

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on applications by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** for approval of a new game mix Annex for the Hamilton casino

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Members: G L Reeves (Chief Gambling Commissioner)
R D Bell
W N Harvey

Date of Application: 28 March 2017

Date of Decision: 16 May 2017

Date of Notification
of Decision: May 2017

DECISION ON APPLICATIONS BY SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED FOR APPROVAL OF A NEW GAME MIX ANNEX FOR THE HAMILTON CASINO

Introduction

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited ("**SCML**") applied to the Commission, under condition 9 of SCML's operator's licence for the Hamilton casino, for approval of a new game mix Annex. Approval of this new Annex would result in:
 - (a) the deletion of seven game mixes, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 13 and 15;
 - (b) the remaining game mixes being renumbered; and
 - (c) the addition of three new game mixes.

Licence condition

2. The relevant licence condition is as follows:

SCML's operator's licence (Hamilton)

9. The Licence Holder may operate on casino gaming tables the game types and game mixes specified in Annex A attached to this Licence. The Licence Holder shall obtain the prior approval of the Commission for any change to the game types and/or game mixes specified.

Submissions by SCML

3. SCML submitted, in summary, that:



- (a) It wants to delete seven previously approved game mixes and approval for three further game mixes.
- (b) The seven game mixes to be deleted include Rapid Roulette for up to 30 players. Rapid Roulette with up to 30 terminals is no longer being offered at the Hamilton casino. The remaining game mixes will be renumbered.
- (c) The proposed new game mixes are variations of renumbered game mix 13 (existing game mix 20). Ultimate Texas Hold'em will be removed and variations will be made to the number of either Snake Eyes, Midi Baccarat or Black Jack tables.
- (d) To ensure it does not exceed the number of player spaces associated with the regulatory benchmark it has introduced:
- (i) restricted option Black Jack in game mix 14; and
 - (ii) 5-Box Black Jack and 7-Box Midi Baccarat in game mix 16.
- (e) Unless stated otherwise, Black Jack tables continue to be conducted on 7-Box tables and Midi Baccarat on 9-Box tables.
- (f) The new game mixes will have no adverse impact on the overall casino gambling opportunities.
- (a) The new game mixes will not increase opportunities for casino gambling when compared to the benchmark game mix for the Hamilton casino, game mix 1, as follows:

Game Mix	Player Spaces	Overall gambling opportunities
1	464	14,165
2	464	12,561
3	452	12,396
4	458	12,291
5	456	11,371
6	456	11,602
7	458	12,333
8	452	11,832
9	464	12,553
10	463	12,556
11	459	12,471
12	445	11,827
13	444	11,787
14	460	12,157
15	464	12,095
16	462	12,345



The Secretary's submissions

4. The Secretary had no regulatory concerns with the proposals.

Analysis

5. SCML is seeking Commission approval to delete game mixes 5-7, 10, 11, 13 and 15, renumber the remaining ones, and to introduce three new game mixes into the Hamilton casino. This will reduce its number of game mixes from 20 to 16.
6. Of note, the new game mix 14 includes a "restricted" Black Jack. The restriction proposed by SCML is that this table would only allow one back-bet on each player position, as opposed to the normal two. This reduces the player spaces and opportunities, and in doing so ensures that the mix remains below the regulatory benchmark in respect of those two measures.
7. The Commission's approach when considering proposals for new game mixes is to compare what is proposed with the approved game mix that provides the most opportunities for casino gambling and form a view, in the round, on whether it will increase opportunities for casino gambling. Game mix 1 is the approved game mix that provides the most opportunities for casino gambling at the Hamilton casino.
8. A table comparing game mix 1 with the proposed three new game mixes is as follows:

	Game mix 1	Game mix 14	Game mix 15	Game mix 16
Black Jack/Pontoon – 7 Box (M)	6	0	0	0
Black Jack/Pontoon – 7 Box (C)	5	6	7	7
Black Jack/Pontoon – 5 Box (C)	0	0	0	1
Black Jack Restricted	0	2	0	0
Roulette	5	4	4	4
Midi Baccarat (Style A) – 9 Box	3	3	3	3
Midi Baccarat (Style B) – 9 Box	0	4	4	3
Midi Baccarat (Style B) – 7 Box	0	0	0	1
Mini Baccarat	1	0	0	0
Caribbean Stud Poker	2	2	2	2
Tai Sai (SS)	1	0	0	0
Money Wheel (SS)	0	1	1	1
3 Card Poker	0	1	1	1
Snake Eyes	0	0	1	0
Total notional player spaces	464	460	464	462
Total notional opportunities	14,165	12,157	12,095	12,345

9. SCML has provided arithmetical data which suggests that the number of player spaces and overall opportunities on the proposed game mixes are less than those generated by game mix 1. While this arithmetical data is never determinative, there appears to be a sufficient difference to suggest that SCML's proposal will not increase opportunities.



