery, ordinary lottery, and jackpot lottery;

CAP. 285.

“hotel” has the meaning assigned to it under the Hotels and Tourist Accommodation Act, and includes a “tourist accommodation” as defined under that Act;

“instruments or appliances for gambling” means all articles which are used in or for the purpose of gambling;

“Internal Control Standards” means the minimum standards and requirements for the operation, monitoring, and reporting of any type of game or lottery, as may be required or defined by regulations prescribed under this Act;

“jackpot lottery” means the lottery in which the winning number comprises four digits and is drawn or held weekly unless otherwise notified by the Commission;

“licence” means a licence issued under this Act authorising the conduct of gaming or lotteries of any kind;

“licensed gaming premises” means premises in respect of which a gaming licence is issued;

“licence holder” or “licensee” means a person, business, company or entity who is issued a licence under this Act;

“lottery” means any game, method, or device whereby money or money’s worth is distributed or allotted in any manner depending upon, or to be determined by, chance or lot, held, drawn, exercised, or managed;

“member” means a person appointed to the Board by the Minister and includes the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson;

“Minister” means the Minister to whom responsibility for gaming and lotteries is assigned;

“occupier” means any person in actual occupation of the whole or any part of any house, building, yard or other place;

“online gaming service” means a computer service which allows computer users to wager on sporting events or other games of chance through the internet;

“ordinary lottery” means the lottery in which the winning number comprises the last two digits of the first winning number of the jackpot lottery;

“owner” means the person for the time being receiving or entitled to receive the rents of any house, building, yard, or other place, or the agent of that person;

“place” means any—

- (a) house, building, room, office, shed, tent, hut, and any area, whether open or enclosed;
- (b) ship, boat, or other vessel, whether afloat or not; and
- (c) vehicle;

“registered agent” means a person who assists a licensee to promote, or advertise a lottery or to sell lottery tickets and whose appointment has been notified in writing to the Commission and the Commission has approved and registered the person as an agent, but excludes a person that operates as an advertising or marketing agency;

“relevant financial interest” means, in relation to a gaming business, five percent or more of the voting capital of the business;

“relevant position”, in relation to a gaming business, means the position of director, manager, or secretary, or other executive position, however that position is designated;

“ticket” means, in relation to any lottery or proposed lottery, any document evidencing the claim of a person to participate in the chances of a lottery;

“Tribunal” means the Complaints Tribunal established under section 54;

“wholly owned and controlled” means the holding of one hundred percent of the issued share capital of any entity and exercising control of that entity;

“valuable thing” means any promise, verbal or in writing, conditional or absolute, to pay or give anything; and

“violation ticket” means a ticket issued under section 55.

PART II

Establishment, Functions, and Powers of the Gaming and Lotteries Commission

3. There is hereby established a body to be known as the Gaming and Lotteries Commission, which shall be governed by the provisions of this Act and any other law, and may exercise any powers and functions entrusted to or conferred upon it by or in accordance with the provisions of this Act or any other law, and any other functions incidental or ancillary to, or consequential upon, the performance of its functions.

Establishment of the Gaming and Lotteries Commission.

4.–(1) The Commission shall be a body corporate having perpetual succession and a common seal and, subject to the provisions of this Act, shall have power to acquire, hold, and dispose of movable and immovable property of whatever kind and to enter into contracts, be capable of suing and being sued in its corporate name, and do all things necessary for the attainment of its objectives.

Commission to be a body corporate.

(2) The seal of the Commission–

(a) shall be kept in the custody of the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson or of such officer of the Commission as the Board may approve;

- (b) pursuant to a resolution of the Board, may be affixed by the Executive Director to instruments in the presence of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson and of one other member of the Board; and
- (c) shall be authenticated by the signature of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson and one other member authorised by the Board to act for that purpose.

(3) All documents, other than those required by law to be under seal, made by, and all decisions of, the Board, may be signified under the hand of the Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson.

Functions and powers of the Commission.

5. The functions and powers of the Commission shall be to—

- (a) supervise, control, monitor, and regulate the conduct of gaming and lotteries services to ensure compliance with this Act, any conditions of the licence, and codes of practice as may be prescribed;
- (b) approve, issue, suspend, or revoke a licence for gaming and lotteries services, in accordance with regulations;
- (c) prescribe fees to be paid in respect of any application, administrative processing, registration or compliance-related function carried out under this Act;
- (d) safeguard the interests of players and the public by promoting fair play, transparency, and responsible gaming;

- (e) enforce anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing obligations in accordance with the laws of Belize;
- (f) cause investigations to be conducted into suspected non-compliance with any provisions of this Act and recommend enforcement action where necessary;
- (g) cause forensic investigations to be conducted in relation to unusual, improper, or potentially fraudulent reporting by a licensee;
- (h) advise the Minister on matters relating to gaming and lotteries and recommend amendments to this Act;
- (i) promote awareness of legal gaming and lottery practices, the risks of illegal or irresponsible gambling, and the dangers of gambling addiction, in accordance with regulations prescribed for that purpose;
- (j) collect, analyse, and publish data on the gaming and lottery sectors to inform policy and public understanding, in accordance with regulations prescribed for that purpose;
- (k) develop, issue, and enforce technical, operational, and ethical standards for all gaming and lottery activities, including but not limited to-
 - (i) game fairness and integrity;
 - (ii) equipment and software certification;

- (iii) responsible gambling practices;
 - (iv) advertising and promotional conduct;
 - (v) security and surveillance protocols;
and
 - (vi) data protection, accounting, and
recordkeeping requirements;
- (l) facilitate the growth of a viable, well-regulated gaming and lotteries industry that contributes to national development, in accordance with this Act;
 - (m) provide or oversee mechanisms for resolving disputes between licensees and players, in accordance with regulations prescribed for that purpose;
 - (n) foster the development of the gaming and lotteries industry in a manner that contributes to national economic and social goals; and
 - (o) take all such measures as may be necessary or expedient for ensuring the effective implementation and fulfillment of the purposes of this Act.

