

GAMBLING AND BETTING REGULATION IN GIBRALTAR

08 April 2026

On 1 April 2026, the main provisions of the new Gambling Act 2025 (the “Act”), regulating gambling activities in Gibraltar, came into force¹.

As indicated in the Notice of Commencement published on the official website of the Government of Gibraltar, the implementation of the Act is being carried out in stages: a significant portion of the provisions became effective on 1 April 2026, while certain other provisions will be introduced at a later date².

The experts at White Square have prepared a detailed review of the Act, its key changes, and industry recommendations.

This material is based on information from public sources and is for reference purposes only. It does not constitute advice or a legal opinion. If you have any questions regarding this alert, please contact us at: info@whitesquarepartners.com.

¹ Gambling Act 2025 (available via [the link](#))

² Notice of Commencement LN.2026/064 (available via [the link](#))

1. Purpose of the Act

The Gambling Act 2025 replaced the outdated Gambling Act 2005 and established a modern, comprehensive regulatory framework for gambling activities in Gibraltar. The Act is aimed at adapting the legal framework to current technological and business realities, strengthening the role of the regulator, and enhancing international market confidence in the jurisdiction.

2. Preliminary

The Act defines ‘**gambling**’ as:

- 1) betting (including pool betting) and bookmaking;
- 2) gaming;
- 3) lottery promotion;
- 4) operating or keeping on any premises a gambling machine for the purpose of gambling on those or any other premises,

but excludes social gambling³.

The definition of “**betting**” means making or accepting a bet on–

- 1) the outcome of a race, competition or other event of any description;
- 2) the likelihood of anything occurring or not occurring; or
- 3) whether anything is or is not true,

but does not include any bet made or stake hazarded in the course of or incidental to any gaming and the expressions bet, betting and bookmaking shall be construed accordingly⁴.

3. Key Changes

Broader Regulatory Scope

Under the Gibraltar Gambling Act, no person may carry on a regulated activity in or from Gibraltar, or represent themselves as being able

to do so, unless they are either a licence holder or an exempt person.

The licensing perimeter is drafted very broadly and extends well beyond direct B2C gambling operations. In particular, regulated activities may include:

- B2B remote gambling,
- the provision of server-based content software,
- content aggregation and other platform services,
- as well as certain ancillary activities such as gambling advertising and marketing services.

For the first time, new categories of licenses have been officially introduced, including Gaming Operator Support Services (GOSS) licenses, for example, for marketing companies and service providers involved in player relationship management.

Notably, the activities of prediction markets are now regulated, opening a new regulatory vertical. An example is the issuance of the first license to a prediction market operator under the new regulatory standards⁵.

Increased triggers for licensing.

Under the previous regime, a remote gambling licence was required only if the gambling equipment was physically located in Gibraltar.

The new rules significantly expand this trigger: a licence is now mandatory whenever a person or company based in Gibraltar is responsible for organising or managing remote gambling, irrespective of where the gambling activity actually occurs or where the servers are hosted.

Transitional provisions

Subjects who, immediately before the Act’s commencement, were carrying on by way of business a relevant previous activity (i.e., an activity that now requires a licence under

³ Section 2(1) of the Gibraltar Gambling Act.

⁴ Section 2(1) of the Gibraltar Gambling Act.

⁵Gibraltar licenses first prediction market operator (available via [the link](#))

the Act but did not under a repealed enactment) shall be treated as licence holders for an initial period of six months.

To maintain lawful status beyond this period, such subjects must submit a full and complete application for a licence or approval to the Authority within those six months. Upon timely submission, the transitional permission remains in force until the application is finally determined (whether granted or refused).

Regulated individuals

The Act requires that certain key roles and responsibilities within a licensed gambling business, called regulated functions, must be carried out by or under the responsibility of individuals who have been formally approved by the Gambling Commissioner. These functions include, for example:

- 1) Chief Operating Officer or Managing Director roles;
- 2) Money Laundering Reporting Officer;
- 3) Any role exercising significant influence over the licence holder's operations.

This makes personal accountability for senior roles an express requirement of the regulatory regime.

Information Disclosure Requirements

The Act empowers the Gambling Commissioner to require licence holders, regulated individuals, auditors, former licence holders, and connected persons (e.g., controllers holding 10%+ of shares or voting rights) to provide information, produce documents, or attend interviews as reasonably necessary for regulatory oversight.

Change of Control

Any acquisition, increase, reduction, or cessation of control over a licence holder must be notified to the Gambling Commissioner before the transaction.

Non-compliance may result in objections, restriction notices, voiding of transfers, fines, or imprisonment.

Sufficient substantive presence

The Act establishes a requirement for substantial economic presence in Gibraltar. Licensed companies must maintain a physical structure, employ staff, and carry out certain tax and operational activities within the jurisdiction.

This measure is aimed at eliminating so-called "brass plate" operations (legal entities with no real presence in the market).

Sanctions and Enforcement

Conducting gambling activity without a licence is a criminal offence. Penalties include fines, licence suspension or revocation, and potential imprisonment.

Liability may extend to directors and, in some cases, ultimate beneficial owners. False claims of being licensed or exempt are also punishable.

Expanded Powers of the Regulator

The Gambling Commissioner is empowered to issue administrative fines, suspend operations, conduct inspections, and require reporting on AML, technical standards, and player protection measures.

4. Practical Implications

These regulatory changes have significant operational and governance implications for licensed operators and investors.

Impact on Corporate Governance

Approval requirements for key personnel increase scrutiny of professional qualifications, ethical standards, and compliance practices, potentially prompting restructuring of management and corporate governance frameworks.

Higher Operational Costs

Companies that previously operated through flexible structures, such as international marketing hubs, now must obtain GOSS licenses, hire staff locally, and comply with additional reporting and compliance obligations, leading to increased operational complexity and costs.

Transparency and Increased Trust

The expansion of regulated categories and the introduction of strict substance requirements are expected to enhance investor and partner confidence, demonstrating Gibraltar's alignment with international regulatory standards.

If you have additional questions regarding the application of the new Gibraltar Gambling Act 2025, as well as other matters related to gaming technologies and digital platforms in the gambling industry, the White Square team is ready to assist you both in an advisory capacity and in the implementation of specific tasks.

White Square team has extensive experience advising iGaming companies around the world, ranging from regulatory and intellectual property matters to corporate and tax structuring.

In the world of iGaming—we'll make sure you play by the rules!

Participation in gambling games in any jurisdiction does not guarantee a win, may result in the loss of money, and may cause addiction.



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