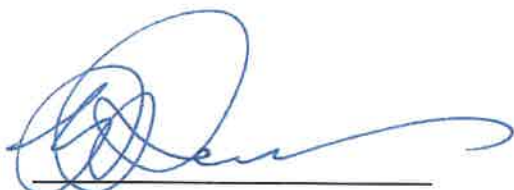
10. The Commission was satisfied that none of the game mixes would increase opportunities for casino gambling compared to game mix 1.

Decision of the Commission

11. The Commission approved the new game mixes under conditions 9 and 10 of SCML's operator's licence for the Hamilton casino. The new Annex A is **attached**.

Right of appeal

12. Pursuant to section 235 of the Act, a person affected by this decision may appeal that decision to the High Court. An appeal must be made within 15 working days of the date of notice of the Commission's decision, or any longer period that the High Court may allow.



Graeme Reeves
Chief Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

29th May 2017



ANNEX A

Pursuant to condition 9 the following game mixes may be operated by the Licence Holder on casino gaming tables in accordance with approved floor plans subject to the following conditions and requirements:

1. Black Jack/Pontoon (M) 7 Box – up to 6 games
Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 5 games
Roulette – up to 5 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Tai Sai (SS) – up to 1 game
2. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 10 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 2 games
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
3. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 12 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 1 game
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
4. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 10 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 1 game
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 2 games
Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
5. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 6 games
Black Jack Restricted – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 5 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games



6. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 5 games
Black Jack Restricted – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 5 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 1 game
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Mini Baccarat – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
Poker – up to 2 games
7. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 7 games
Black Jack Restricted – up to 1 game
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em – up to 1 game
8. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 8 games
Black Jack Restricted – up to 1 game
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (23 players) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em – up to 1 game
9. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 8 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (22 player) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em – up to 1 game
10. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 8 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (23 player) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Lunar Poker – up to 1 game
11. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 8 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (12 player) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game



12. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 7 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Electronic Roulette (12 player) – up to 1 game
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em – up to 1 game
13. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 7 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Ultimate Texas Hold'em – up to 1 game
Snake Eyes – up to 1 game
14. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 6 games
Black Jack Restricted – up to 2 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 4 games
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
15. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 7 games
Roulette – up to 4 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 4 games
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game
Snake Eyes – up to 1 game
16. Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 7 Box – up to 7 games
Black Jack/Pontoon (C) 5 Box – up to 1 game
Roulette – up to 4 games
Caribbean Stud Poker – up to 2 games
Midi Baccarat Style A – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 9 Box – up to 3 games
Midi Baccarat Style B – 7 Box – up to 1 game
Money Wheel (SS) – up to 1 game
3 Card Poker – up to 1 game

Notes

1. The Licence Holder is permitted to change between game mixes 5 and 6 subject only to any requirements specified by way of Minimum Operating Standards. The Licence Holder is permitted to change between other approved table game mixes subject to providing the Inspectorate with prior notice.



2. For game mix 1, the Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on the Caribbean Stud Poker and Baccarat tables, and on no more than 50% of the Black Jack games specified.
3. The Licence Holder is permitted to operate automatic shufflers on the Caribbean Stud Poker, Poker, Baccarat tables and Black Jack tables in all other game mixes.
4. The Licence Holder is permitted to conduct two alternative Poker games – Hold'em and Omaha.
5. Where Black Jack/Pontoon are subject to restricted wagering options, the Licence Holder shall permit up to 2 players only to wager on any 1 box and the layout shall be inscribed to this effect.
6. The Electronic Roulette table in game mixes 2-12 comprises up to the number of terminals specified in each game mix and no manual table.
7. At least 50% of the total number of Midi Baccarat games in game mixes 2-16 shall be conducted in accordance with dealing style B, as set out in the rules of Baccarat.

