Údarás Rialála Cearrbhachais na hÉireann | Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland

Guidance for Applicants at Relevant Premises (On-Course)



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Introduction

The below is a guide for all on course bookmakers who are applying for a licence with the GRAI.

This guidance has been split into four sections:

1. Portal Registration
2. Business Registration for Sole Traders
3. Business Registration for Companies
4. Licence Application

For those who already hold a bookmakers licence from Revenue, please note that only the main entity or primary bookmaker should apply for a licence. The GRAI will only issue ONE licence to a bookmaking operation. This licence will then allow employees, agents or servants of that licensee to accept bets under that licence.

Any queries in relation to on-course permits should be directed to Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) but the GRAI will not be issuing multiple licences to the same entity to allow for multiple permits.

Key Terms

Through out this document and the application process, there will be references to certain terms that may be new to applicants. As such, we have called these out with definitions at the start of this document:

Term	Meaning
Police Certificate	As part of the application process you will be asked if you have received any criminal convictions, warnings or reprimands. For individuals living outside of Ireland, they will be required to provide us with a police certificate which is issued by their local police force.
Relevant Premises	• an authorised greyhound race track • an authorised coursing ground and the precincts thereof • an authorised racecourse • a place at which a point-to-point steeplechase meeting is being held
Tax Clearance	All applicants must ensure that they have a valid tax clearance certificate. This certificate is obtained from the Revenue Commissioners. Details of how to apply for a Tax Clearance Certificate are available at: **Resident Entities:**

	https://www.revenue.ie/en/starting-a-business/tax-clearance/apply-for-tax-clearance-certificate/index.aspx **Non Resident Entities:** https://www.revenue.ie/en/starting-a-business/tax-clearance/apply-for-tax-clearance-certificate/non-resident-applications.aspx The TRN or T number is required to check the validity of this cert.
Turnover	The Act defines turnover as the licensee's total income from relevant gambling activities less the total amount paid out in winnings for those activities. "Winnings" means the money or money's worth paid out to a person who wins at betting. This is more commonly known as Gross Gambling Yield, or Gross Win.

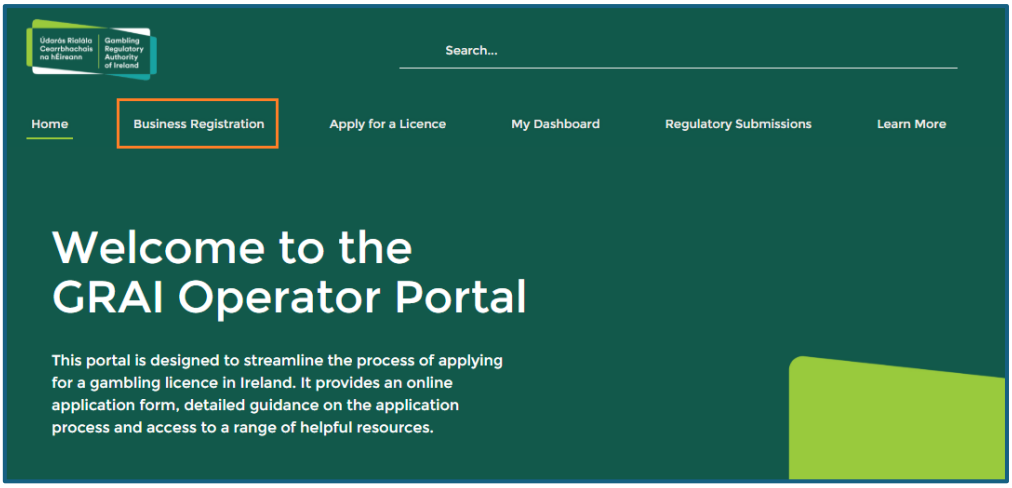
Portal Registration

All potential applicants should navigate to www.grai.ie and select Operator Portal



From here, you will be prompted to register an account using your name and email address. You will be required to verify your email address via a security code during this process, so please have access to both.

Once registration has been completed, select Business Registration and begin registering your business.