PART III

Board of Directors of the Gaming and Lotteries Commission

Establishment
of Board of
Directors.

6.-(1) There is hereby established a Board to be known as the Board of Directors of the Gaming and Lotteries Commission with overall responsibility for carrying out the objectives, purpose, and functions of the Commission.

(2) The constitution of the Board shall be as set out in Schedule I.

Schedule I.

(3) The Board shall be responsible for ensuring the proper and effective discharge of the functions of the Commission under this Act, and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, to-

- (a) provide strategic direction and oversight of the operations of the Commission;
- (b) implement policies, standards, and procedures adopted by the Commission; and
- (c) perform such other responsibilities as may be conferred upon it under this Act or any other written law.

7. The Board may appoint a committee of the Board to examine and report on any matter whatsoever arising out of or connected with any of its powers and duties under this Act in accordance with regulations prescribed for that purpose.

Board may establish committees.

8.-(1) The Board shall keep and maintain a register setting out-

Board to keep and maintain a register.

- (a) the name and address of each licensee and registered agent under this Act, where applicable;
- (b) the address of the registered office of the licensee;
- (c) the name of the Chief Executive Officer or equivalent officer of the licensee;
- (d) where applicable, the name of the officer assigned to the licensee under the Money Laundering and Terrorism (Prevention) Act;

CAP. 104.

- (e) the type of financial services for which the licensee is registered;
- (f) the date on which the licence was issued, varied, suspended, or revoked;
- (g) the name and address of the registered agents of each licensee;
- (h) any conditions imposed on, or any exemptions granted to the licensee by the Commission; and
- (i) any other information determined necessary by the Commission.

(2) The register may be kept in such format as the Board deems fit and shall be maintained to permit inspection by the public.

PART IV

Appointment of Staff, etc.

Appointment
of Executive
Director
and Deputy
Executive
Director.

9.—(1) The Board shall, with the approval of the Minister, appoint an executive officer to be called the Executive Director of the Gaming and Lotteries Commission, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit.

(2) The Board may on the advice of the Executive Director, appoint and employ, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as the Board thinks fit, a Deputy Executive Director as it deems necessary for the proper performance of the functions and the attainment of the functions of the Commission in accordance with this Act.

10.-(1) The Board shall appoint and employ, on the advice of the Executive Director, at such remuneration and on such terms and conditions as it thinks fit, an Administrator, Compliance Officers, Auditors, Enforcement Officers, and other staff, agents, or such other officers as it considers necessary for the proper performance of the functions and the attainment of the functions of the Commission in accordance with this Act.

Appointment of staff.

(2) A Compliance Officer shall, in addition to any duties assigned by the Board, be responsible for conducting inspections and monitoring the operations of gaming and lottery licensees in accordance with all applicable standards, policies, and operational guidelines defined under this Act or as determined by the Board.

(3) An Enforcement Officer shall, in addition to any duties assigned by the Board, have the authority to effect arrests, initiate prosecutions, and be responsible to conduct inspections and forensic investigations in relation to compliance and suspected auditing irregularities by gaming and lottery licensees in accordance with this Act.

11. In discharging duties or exercising powers imposed or conferred by this Act, the Executive Director shall refer to the Commission-

Executive Director to refer certain matters to Commission.

(a) all matters coming to the notice or attention of the Executive Director which fall to be dealt with by the Commission pursuant to this Act or any other law; and

(b) all matters which require a policy decision.

12. The Executive Director, upon the employment of any person, shall administer an oath of confidentiality in the form prescribed by the Commission.

Duty of officers to maintain confidentiality.

PART V

Financial Provisions, Revenues, and Accounts

Revenues
of the
Commission.

13. The revenues of the Commission shall consist of the following—

- (a) all sums collected by the Commission as fees, penalties, or charges under the authority of this Act or any other law;
- (b) annual fees payable by licensees; and
- (c) all other sums which may in any manner become payable to or vested in the Commission.

Establishment
of General
Fund.

14.—(1) All sums referred to in section 13 shall be paid into and placed to the credit of an account of the Commission and shall be known as the General Fund which is to be maintained in the name of the Commission at a bank approved by the Commission.

(2) All expenses incurred or payable by the Commission pursuant to this Act shall be paid out of the General Fund and all disbursements therefrom shall be in accordance with accounting regulations which may be made by the Commission.

(3) The Commission shall be responsible for the management of the General Fund.

Accounts and
audits.

15.—(1) The Commission shall keep proper accounts and other records in relation to its business and shall prepare, annually, a statement of accounts in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

(2) The Commission shall, with the approval of the Minister of finance, open and maintain, at such bank or

banks as it may from time to time determine, accounts for the funds of the Commission.

(3) All accounts of the Commission shall be audited annually by the Auditor-General and his staff.

16.—(1) Within three months after the end of each financial year, the Commission shall cause to be made and shall submit to the Minister—

Annual
accounts and
report to
Minister.

- (a) a statement of its accounts audited in accordance with section 15(3) of this Act; and
- (b) a report dealing generally with the proceedings, policies, activities, and performances of the Commission during that financial year and in particular with—
 - (i) all applications and complaints to the Commission under this Act and summaries of the findings of the Commission thereon;
 - (ii) summaries of the findings of the Commission in regard to any matter in respect of which the Commission has acted of its own motion;
 - (iii) such other matters as appear to the Commission to be of public interest in connection with gaming and lotteries; and
 - (iv) such matters as the Minister directs.

(2) Every report made under sub-section (1)(b) shall include a general survey of developments during that financial

year, in respect of any other matters falling within the scope of the Commission's functions.

(3) the Minister shall cause a copy of such report, within three months of receiving it, together with the annual statement of accounts and the auditor's report thereon, to be tabled in the National Assembly.

PART VI

Licences, Registration, and Fees

Types and categories of licences.

17.—(1) The Commission may grant to any fit and proper person—

- (a) a licence to conduct gaming services; or
- (b) a licence to promote, hold, and conduct a lottery.

(2) A licence issued by the Commission shall state the prescribed category of the licence, including—

- (a) storage;
- (b) operator; or
- (c) owner.

