

PERMIT CRITERIA FOR OPERATING FRUIT MACHINES

(with effect from 1 November 2021)

1. The Permit Officer may grant a society a permit or permits to operate Fruit Machines if the society fulfils the following criteria:

- a. The society must be registered with the Registrar of Societies or other relevant authority or otherwise established pursuant to any written law;
- b. The society's constitution must not prohibit gambling or private lotteries permitted under the Private Lotteries Act 2011;
- c. The society must have at least 500 members on its register (which is to be audited according to the Permit Officer's requirements) for at least one year prior to the application for a permit. The following categories of members may be included for the purpose of this sub-paragraph:
 - i. Ordinary members (or its equivalent);
 - ii. The duration of membership must not be less than one year from the time the membership commenced (where the membership is for a limited duration); and
 - iii. Any such other categories of membership as the Permit Officer may approve.
- d. The society must offer a wide range of substantive social and recreational offerings such that the operation of Fruit Machines, if approved, would form only an ancillary part of the society's social and recreational offerings; and
- e. The society must ensure that all members who have access to the Fruit Machines, also have access to a substantial part of the society's other social and recreational offerings, such that Fruit Machine Gaming only forms an ancillary part of the activities that the member may engage in at the society's premises;
- f. The society must have been offering the social and recreational offerings referred to in paragraph 1(d) for at least one year prior to the application for a permit.

2. A society which is not an existing permit holder will be considered as a new applicant. In addition to the criteria under Paragraph 1, a new applicant must fulfil the following criteria: -

- a. The society's clubhouse where the Fruit Machines are to be located must be in operation for 3 years prior to the Fruit Machine permit application;
- b. The society must be in healthy financial state; and
- c. The society must be able to demonstrate that the decision to apply for the operation of Fruit Machines has been made upon request from its members.

3. In the event that the society operates the Fruit Machines at multiple clubhouses, the Fruit Machines should form only an ancillary part of the social and recreational offerings at each of the clubhouses.

4. In deciding whether or not to grant a permit, the Permit Officer may also take into account other relevant factors in addition to the above matters.

5. In determining the number of Fruit Machines the society may operate, the Permit Officer may have regard to, and give such weight as he considers appropriate, the following considerations:

- a. The number of members (as defined in paragraph 1c) as reflected by the society's audited register;
- b. The track record of compliance to Permit Conditions by the society; and
- c. The need to prevent a concentration of Fruit Machines operated by a single society and at the specified clubhouse(s), which may exacerbate law-and-order concerns or which may present other social safeguards concerns.

6. In determining the number of Fruit Machines the society may operate, the Permit Officer is not confined to the consideration of the matters specified in paragraph 5, and may take into account such other matters as may be relevant.

7a. The society must provide a statement from its President/Chairman (or equivalent) that the society can and will comply with the permit conditions applicable to it if a permit is granted. The statement shall be in such form as the Permit Officer may require.

7b. The society shall be the permit holder