Business Registration (Sole Trader)

As part of the application process, you will need to demonstrate that you are financially sound, are fit and proper to hold a licence and have appropriate governance arrangements in place.

You must continue to meet these requirements for as long as your licence is in force. If you no longer meet these requirements, your gambling licence may be suspended or revoked.

Information you will need to provide:

- **Licensee Name** – the name that will appear on your licence if your application is successful
- **Tax Registration Number (TRN**) - a TRN is issued by Revenue when you register for tax as a sole trader, trust, partnership or company. For a sole traders your TRN is the same as your Personal Public Service Number (PPSN)
- **Addresses** – Your main business address, residential address and correspondence address. These may be the same address, depending on how your business is structured
- **Trading Names (if applicable)** – if you operate your business under a name that is different from your own name, provide the trading name and any supporting documentation, if available.
- **Gambling Licence History** - Details of any gambling licences you currently hold or previously held, either in Ireland or outside Ireland.
- **Other Licences** - Details of any or non- gambling licences you currently hold or previously held, either in Ireland or outside Ireland.
- **Convictions / Proceedings -** Details of any convictions, criminal proceedings or regulatory action that is currently ongoing or has been previously taken against

you. If you live outside of Ireland, you will also need to provide a police certificate.

- **Proof of Identity** – a copy of photographic ID and Proof of Address
- **Tax Clearance Number** – your Tax Clearance Number
- **Relevant policies** – Anti Money Laundering / Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML / CFT) Policy and Know Your Customer (KYC) Policy. This policy should closely follow the guidance issued by the Anti Money Laundering Compliance Unit (AMLCU) for Gambling Service providers: under the Criminal Justice Act 2010 and detail the licensee's procedures and processes for each of the required sections. Safer Gambling Policy – the policy should outline the tools and methods made available by the licensee to promote safer gambling. Business Risk Assessment should also be submitted. The proposed licensee is also required to comply with the obligations under the Gambling Regulation Act 2024, as outlined in the Policy Guidance available on our website
- **Financial Information** – your financial statements for previous three years, your relevant business plan (further information available here), your bank statements for the previous twelve months and details of any loans, debt forgiveness or undischarged bankruptcy

Business Registration (Company)

As part of the application process, the entity will need to demonstrate that they are financially sound, are fit and proper to hold a licence and have appropriate governance arrangements in place.

Your company must continue to meet these requirements for as long as the licence is in force. If they no longer meet these requirements, the gambling licence may be suspended or revoked.

Information you will need to provide:

You will be asked to input:

- **Licensee Name** – this is the name which will ultimately appear on a licence, if the application is successful
- **Company Number** - this should be the company registration number
- **Addresses** –main office, residential address and correspondence address. This may be the same address, depending on the structure of the business.
- **Trading Names (if applicable)** – if the entity trades under a different name to that of the company, please include this information here, and any supporting documentation, if available.

- **Gambling Licence History** - Details of any other gambling, or non- gambling, licences held or previously held by the applicant, either in Ireland or jurisdictions outside the State
- **Other Licences** - Details of any other gambling, or non- gambling, licences held or previously held by the applicant, either in Ireland or jurisdictions outside the State
- **Convictions / Proceedings -** Details of any convictions, criminal proceedings or regulatory action currently initiated (and not yet concluded) or previously taken against the applicant. A police certificate is required for applicants resident outside of the state
- **Tax Clearance Number**
- **Corporate Documentation –** documents relating to the foundation of the entity including corporate structure, directors register, articles of association, organisation chart, shareholders register and relevant terms of reference.
- **Relevant policies** – Anti Money Laundering / Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML / CFT) Policy and Know Your Customer (KYC) Policy. This policy should closely follow the guidance issued by the Anti Money Laundering Compliance Unit (AMLCU) for Gambling Service providers: under the Criminal Justice Act 2010 and detail the licensee's procedures and processes for each of the required sections. Safer Gambling Policy – the policy should outline the tools and methods made available by the licensee to promote safer gambling. Business Risk Assessment should also be submitted. The proposed licensee is also required to comply with the obligations under the Gambling Regulation Act 2024, as outlined in the Policy Guidance available on our website.
- **Financial Information** – previous 3 years financial statements, relevant business plan (further information available here), previous 12 months bank statements and details of loans / debt forgiveness / undischarged bankruptcy
- **Account Officers** – required to input the details of both the beneficial owners and relevant officers for the organisation. These individuals will also be required to separately input their identity information and make similar declarations to the entity.