Application for a gaming licence.

18.—(1) Any person who—

- (a) owns gaming machines;
- (b) owns and uses any premises for gaming services;
- (c) occupies and uses any premises for gaming services; or

- (d) conducts gaming services online or otherwise,

shall apply to the Commission for a gaming licence in the prescribed form and pay the prescribed fees.

(2) An applicant for a licence under this section shall provide proof of ownership or authority to use the—

- (a) premises intended for the conduct of gaming services; or
- (b) gaming machines intended for the conduct of gaming services.

(3) Any person who contravenes the requirements under this section or who provides false information in relation to an application commits an offence.

(4) Before granting a licence in respect of premises located within a city, town, or village, the Commission shall consult with the relevant local authority and take into account any representations made by that authority regarding the suitability of the premises for gaming services.

19.—(1) Every person who intends to promote, hold, or conduct a lottery shall, before taking any steps for that purpose, apply to the Commission for a licence to do so in the prescribed form and pay the prescribed fees.

Application
for a lottery
licence.

(2) Any person who contravenes this section or who provides false information in relation to an application commits an offence.

20.—(1) The Commission shall cause every licence issued under this Act, whether for gaming or lotteries, to be published in the *Gazette* within thirty days of the date of issue.

Publication of
licences and
variations in
Gazette.

(2) The publication shall specify–

- (a) the name and address of the licensee;
- (b) the category and type of licence issued;
- (c) the premises or location to which the licence relates, where applicable; and
- (d) the duration of the licence.

(3) Any variation, suspension, or revocation of a licence shall likewise be published in the *Gazette* within thirty days of the decision of the Commission.

(4) Publication in the *Gazette* under this section shall constitute sufficient notice to the public of the grant, variation, suspension, or revocation of a licence.

Content of
licence.

21.–(1) A gaming licence issued under this Act shall include the–

- (a) name of the owner of the premises where gaming will be conducted;
- (b) number of gaming machines approved under the licence and the related premises;
- (c) address of the owner of the premises where gaming will be conducted;
- (d) name and address of the owner of the gaming machines;
- (e) name and address of the operator of the gaming machines;
- (f) number of gaming machines used or leased;

- (g) serial number and licence plate number of the gaming machines;
- (h) duration of the licence;
- (i) category of the licence; and
- (j) terms and conditions of the licence, if any.

(2) A lottery licence issued under this Act shall include the—

- (a) name and address of the applicant;
- (b) duration of the licence;
- (c) description of the lottery; and
- (d) terms and conditions of the licence, if any.

22.—(1) The Minister may, subject to this Act, grant an exclusive licence to operate, manage, and administer the government lottery to any entity that is wholly owned and controlled by the Government, in the form and subject to such conditions as may be approved by the Commission.

Minister may grant exclusive lottery licence.

(2) A licence granted under this section shall not exceed a period of ten years, but may be renewed for a like period upon satisfactory performance and continued compliance with the conditions imposed by the Commission.

23.—(1) Any person who intends to manufacture or assemble any gaming machine shall apply to the Commission to be registered as a manufacturer or assembler.

Registration of certain persons.

(2) An application under this section shall be accompanied by a prescribed non-refundable application fee.

(3) The Commission may from time to time prescribe other fees to be paid in relation to administrative processing and compliance.

Security for performance of obligations of licensee.

24.—(1) A person to whom a licence is issued under this Act shall, for the performance by the person of every obligation of whatever kind in connection with the licence, or for the payment of any fine or winnings, make a cash deposit or execute a bond or a surety at the discretion of the Commission in such sum as may be prescribed by the Commission, for the due payment of all winnings, prizes, and penalties and for the faithful performance of all obligations under the licence.

(2) Every bond shall be given with such number of sureties as the Commission may require in any particular case.

(3) The Commission shall, by regulations, specify the persons to whom sub-section (1) applies.

Revocation or suspension of licence.

25. The Commission may, at any time, where it is satisfied that the licensee has acted in violation of the provisions of this Act, or is in breach of any terms and conditions of the licence, suspend or revoke the licence.

Online gaming service licensee to establish account.

26. Every online gaming service licence holder shall establish an account with a bank for the purpose of processing the transactions of computer users.

Exemption of entity granted exclusive licence.

27.—Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Act or any other law, the provisions of sections 18, 19, 24, 29 and 30 shall not be applicable to any entity that is granted an exclusive licence under this Act.

Inapplicability of certain Acts.

28.—(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of the Income and Business Tax Act, an entity granted an exclusive licence

under this Act shall be exempt from the requirement to pay business tax in respect of revenues derived from activities conducted pursuant to that exclusive licence. CAP. 55.

(2) Notwithstanding section 17 of the Finance and Audit Reform Act, the contract arising from the grant of an exclusive licence issued under this Act shall be exempt from the requirement of public tendering. CAP. 15.

PART VII

Gaming and Lottery Tax

29.—(1) There shall be raised, levied and collected a tax called the gaming tax to be charged in respect of gaming at every licensed gaming premises or on an online gaming service licence holder. Gaming tax.

(2) The gaming tax shall be at such rate as the Minister responsible for finance may prescribe.

(3) The gaming tax due under this Act shall be paid to the Commissioner at such time and in such manner as may be prescribed, together with a return in such form as may be specified by the Commissioner.

(4) The proceeds from the gaming tax collected under this Act shall be payable as follows—

- (a) fifty percent to be paid into the General Fund, to be used exclusively for the purposes of supporting health, education, and sports initiatives; and
- (b) the remaining fifty percent to the credit of the Official Charities Fund at the Treasury, to support community service initiatives.

Lottery tax.

30.—(1) There shall be raised, levied and collected a tax called the lottery tax to be paid by every person to whom a licence is granted to hold or conduct a lottery.

(2) The lottery tax shall be at such rate as the Minister responsible for finance may prescribe.

(3) The lottery tax shall be paid to the Commissioner at such time and in such manner as may be prescribed.

CAP. 55.

