
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1985 No. 1204

**The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and
Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985**

**PART II
BETTING**

Licensing of bookmakers

Prohibition on acting as a bookmaker without a licence

6. It shall be unlawful for any person to—
- (a) carry on business or act as a bookmaker, or
 - (b) hold himself out or represent himself to be a bookmaker,

unless he holds a bookmaker's licence authorising him to do so and any person acting in contravention of this Article shall be guilty of an offence.

Persons to whom bookmakers' licences may be granted

7.—(1) The person to whom a bookmaker's licence is granted shall be the owner of the business proposed to be carried on under the licence.

(2) A bookmaker's licence may be granted to an individual, to a body corporate or to 2 or more persons carrying on business in partnership.

(3) In considering the fitness of a person to hold a bookmaker's licence, a court shall have regard to the character, reputation and financial standing—

- (a) of the applicant; and
- (b) of any other person by whom the business which is or is proposed to be carried on under the licence would be managed, or for whose benefit that business would be carried on;

but may also take into consideration any other circumstances appearing to it to be relevant in determining whether the applicant is likely to be capable of, and diligent in, securing that the provisions of this Part will be complied with.

(4) In considering the fitness of a body corporate to hold a bookmaker's licence, a court shall also have regard to the character, reputation and financial standing of the directors of the body corporate and any other persons who have executive control of it or who have a financial interest in it, as if the licence were, or were proposed to be, held by them jointly.

[^{F1}(4A) In considering the fitness of any applicant to hold a bookmaker's licence, the court shall have regard to—

- (a) any failure of the applicant or of any other person mentioned in paragraph (3)(b); and

Changes to legislation: *The Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, Cross Heading: Licensing of bookmakers is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 11 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes*

(b) where the applicant is a body corporate, any failure of any director of the applicant or of any other person mentioned in paragraph (4);
to pay any amount due from him or it by way of general betting duty or pool betting duty.]

(5) Subject to paragraphs (6) and (7), the following persons shall be disqualified for obtaining or holding a bookmaker's licence—

(a) a person under the age of [F218];

F3(b)

F4(c)

F5(d)

F6(6)

F7(7)

(8) A bookmaker's licence purporting to be held by any person

(a) who is disqualified by paragraph (5) for holding or obtaining such a licence, or

(b) in respect of whom there is in force a disqualification order under Article 30 or 53,

is void.

F1	1986 c. 41
F2	Word in art. 7(5)(a) substituted (27.4.2022) by Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 14), ss. 11(1)(a), 17(2)
F3	Art. 7(5)(b) repealed (27.4.2022) by Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 14), ss. 11(2)(a), 17(2)
F4	Art. 7(5)(c) repealed (27.4.2022) by Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 14), ss. 11(2)(a), 17(2)
F5	Art. 7(5)(d) repealed (27.4.2022) by Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 14), ss. 11(3)(a), 17(2)
F6	Art. 7(6) repealed (27.4.2022) by Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 14), ss. 11(3)(a), 17(2)
F7	Art. 7(7) repealed (27.4.2022) by Betting, Gaming, Lotteries and Amusements (Amendment) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 (c. 14), ss. 11(2)(a), 17(2)

Grant of bookmakers' licences

8.—(1) An application for the grant of a bookmaker's licence shall be made to a court of summary jurisdiction.

(2) The procedure for applications for the grant of bookmakers' licences is set out in Schedule 1.

(3) On an application for the grant of a bookmaker's licence the court shall hear the objections, if any, made under Schedule 1.

(4) A court shall, subject to paragraph (5), refuse an application for the grant of a bookmaker's licence unless it is satisfied—

(a) that the procedure relating to the application set out in Schedule 1 has been complied with; and

(b) that the applicant is a fit person to hold a bookmaker's licence; and

(c) that the applicant is not a person in respect of whom a disqualification order under Article 30 or 53 is in force; and

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- (d) that the applicant has not been refused the grant or renewal of a bookmaker's licence on the ground mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) or (e)^{F8} or in Article 17(2)(d)] within the immediately preceding 12 months; and
 - (e) that the applicant will not allow the business proposed to be carried on under the bookmaker's licence to be managed by, or carried on for the benefit of, a person other than the applicant who would himself be refused the grant of a bookmaker's licence.
- (5) A court may grant a bookmaker's licence notwithstanding that the procedure relating to the application set out in Schedule 1 has not been complied with if, having regard to the circumstances, it is reasonable to do so.
- (6) A court may refuse an application for the grant of a bookmaker's licence if it is satisfied that the applicant has been convicted of an offence under this Part^{F9} or Chapter III of Part III] or Part I of the Betting and Lotteries Act (Northern Ireland) 1957.
- (7) Where the court refuses an application for the grant of a bookmaker's licence, it shall specify in its order the reasons for its refusal.

F8 1993 c. 39

F9 2004 NI 1

Changes to legislation:

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[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Instrument applied by [1997 c. 16 s.15\(3\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Order associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act applied by [1997 c. 16 s.15\(3\)](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Order (including any effects on those provisions):

- art. 172A and cross-heading inserted by [2022 c. 14 \(N.I.\) s. 15\(1\)](#)
- art. 186(3A) inserted by [2022 c. 14 \(N.I.\) s. 15\(2\)\(a\)](#)