

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003
AND of an application by
CHRISTCHURCH
CASINOS LIMITED for
 alternative game mixes

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Members: P Chin (Chief Gambling Commissioner)
 K M Ford
 M M Lythe
 P J Stanley
 G L Reeves

Date of Application: 21 November 2006

Date of Decision: 15 December 2006

Date of Notification
 of Decision: 21 December 2006

DECISION

**ON AN APPLICATION BY CHRISTCHURCH CASINOS LIMITED
 FOR ALTERNATIVE GAME MIXES**

Application

- Christchurch Casinos Limited (the "**Applicant**") presently has two approved table game mixes. The Applicant applied, under condition 1 of its venue licence, for approval by the Gambling Commission (the "**Commission**") of two alternative table game mixes, one of which involves the use of two "flip-top" tables.
- If the two new table game mixes are approved, the following table game mixes would be available:

Game mix	A (approved)	B (approved)	C (flip-top)	D
Roulette	9	7	9	9
Black Jack	14	12	12	10
Caribbean Stud Poker	3	2	3	3
Midi Baccarat	3	3	3	5
Mini Baccarat	1	1	2	1
Money Wheel	1	1	1	1
Poker	2	7	3	4
Tai Sai	1	1	1	1

Licence condition

3. Condition 1 of the Applicant's venue licence (as amended by the Commission by decision GC06/04) provides as follows:

Casino premises to be designed, developed, constructed, fitted out and commissioned for operation in accordance with application

The casino premises shall be designed, developed, constructed, fitted out and commissioned for operation generally in accordance with the application of the licence holder or with such changes as may from time to time be approved by the Commission, provided however that nothing in this condition shall apply in respect of any matter specified in the second schedule to the Casino Control Act 1990 (the "Act").

Submissions by the Applicant

4. The Applicant proposed that its two approved game mixes, which it called "A" and "B", should be supplemented by two additional game mixes, to be called "C" and "D". The Applicant noted that game mix A is the game mix regularly in use at the casino. The Applicant stated that it wished to formalise the use of two flip-top tables, as the Inspectorate of the Department of Internal Affairs had questioned whether it had permission to operate one of them.
5. The Applicant submitted:
- (a) the casino floor "footprint" (ie table layout) would be unaffected by its proposal, as the new mixes would be played in identical positions to the current tables;
 - (b) any changes to the casino's CCTV would be minimal, but that it would liaise with the Inspectorate to ensure that coverage was satisfactory;
 - (c) game mixes C and D would not increase opportunities for casino gambling because, compared to game mix A:
 - (i) game mix C has 11 fewer player spaces, and Poker and Mini Baccarat, which replaced two Black Jack games, both had slower rates of play than Black Jack; and
 - (ii) game mix D has 10 fewer player spaces and provides for two additional Midi Baccarat tables and two additional Poker tables, replacing four Black Jack tables. It was submitted that Midi Baccarat and Poker both had slower rates of play than Black Jack. (The Applicant produced results from a study it had conducted on table game speeds in support of these submissions.)

Submissions by the Secretary

6. The Secretary had no objection to the two new game mixes, on condition that the Applicant:
- (a) provided the Inspectorate with weekly advice of the game mix to be used for the forthcoming week; and
 - (b) provided five days notice of any change from one approved game mix to another, except when alternating between game mix A and game mix C (utilising the flip-top table), in which case a telephone call prior to "flipping" is satisfactory.

Analysis

7. The Applicant currently has two approved table game mixes, that it proposed be named A and B for clarity. A is the table game mix regularly employed by the casino and represents the table game mix that provides the greatest number of player spaces, and associated level of opportunities for casino gambling.
8. The Applicant wants to introduce two further game mixes, with all four game mixes to be played on the same floor plan.
9. Proposed table game mix C incorporates the use of two flip-top tables, one in the VIP gaming area, and one in Pit 3. The Applicant was of the view that it already had approval to operate these tables, but could not provide any documentation to confirm this. The Secretary had no objection to the Applicant operating the two flip-top tables, provided adequate notification was given to the local Inspectorate.
10. The Commission noted that the Secretary had no objection to the Applicant's proposal.
11. The Commission is satisfied that neither proposed game mix will increase opportunities for casino gambling, concurring with the Applicant's analysis on this point. The use of flip-top tables by the Applicant, with appropriate notification, raises no issues of regulatory concern for the Commission.

Decision of Commission

12. The Commission decided unanimously to approve the two alternative table game mixes, to be called C and D, under condition 1 of Applicant's venue licence. The regular table game mix employed by the Applicant will be referred to as game mix A and the game mix approved by the Commission in decision GC25/06 will be referred to as game mix B.
13. Approval was given subject to the licence holder providing the Inspectorate with weekly advice of the game mix to be used for the forthcoming week, and providing five days

notice of any change from one approved game mix to another, except when alternating between table game mix A and table game mix C in which case the licence holder must telephone the local Inspectorate prior to "flipping".

14. Attached as an annexure to this decision are the game mixes approved for use at the Christchurch Casino.



**GAMBLING
COMMISSION**

Peter Chip
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

21 December 2006

ANNEXURE

Pursuant to condition 1 of the Applicant's venue licence, the following table game mixes may be operated by the Licence Holder on casino gaming tables, subject to the following conditions and requirements:

- (a) Roulette – 9 games
Black Jack – 14 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – 3 games
Midi Baccarat – 3 games
Mini Baccarat – 1 game
Money Wheel – 1 game
Poker – 2 games
Tai Sai – 1 game
- (b) Roulette – 7 games
Black Jack – 12 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – 2 games
Midi Baccarat – 3 games
Mini Baccarat – 1 game
Money Wheel – 1 game
Poker – 7 games
Tai Sai – 1 game
- (c) (Flip-top)
Roulette – 9 games
Black Jack – 12 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – 3 games
Midi Baccarat – 3 games
Mini Baccarat – 2 game
Money Wheel – 1 game
Poker – 3 games
Tai Sai – 1 game
- (d) Roulette – 9 games
Black Jack – 10 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – 3 games
Midi Baccarat – 5 games
Mini Baccarat – 1 game
Money Wheel – 1 game
Poker – 4 games
Tai Sai – 1 game

Notes

The Licence Holder is permitted to change between the above table game mixes, subject to providing the Inspectorate with weekly advice of the table game mix to be used for forthcoming week, and five working days notice of any change from one approved game mix to another, except when alternating between table game mix A and table game mix C, in which case the Licence Holder must telephone the local Inspectorate prior to flipping.

