



# RWANDA GAMBLING POLICY

## Rwanda Gambling Policy 2024: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Responses

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### 1 What is the purpose of the Rwanda Gambling Policy, and when will it be publicly accessible?

**ANS:** The Rwanda Gambling Policy, approved by the Cabinet on 18 October 2024, seeks to balance the economic benefits of a growing gambling sector with the need to protect public welfare. It aims to establish a structured and regulated gambling environment that reduces social harms while enhancing economic contributions. The policy will be available on the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) website from 22 November 2024.

### 2 What changes does the policy bring to gambling regulation in Rwanda?

**ANS:** The policy outlines a comprehensive approach to minimizing social harm, maximizing economic benefits, and strengthening regulatory oversight. It introduces three pillars to achieve these goals: (1) minimizing negative social impacts, (2) maximizing economic contributions, and (3) enhancing regulatory and compliance structures. These pillars are supported by targeted interventions, such as the introduction of a Centralized Monitoring System, licensing reforms, and responsible gambling measures.

### 3 Will there be new licensing requirements, and what can operators expect?

**ANS:** Yes, the policy will result in changes in license requirements and introduces premises permitting to align with the social protection and economic contributions criteria.

### 4 What measures are included to support consumer protection and social responsibility?

**ANS:** The policy emphasizes social responsibility through a series of consumer protection measures. These include mandatory responsible gambling messages in advertisements, strict age and identity verification protocols, and self-exclusion programs. Additionally, operators will be required to implement curative measures, such as support programs for individuals affected by gambling-related harms, in coordination with health and social service agencies.

### 5 What will happen to slot machines under the new policy?

**ANS:** Slot machines, due to their high social impact and limited economic contribution, will be phased out immediately. Confiscated slot machines of licensed operators will be handled following an agreed approach between the operators and the regulator and illegal machines of unlicensed operators will be disposed of in accordance with legal procedures.

**6 How does the policy address tax obligations for the gambling industry?**

**ANS:** The policy collaborates with the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MINECOFIN) to establish a simplified, comprehensive tax framework for the gambling sector. This framework is designed to support revenue collection, fund public health and social programs, and discourage excessive gambling. Tax rates will be tiered based on the social and economic impact of each gambling category, ensuring equitable contributions.

**7 What guidance will RDB provide to businesses affected by the policy changes?**

**ANS:** RDB is committed to assisting businesses through this transition by:

- Offering clear reapplication guidelines for licensing;
- Implementing a defined transition period for operators to comply with updated standards;
- Providing resources on operational adjustments to meet the new requirements.

These measures aim to enable a smooth transition to a more structured, regulated gambling environment that aligns with Rwanda's social and economic goals.

**8 How will the re-licensing process ensure fairness and transparency?**

**ANS:** RDB will implement a transparent re-licensing process based on uniform evaluation criteria for all applicants, including current operators and new entrants. This process ensures that all operators meet high standards for compliance, social responsibility, and financial transparency, fostering a fair and competitive market.

**9 What are the guidelines for online gambling under the new policy?**

**ANS:** Online gambling is supported within the policy framework, subject to rigorous licensing and compliance standards to ensure consumer protection, transparency, and financial security. Guidelines will outline specific licensing requirements, including technical standards and responsible gambling protocols, which online operators must adhere to.

**10 How can illegal or unlicensed gambling activities be reported?**

**ANS:** The Rwanda Development Board encourages reporting illegal or unlicensed gambling activities to ensure public safety. To report any such activities, individuals may contact RDB at [NLGC@rdb.rw](mailto:NLGC@rdb.rw).

**11 What are the long-term goals of the Rwanda Gambling Policy?**

**ANS:** By implementing this policy, Rwanda aims to create a safe and regulated gambling industry that maximizes economic benefits while minimizing social harm. The policy's long-term goals include a 60% reduction in gambling addiction rates by 2030, increased contributions to public programs, and the establishment of Rwanda as a model for responsible gambling in the region.