(4) The lottery tax shall be in addition to the income tax or business tax payable by a licensee under the Income and Business Tax Act.

(5) The lottery tax due and payable under this Act shall be recoverable as a debt due to the State from any person liable to pay the same and where the aggregate amount of the tax payable is less than two hundred and fifty dollars, that aggregate tax may, without prejudice to any other mode of recovery thereof, be recovered by the Commissioner in a district court as a civil debt.

(6) The proceeds from the lottery tax collected under this Act shall be payable as follows—

(a) fifty percent to be paid into the General Fund, to be used exclusively for the purposes of supporting health, education, and sports initiatives; and

(b) the remaining fifty percent to the credit of the Official Charities Fund at the Treasury to support community service initiatives.

Inspection
of records to
ascertain tax
due.

31.—(1) Every licensee shall keep and maintain a record of the amount collected in respect of gaming or lotteries services in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Minister.

(2) The Commission or the Commissioner or any person authorised in that behalf, may enter gaming or lotteries service premises or establishments, and require the proprietor to produce any document as the Commission or the Commissioner may reasonably require in order to ascertain the amount of tax due.

32. Where any tax remains unpaid at the expiration of fifteen days after the time at which it should have been paid to the Commissioner, the licensee liable to have paid the tax shall be charged an additional sum equal to ten percent of the amount so remaining unpaid, and such sum shall be collectable from the licensee in the same manner as if it were part of tax then due and unpaid in accordance with this Act.

Surcharge.

PART VIII

Offences, Penalties, and Warrants

33. Any person, not being the holder of a valid gaming or lottery licence issued under this Act, who—

- (a) owns and uses any premises;
- (b) occupies any premises; or
- (c) has temporary control of any premises,

and uses or permits the premises to be used for gaming or lotteries services, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

Prohibition on using premises for gaming or lotteries without a licence.

Offence of conducting or promoting gaming or lotteries services without a licence.

34. Any person who has the care or management of, or in any manner assists or is engaged in the management of any premises kept or used for gaming or lotteries services and who—

- (a) announces or publishes, or causes to be announced or published, either orally or by means of any print, writing, design, sign, or otherwise, that any premises is kept or used for gaming or lotteries services, or in any manner invites or solicits any person to engage in gaming or lotteries; or
- (b) advances, furnishes, or receives money for the purpose of establishing or conducting the business of gaming or lotteries services,

without a valid licence issued in accordance with this Act commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years.

Offence of gambling in a public place.

35. Any person found at any time gambling, or assembled together for the purpose of gambling, in any public or open place, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years.

Penalty for obstruction.

36. Any person who wilfully obstructs or hinders any authorised person in the performance of their duty or the exercise of their authority under this Act commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding three years, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Offences by body corporate.

37. Where an offence is committed by a body corporate, the penalty shall be prescribed in regulations.

38.—(1) No person to whom a licence is issued under this Act shall transfer or assign the licence to any other person, or in any way alter, deface or destroy the licence before the date of expiration of the licence.

Licence not transferable.

(2) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the requirements under this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

39.—(1) Any person who contravenes or fails to comply with the terms and conditions of a valid licence issued to the person under this Act, commits an offence, and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding two years, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Penalty for breach of condition of licence.

(2) The Commission may, in addition to any penalty imposed under this section suspend or revoke the licence in relation to which the offence was committed.

40.—(1) No licensee shall permit or cause any person under the age of eighteen years to enter or remain on the licensed gaming premises or gaming establishment.

Offences in respect of minors.

(2) No licensee shall employ any person under the age of eighteen years to do any work in the licensed gaming premises, or gaming establishment or the licensed premises where gaming services are offered or to be engaged in any form of lottery sale or lottery promotion.

(3) No person shall send any person under the age of eighteen years to any licensed gaming premises for any purpose whatsoever.

(4) Any person who gives, sells, or offers for sale to any person under the age of eighteen years any ticket or token authorising, or for the purpose of enabling or entitling, any person to receive any money or valuable thing on any event or contingency of or relating to any lottery commits an offence.

(5) Any person who acts in contravention of this section commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding fifty thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

No lottery or gaming services to be conducted on Good Friday.

41.—(1) No person shall hold, conduct, or promote any gaming or lottery services on Good Friday.

(2) A person who contravenes sub-section (1) commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and term of imprisonment.

Offence of selling, distributing, etc., without a licence.

42. A person who is not the holder of a lottery licence commits an offence if that person—

- (a) prints or issues any lottery ticket for use in Belize;
- (b) sells or distributes, offers or advertises for sale or distribution, or has in their possession for the purpose of sale or distribution, any lottery ticket;
- (c) prints, publishes or distributes, or possesses for the purpose of publication or distribution—
 - (i) any advertisement of the lottery; or

- (ii) any such matter descriptive of the drawing or intended drawing of the lottery, or otherwise relating to the lottery, as is calculated to act as an inducement to persons to participate in that lottery or in other lotteries;
- (d) buys, sells, or possesses, for the purpose of sale or distribution, any ticket, list, printed or electronic matter, or document relating to a lottery;
- (e) brings or invites any person to send into Belize, for the purpose of sale or distribution, any ticket in, or advertisement of the lottery; or
- (f) uses any premises, or causes or knowingly permits any premises to be used, for purposes connected with the promotion or conduct of the lottery.

43.-(1) No person shall in any way assist a licensee in promoting a lottery, by sale, advertisement, or any other means whatever unless that person is a registered agent.

Only registered agents may assist a licensee.

(2) A person, not being a registered agent, commits an offence who-

- (a) sells, distributes, or offers or advertises for sale or distribution, or has in their possession for the purpose of sale or distribution, any lottery ticket; or
- (b) buys, sells, distributes or has in their possession any lottery ticket, except for personal use, or document relating to a lottery.

44.—(1) If any magistrate is satisfied, on information on oath, that there is reasonable ground for suspecting that an offence under this Act is being, has been, or is about to be committed by any gaming or lottery licensee, the magistrate may issue a warrant in writing authorising any Enforcement Officer, Compliance Officer, or other authorised officer to enter those premises, if necessary, by force, at any time within fourteen days from the time of the issue of the warrant and search the premises.