Once this information has been submitted, the applicant can then apply for the relevant licence type.

Licence Application

Once you have completed your business registration, you can then apply for a specific licence type. You should apply for an in-person betting licence, from relevant premises, in order to cover on-course activity.

During this process, you will be asked to select which relevant premises you will be operating from. This will cover all racecourses, greyhound tracks, point to point and coursing grounds.

Fees

Our public guidance on fee is published here, but for on-course bookmakers, the required fees are outlined below:

Appendix 1: Tiered fees for Betting Licence applications based on turnover

1. **In-person betting licence where the betting activity sought to be licensed is proposed to be provided from one or more than one relevant premises**
(i.e. 'Relevant Premises' represents a greyhound racetrack / authorised coursing ground / racecourse / place at which a point-to-point steeplechase meeting is held, in accordance with the Rules of Racing)

Turnover bracket	Fee
€99,999.99 and below	€750.00
€100,000.00 – €249,999.99	€1,250.00
€250,000.00 – €499,999.99	€1,500.00
€500,000.00 – €999,999.99	€1,650.00
€1,000,000.00 – €1,999,999.99	€3,000.00
€2,000,000.00 – €2,999,999.99	€4,500.00
€3,000,000.00 – €4,999,999.99	€7,000.00
€5,000,000.00 – €7,999,999.99	€11,000.00
€8,000,000.00 – €9,999,999.99	€14,000.00
€10,000,000.00 and above	€20,000.00

Turnover

The Act defines turnover as the licensee's total income from relevant gambling activities less the total amount paid out in winnings for those activities. "Winnings" means the money or money's worth paid out to a person who wins at betting.

This is more commonly known as Gross Gambling Yield, or Gross Win.

Other Relevant Information

Betting activities and relevant premises

For the avoidance of doubt, a betting licence issued by the GRAI allows employees and agents of the licensee to provide betting activities when they are acting in that capacity, in accordance with Section 68 of the Act.

If you want to provide a betting activity from a "relevant premises", as defined in the Act, you will need an in-person betting licence.

If you are applying for an in-person betting licence to provide a betting activity from a relevant premises, you will be asked to select the relevant premises on the GRAI Application Portal. The Portal will provide a pre-populated list of:

- greyhound race tracks;
- coursing grounds;
- racecourses; and
- places where a point-to-point steeplechase meeting is being held.

You will not need to provide any further information about the relevant premises as part of your application.

The relevant premises where you may provide the relevant betting activity will be stated on your licence. This applies whether you intend to provide the betting activity from a betting office, a pitch or elsewhere at the relevant premises.

Betting offices at authorised racecourses

The regulation of betting offices at authorised racecourses is a matter for Horse Racing Ireland (HRI), not the GRAI.

If you have questions about betting offices at authorised racecourses, please contact your usual HRI contact.

Course betting permits

Providing a betting activity from a relevant premises requires an in-person betting licence. However, the GRAI does not issue course betting permits or course betting representative permits.

These permits are issued by HRI. If you have questions about the requirements for obtaining a course betting permit or a course betting representative permit, please contact your usual HRI contact.

Contact Info

For any questions or further assistance, please contact:

Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland Ballaugh House, 73-79 Mount Street Lwr., Dublin 2

Contact Us webform: www.grai.ie/contact-us

Website: www.grai.ie

Disclaimer

These guidelines are not, and do not purport to be a legal interpretation of the Gambling Regulation Act 2024, or any Regulations made under that Act. Having regard to the potential legal and operational implications for your organisation, we would suggest that you seek independent legal advice on this matter. Independent legal advisors will be best placed to provide definitive legal guidance that is tailored to your organisation and to ensure compliance with same. These guidelines may be updated from time to time and the most recent version will be available on the Gambling Regulatory Authority of Ireland's website at www.grai.ie