

IN THE MATTER of the Gambling Act 2003

AND on an application by **SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED** to deploy new wagering options at the Auckland, Hamilton, Queenstown and Wharf casinos – application to deploy Tiger Baccarat and Super 6 wagers on its Baccarat games

BEFORE THE GAMBLING COMMISSION

Members: L M Hansen (Chief Gambling Commissioner)
D C Matahaere-Atariki
W N Harvey
S C L Pearson

Date of Application: 6 August 2020

Date of Decision: 11 September 2020

Date of Notification
of Decision: 16 September 2020

**DECISION ON
AN APPLICATION BY SKYCITY CASINO MANAGEMENT LIMITED
TO DEPLOY NEW WAGERING OPTIONS AT THE AUCKLAND, HAMILTON, QUEENSTOWN
AND WHARF CASINOS – APPLICATION TO DEPLOY TIGER BACCARAT
AND SUPER 6 WAGERS**

Application

1. SKYCITY Casino Management Limited (“**SCML**”) applied to the Commission pursuant to condition 10 of its operator’s licence for the Auckland casino, condition 10 of its operator’s licence for the Hamilton casino, condition 10 of its operator’s licence for the Queenstown casino and condition 9 of its operator’s licence for the Wharf casino, to deploy new wagering options on its Baccarat games at its four casinos. The new options are “Tiger Baccarat” on the Baccarat tables and “Super 6 Wagers” on Electronic Baccarat.

Licence conditions

2. The relevant licence conditions are as follows:

Auckland, Hamilton and Queenstown casinos (operator’s licences)

10. The approval of the Commission is required prior to the use by the operator of any electronic version of the game types specified in condition 9 above or electronic aids or enhancements or changes to table game rules which create new wagering opportunities.

Wharf casino (operator's licence)

9. The approval of the Commission is required prior to the use by the operator of any electronic version of the game types specified in condition 8 above or electronic aids or enhancements or changes to table game rules which create new wagering opportunities.

Submissions by SCML

3. SCML submitted, in summary, as follows:
 - (a) The Secretary has approved a variation to the Rules of Baccarat which took effect on 8 August 2020. The variation provides for optional additional wagers which may be made by players in accordance with those Rules.
 - (b) It now seeks the Commission's approval to deploy the Tiger Baccarat and Super 6 wagers in accordance with those rules.
 - (c) Tiger Baccarat provides for up to seven additional discretionary wagers on the game of Baccarat. The effect of utilising some or all of the new wagering options would be to reduce game speed in a manner which would effectively neutralise the additional opportunity to wager, in a manner similar to the use of other discretionary additional wagers on a variety of games.
 - (d) Super 6 wagers are a variation on the existing Lucky 6 wagers but specifically designed for use on Electronic Baccarat. The discretionary wager is already incorporated into the existing Electronic Baccarat software and just needs to be configured to be used.

Submissions by the Secretary

4. The Secretary submitted that he had no regulatory concerns about the implementation of the new wagering options.

Analysis

5. SCML wants to introduce two new wagering options Tiger Baccarat and Super 6. Tiger Baccarat is for play on conventional Baccarat tables, while Super 6 is for play on Electronic Baccarat.
6. As the Commission has noted in previous decisions, approval of game rules is a matter for the Secretary (under section 367 of the Gambling Act 2003), while the deployment of them is a matter for the Commission. This approach ensures that the Secretary can approve a game rule without having to be concerned about casino gambling opportunities as the Commission will consider casino gambling opportunities in the course of an application to utilise the rule change. This approach is enshrined in licence conditions.

7. As the proposed options were new to the Commission, its Executive Director attended a demonstration at a training room at the Auckland casino. The Executive Director relayed his findings to the Commission.
8. The Commission considered the information relayed to it by its Executive Director, together with the submissions made by SCML and the Secretary.
9. The Commission was satisfied that the introduction of the two new options would not increase the speed of game play and that their introduction would not increase opportunities for casino gambling beyond those offered by the regulatory benchmark at each of the Auckland, Hamilton Queenstown and Wharf casinos.

Decision

10. The Commission approved SCML's application to deploy Tiger Baccarat on the Baccarat tables and Super 6 Wagers on Electronic Baccarat at the Auckland, Hamilton, Queenstown and Wharf casinos, pursuant to condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Auckland casino, condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Hamilton casino, condition 10 of its operator's licence for the Queenstown casino, and condition 9 of its operator's licence for the Wharf casino.

Right of appeal

11. 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.



Lisa Hansen
Gambling Commissioner

for and on behalf of the
Gambling Commission

16 September 2020