Power to issue warrant for offence by licensee.

(2) Any Enforcement Officer, Compliance Officer, or other authorised officer who enters the premises under the authority of a warrant issued under this section may seize and remove any document, money or valuable thing, instrument, or other thing whatsoever found on the premises, which the Enforcement Officer, Compliance Officer, or other authorised officer has reasonable cause to believe may be required as evidence for the purposes of proceedings in respect of any offence.

(3) The court, before which any person is convicted of any offence under this Act, may order anything produced to the court and shown to the satisfaction of the court to relate to the offence to be forfeited and dealt with in any manner as the court may order.

45.—(1) An Enforcement Officer, Compliance Officer, or other authorised officer for the purpose of obtaining evidence for any prosecution in any court for the commission of any offence under this Act, shall not be deemed to be an accomplice, and the evidence obtained by the Enforcement Officer, Compliance Officer, or other authorised officer shall be valid and effectual for all purposes and the Enforcement Officer, Compliance Officer, or other authorised officer shall be a competent witness to give evidence before the court that hears the case.

Person obtaining evidence for prosecution not deemed an accomplice.

(2) A court may admit in evidence the testimony of any Enforcement Officer, Compliance Officer, or other authorised officer who is a witness in any matter under sub-section (1).

46.—(1) Where a magistrate is satisfied, upon information made on oath, that there is reasonable cause to suspect that any premises are being used for the purpose of conducting illegal gaming or lotteries, the magistrate may issue a warrant authorising any police officer, Compliance Officer, Enforcement Officer, or other officer duly authorised under this Act to—

Power to enter under warrant and seize illegal gaming and lottery instruments, etc.

- (a) enter the premises, by day or by night, with such assistance and using such force as may be reasonably necessary;
- (b) search the premises and any person found therein;
- (c) seize and detain any instrument, appliance, money, token, or security used or intended to be used for gaming or lotteries; and
- (d) take into custody any person reasonably suspected of committing an offence under this Act or attempting to evade enforcement.

(2) The issuance and execution of warrants under this section shall be subject to the procedural safeguards and reporting requirements set out in the Summary Jurisdiction Act, the Criminal Procedure Rules, and any other applicable legislation.

(3) Where the officer executing the warrant is not a police officer, a copy of the post-execution report shall also be submitted to the Commission within forty eight hours of execution.

Schedule II.

(4) A warrant shall be in the form set out in Schedule II.

Summary jurisdiction trials.

47. All offences and penalties under this Act may be prosecuted and recovered summarily before a court of summary jurisdiction.

General penalty.

48. An offence under this Act or any regulations made under this Act, for which no penalty is specified, may be punishable by an administrative penalty as may be prescribed.

PART IX

Miscellaneous

Limitation of actions.

49. No action, suit, injunction, prosecution, or other proceeding shall be brought against any person in respect of anything done or omitted to be done in execution of their duty under this Act, unless—

(a) one week's previous notice, in writing, of an intention to bring such action or prosecution is given by the claimant to the defendant; and

(b) the action, suit, injunction, or prosecution is brought or commenced within three months of the date of the act or omission complained of, or of the cessation of damage continuously resulting therefrom.

Compliance with data protection laws.

50.—(1) All licensees, registered agents, and officers of the Commission shall comply with all laws in relation to data protection in the collection, processing, storage, and disclosure of personal data under this Act.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as exempting any person or entity from the obligations imposed by laws in relation to data protection.

Engagement
of a contractor
to operate
lotteries.
CAP. 15.

51.—(1) For the efficient administration and operation of lotteries in Belize, the Commission may, subject to the Finance and Audit (Reform) Act, and with the approval of Cabinet, engage the services of a person or body corporate as a contractor possessing qualifications and expertise required to manage any lottery.

(2) A contract made pursuant to sub-section (1) may authorise the contractor to do all things necessary to administer, disburse, and market any lottery on behalf of the Commission.

(3) No contract made pursuant to this section shall be for a period exceeding ten years, but may be renewed for a like period subject to satisfactory performance and compliance with such conditions as the Commission may impose.

(4) Every contract referred to in this section shall contain a provision entitling the Auditor General to audit the accounts of the contractor at such time and with such frequency as the Auditor General may consider necessary.

Chance of
winning prize
or prizes to
be shown on
ticket.

52.—(1) Subject to sub-section (2), no ticket in a lottery shall carry more than one chance of winning a particular prize or the chance of winning more than one particular prize.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-section (1), the Minister may make regulations to provide that in any particular lottery or type of lottery a ticket may bear more than one chance of winning a particular prize or the chance of winning more than one particular prize.

Exclusion
of financial
securities and
derivatives.
Act 46 of 2021.
Act 11 of 2022.

53.—(1) Nothing in this Act shall be construed as applying to, regulating, or otherwise affecting financial securities, financial derivatives, or related instruments governed under the Securities Industry Act, the Belize Companies Act, or any other enactment regulating offshore financial services.

(2) For the avoidance of doubt, the provisions of this Act shall not extend to—

- (a) the issuance, trading, or settlement of securities or derivatives;
- (b) activities of licensed brokers, dealers, custodians, or investment advisers regulated under securities legislation;
- (c) offshore financial services conducted pursuant to statutory authorisation under any other Act.

(3) This Act shall be interpreted in a manner that preserves the integrity, competitiveness, and regulatory framework of the offshore financial services sector, and shall not derogate from or duplicate the supervisory powers of the competent authority established under the Securities Industry Act or related legislation.

Establishment,
jurisdiction,
decisions
etc. of the
Complaints
Tribunal.

54.—(1) There shall be established a Complaints Tribunal for the purpose of receiving, investigating, and adjudicating complaints made by any person in respect of the conduct of Enforcement Officers or Compliance Officers acting under this Act.

(2) The Tribunal shall have jurisdiction to hear complaints alleging abuse of power, misconduct, breach of duty, or any other improper or unlawful conduct by an Enforcement Officer or Compliance Officer in the exercise of their functions under this Act.

(3) The Tribunal may, upon determination of a complaint, issue findings and recommendations, including disciplinary action, referral to the appropriate authority, or remedial measures, as it considers just and appropriate.

(4) The Tribunal shall consist of—

- (a) a Chairperson, who shall be an attorney-at-law of not less than ten years' standing; and
- (b) two other members, one of whom shall have experience in public administration or regulatory enforcement, and one who shall represent civil society interests.

(5) A complaint under this Part shall be filed within twelve months from the date on which the alleged misconduct occurred or became known to the complainant, whichever is later, unless the Tribunal determines that exceptional circumstances justify an extension.

(6) Any person aggrieved by a decision of the Tribunal may, within thirty days of the decision, appeal to the High Court on a point of law or procedural fairness. The Court may affirm, vary, or set aside the decision and make such orders as it considers appropriate.

(7) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a person who, in good faith, lodges a complaint or provides information to the Tribunal shall not be subject to any form of retaliation, reprisal, or adverse consequence, including dismissal, demotion, harassment, or any other form of disadvantage.

(8) Any person who knowingly engages in retaliation against another person in contravention of sub-section (7) commits an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding two hundred and fifty thousand dollars,

or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding ten years, or to both.

(9) The protections afforded under this Part shall be construed in a manner consistent with laws relating to protected disclosures, or other applicable laws, and nothing in this Act shall be interpreted to limit or derogate from the rights and remedies available under those laws.

Issue of a violation ticket.

55. A person who commits an offence under this Act may be issued a violation ticket.

Regulations.

56.—(1) The Commission may, with the approval of the Minister, make regulations—

- (a) prescribing anything that needs to be prescribed by the Commission under this Act; and
- (b) in relation to any other matter expressly specified under this Act to be done by the Commission in regulations.

(2) The Minister may make regulations for the carrying into effect of the provisions of this Act, and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, may make regulations—

- (a) providing for the establishment by the Commission, of which may be general or specific to each type of gaming or lotteries service, Minimum Internal Control Standards that govern the operations, performance, and control of all forms of gaming or lottery to be licensed under this Act and all associated administrative fees or penalties to be determined by the Minister;

- (b) providing for the supply to the Minister of information regarding establishments or premises licensed under this Act and the activities of any person upon the establishments or premises;
- (c) with respect to the stationing of inspectors or other Enforcement Officers upon establishments or premises licensed under this Act, and the functions of the officers;
- (d) providing for the expenses incurred or payable by the Commission out of the General Fund and all disbursements;
- (e) for the issue of violation tickets for the breach or contravention of a prescribed provision;
- (f) for the form of the violation ticket, including—
 - (i) for the fine to be stated on the violation ticket;
 - (ii) for persons by whom the violation ticket may be issued;
 - (iii) for the places where the fine stated on the violation ticket may be paid;
 - (iv) for the time for paying such fines; and
 - (v) for the penalty for failure to pay the fine within the time specified;
- (g) for the procedure for requesting a court hearing by a person who has been issued with the violation ticket;

- (h) providing that in any particular lottery or type of lottery a ticket may bear more than one chance of winning a particular prize or the chance of winning more than one particular prize;
- (i) prescribing fees to be paid in respect of any application, administrative processing, registration or compliance-related function carried out under this Act; and
- (j) generally for all matters connected with the carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

(3) Regulations made under sub-section (2)(a) to (c) may provide that the contravention of any such regulations may be punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding ten thousand dollars, or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both such fine and term of imprisonment.

(4) Regulations made under sub-section (2)(d) to (i) may provide that any contravention of any such regulations may be punishable on summary conviction by a fine not exceeding five thousand dollars or imprisonment for a term not exceeding two years, or both such fine and term of imprisonment.

(5) Regulations made by the Minister under sub-section (2) shall be subject to negative resolution.

Validity of
contracts, etc.

57.—(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law, no objection to any contract, bill of exchange, cheque, promissory note, or other transaction of any kind relating to a gaming or lottery licence under this Act shall be taken or allowed in any court of law on the ground that the contract, bill of exchange, cheque, promissory note, or other transaction is under any law in force in Belize directly or indirectly tainted with illegality or is against public policy.

(2) Any person to whom any winnings, wagers, prize money or money's worth of any kind becomes due and payable from any licensee under this Act may recover the same from the licensee and shall be entitled to bring any proceedings necessary to recover any of the winnings, wagers, prize money or money's worth.

(3) Any person who paid any money as the value of any ticket in any game or lottery may recover the same from the person who was licensed to conduct the game or lottery in case the game or lottery is not completed or there is failure of consideration otherwise.

58.—(1) All contracts or agreements, whether verbal or in writing, by way of gaming or wagering, shall be void, and no suit shall be brought or maintained in any court of law for recovering any sum of money or valuable thing alleged to be won upon any wager, or which has been deposited in the hands of any person to abide the event on which any wager has been made.

Avoidance of contracts.

(2) Notwithstanding sub-section (1), nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to any subscription, or contribution, or agreement to subscribe or contribute, for or towards any plate, prize or sum of money to be awarded to the winner of any lawful game, sport, pastime or exercise.

59.—(1) Where any winnings, wagers, prize money, or money's worth of any kind becomes due and payable from any licensee under this Act and the licensee is for any reason unable or refuses to pay, the licensee shall notify the Commission, in writing, of that inability or refusal within five days of the wagers, prize money, or money's worth becoming due, and provide reasons for the inability or refusal.

Procedure where licensee is unable or refuses to pay winnings.

(2) Where the Commission receives notification under sub-section (1), the Commission shall investigate and deliberate the matter, to—

- (a) determine whether the winnings, wagers, prize money, or money's worth is due and payable to the player;
- (b) determine the amount of the winnings, wagers, prize money, or money's worth that is due and payable to the player; and
- (c) specify terms and conditions, if any, in relation to the payment of the winnings, wagers, prize money, or money's worth.

(3) The Commission shall, within thirty days of the receipt of the notification, cause the decision made pursuant to sub-section (2) to be served upon the licensee and any person to whom winnings, wagers, prize money, or money's worth of any kind may be payable.

(4) Where a decision of the Commission is that any winnings, wagers, prize money, or money's worth is due to a player, the licensee shall pay the winnings, wagers, prize money, or money's worth within thirty days of the receipt of the decision of the Commission in accordance with any terms and conditions set by the Commission for the payment.

(5) A licensee who fails to comply with the requirement to notify the Commission within the required period under sub-section (1), is liable on summary conviction to the prescribed penalty.

(6) Where a licensee fails to pay any winnings won by a person, or any tax or other sum due under the licence, or to perform any other obligation which the person may be required to perform, the Commission may deduct from the cash deposit, if any, made by the person, or may sue for and recover from the person or their sureties, such sum of money as may be sufficient for the purpose of satisfying the debt or obligation due under the licence.

60.—(1) Nothing contained in this Act shall apply to any lottery promoted, conducted, or organised as an incident of or in connection with an entertainment for any charitable or deserving object for which approval, in writing, has been sought and obtained from the Commission.

Exemption
of certain
lotteries,
raffles, etc.

(2) An application for approval under this section shall be in accordance with the procedures outlined in regulations made by the Commission under this Act.

(3) The entertainments to which this section applies are bazaars, sales of work, fancy fairs, fetes, and other entertainments of a similar character.

(4) The grant of approval under this section shall—

- (a) authorise the promoter to sell games of chance and lottery tickets for a period not exceeding ninety days before the entertainment in respect of which it is issued takes place; and
- (b) expressly authorise children under the age of sixteen to sell such tickets solely for the purposes outlined in sub-section (1).

(5) An application under the provisions of this section shall be free of charge.

61. The following Acts are repealed—

Repeal.

- (a) Gambling Prevention Act; CAP. 109.
- (b) Computer Wagering Licensing Act; CAP. 149.
- (c) Lotteries Control Act; and CAP. 151.
- (d) Gaming Control Act. CAP. 152.

Savings and transitional.

62.—(1) Notwithstanding the repeal under section 61—

- (a) any action taken, licence issued, or anything done in exercise of a power conferred by or under those Acts shall be deemed to have been taken, issued, or done under this Act; and
- (b) any investigation, prosecution, legal proceeding, or remedy in respect of any offence committed or any liability incurred under the repealed Acts, may be instituted, continued, enforced or determined, and the penalty, forfeiture or punishment may be imposed, as if the repealed Acts had not been repealed.

(2) Upon the coming into force of this Act, all Regulations, By-laws, Rules, Orders, and other subsidiary legislation made under the repealed Acts, in so far as they are not inconsistent with this Act, shall continue in force after the commencement of this Act, until repealed by Regulations, By-laws, Rules, Orders, and other subsidiary legislation made thereunder.

SCHEDULE I
[Section 6(2)]

Constitution and Procedures of the Board of Directors

1. The members of the Board shall be appointed by the Minister and shall be as follows—

- (a) the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for gaming and lotteries;
- (b) a representative from the Ministry responsible for finance;
- (c) a representative from the Ministry responsible for national planning;
- (d) a representative from the institution responsible for financial crimes or a representative from the Ministry responsible for police;
- (e) two persons with knowledge of the gaming or lotteries industry;
- (f) a person with knowledge of finance and accounting or business administration;
- (g) a representative from the Attorney General's Ministry;
- (h) a representative from the Ministry responsible for tourism;
- (i) a representative from the Ministry responsible for Sustainable Development or the department responsible for the environment; and

- (j) the Director responsible for policy in relation to gaming and lotteries within the Ministry responsible for gaming and lotteries.
2. The Chairperson shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Ministry responsible for gaming and lotteries, or any other person as determined by the Minister.
 3. The Board of Directors shall, at its first meeting, select from among its members a Deputy Chairperson.
 4. The Executive Director shall be the secretary to the Board.
 - 5.-(1) All members of the Board, other than the ex-officio members shall hold office for a period not exceeding three years as specified in the instrument of appointment and may be eligible for reappointment for an additional period not exceeding three years, but in any event must not hold office for more than two consecutive terms.
 - (2) An appointed member may at any time resign from office by notifying the Chairperson in writing, who shall then forward the same to the Minister and upon the date of the receipt by the Chairperson of such document such member shall cease to be a member.
 - (3) The Chairperson may resign from office by notifying the Minister in writing and such resignation shall take effect upon the date of the receipt of such document by the Minister.
 - (4) Where the Chairperson or the Deputy Chairperson ceases to be a member of the Board, the person shall also cease to be Chairperson or Deputy Chairperson, as the case may be.
 - (5) The appointment, termination, death or resignation of the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson or an appointed member shall be published in the *Gazette* and by such other means as the Board deems fit.

6.-(1) A vacancy shall arise in the membership of the Board in the case of-

- (a) the death or resignation of a member; or
- (b) the termination of any member of the Board in accordance with section 7.

(2) Where a member of the Board is, for a reasonable cause, unable to act as a member, the Chairperson shall determine whether such inability results in a vacancy.

(3) Where a vacancy arises in the membership of the Board, the Chairperson shall notify the Minister of the vacancy and the Minister shall, if the Minister thinks it desirable or expedient to so do, revoke the appointment by instrument in writing and appoint another person within fourteen (14) days to fill the vacancy.

7. The Minister shall terminate the appointment of a member of the Board where-

- (a) there has been proved against the member, or the member has been convicted of, a charge in respect of-
 - (i) an offence involving fraud or dishonesty;
 - (ii) an offence under any law relating to corruption; or
 - (iii) any other offence punishable with imprisonment, in itself only or in addition to or in lieu of a fine, for more than two years;

- (b) the conduct of the member, whether in connection with the duties as member of the Board or otherwise, has been such as to bring discredit to the Board;
- (c) the member breaches the clause of confidentiality pursuant to section 12;
- (d) the member is adjudged bankrupt or compounds with creditors or makes any assignment of the remuneration of that member for their benefit or takes advantage of any laws relating to bankruptcy;
- (e) the member is of unsound mind or is otherwise incapable of discharging their duties;
- (f) the member has an interest in a matter before the Board and has failed to disclose that interest, or was present or participated in the deliberations of the matter to which it is necessary for such interest to be disclosed;
- (g) in the case of a member of the Board other than the Chairperson, such member absents themselves from three consecutive meetings of the Board, without leave granted by the Minister, in writing;
- (h) the member resigns from office by writing to the Minister and the resignation is accepted by the Minister; or
- (i) the organisation which had nominated the member requests termination of the appointment in writing addressed to the Minister.

8. There shall be paid—
- (a) to each member, in respect of their office such remuneration and allowances, if any, as the Minister may determine;
 - (b) to the Chairperson and to the Deputy Chairperson in respect of their offices such remuneration and allowances, if any, in addition to any remuneration or allowances to which they may be entitled in respect of their offices as members; and
 - (c) to any person invited to attend meetings of the Board under section 9(8) such remuneration and allowances, if any, as the Board may by resolution declare.

9.—(1) The Board shall meet at regular intervals which shall be no less than four times per year in such manner and at such times as may be necessary or expedient to do so for the transaction of business, and where a member is unable to attend in person, that member may attend the meeting remotely through electronic means approved by the Board.

(2) Not more than ninety days shall lapse between meetings.

(3) The Executive Director shall be entitled to take part in any meeting but shall not be entitled to vote.

(4) The Chairperson shall at the request in writing of not less than one-third of the membership of the Board convene an extraordinary meeting of the Board at the time and place determined by the Chairperson.

(5) The Chairperson shall preside at meetings of the Board, and in the absence of the Chairperson or Deputy

Chairperson, a member of the Board elected by the members present from among their number shall preside.

(6) Matters before the Board shall be decided by a majority of the members present by voting and in the event of an equality of votes, the person presiding shall have a casting vote.

(7) The Board may invite any person, who in the opinion of the Board has expert knowledge concerning any of the functions of the Board that is likely to be of assistance, to attend any meeting of the Board and to take part in its proceedings, but that person shall not be entitled to vote on a matter for decision at the meeting.

(8) The proceedings of the Board shall not be invalidated because of a vacancy among the members or a defect in the appointment or qualification of a member.

(9) Subject to this section, the Board shall determine the procedure for its meetings.

10.—(1) A quorum shall consist of fifty percent plus one member of the voting members of the Board.

(2) Every voting member shall cast one vote of equal weight or abstain.

(3) The Chairperson of the Board shall vote at the same time as the Board on all votes, but the vote shall be kept separate and shall only be considered in the case of a tie to break a deadlock.

11.—(1) A member of the Board who has an interest in a matter for consideration shall—

(a) immediately disclose to the Board, in writing, the nature of the interest and the disclosure shall

form part of the record of the consideration of the matter; and

- (b) not be present or participate in the deliberations of the Board in respect of that matter.

(2) Unless the Board is fully satisfied that the relationship concerned is not prejudicial to the preservation of the principles of natural justice or public procurement requirements, specifically the legal requirement that Board proceedings should not be open to the charge of bias, then that member shall take no part in the deliberations of the Board on the matter, and the disclosure and absence of the member shall be recorded in the minutes.

(3) If any member of the Board is personally the subject of a matter which is before the Board for consideration, that Board member shall withdraw from any deliberations of the Board on the matter and the absence of the member from the deliberations shall be recorded in the minutes.

(4) Notwithstanding sub-section (3), the member referred to in that sub-section may be present where the Board is fully satisfied that the presence of the member during such deliberations is not prejudicial to the preservation of the principles of natural justice and, specifically, the legal requirement that Board proceedings should not be open to the charge of bias.

(5) If the Minister is satisfied, after due investigation and following receipt of a recommendation from the Board, that any member of the Board failed, at a material time, to disclose a relationship, the Minister shall remove that person from membership of the Board in accordance with section 7 and any person so removed shall not be eligible for appointment as a member of any committee of the Board.

12.—(1) A member of the Board shall keep confidential the matters discussed at meetings unless otherwise agreed by the Board.

(2) Where allegations of a breach of confidentiality by a member of the Board arises, the matter shall be brought to the attention of the Minister at the earliest opportunity and the Minister shall cause to be carried out an investigation into the matter.

(3) If the Minister is satisfied after proper investigation that any member of the Board is in breach of this clause, the member shall be removed.

13.—(1) Subject to sub-section (2), no action, prosecution or other proceedings shall be brought or instituted personally against the Chairperson or any other member of the Board in respect of any act done bona fide in pursuance or execution or intended execution of the provisions of the Act.

(2) Where any member of the Board is exempt from liability by reason of sub-section (1), the Commission shall be liable to the extent that it would be if that member were a servant or agent of the Commission, however, if in any case, the Commission is not liable for any of the above mentioned acts, then sub-section (1) does not operate to exempt such member as therein stated.

(3) The members of the Board shall be entitled to the same protection under the Public Authorities Protection Act as if they were included in the definition of public authority stipulated under section 2 of that Act.

SCHEDULE II
[section 46(4)]

Warrant for Search, Arrest, and Seizure

TO: Any authorised Officer.

WHEREAS it appears to me Magistrate....., by the information on oath of..... in theof that the (here insert a description of the place by which it may be readily known and found) is kept or used for holding or conducting any illegal lottery, within the meaning of the Gaming and Lotteries Control Act: This is therefore to authorise and require you with such assistance and by such force as may be necessary, by night or by day, to enter the said place, there diligently to search the same and all persons found therein, and to take into custody all persons, and to seize all instruments, appliances or gaming or lotteries paraphernalia for gambling, and all moneys and securities or tokens for money found therein or in the possession of any recipient.

GIVEN under my hand and seal on this theday of20 , at in the District of

.....
Magistrate