



PRESS RELEASE

1 July 2009

RGA LAUNCHES SPORTS BETTING CONSULTATION EXERCISE

As part of a wide-ranging review of the issues associated with the relationship between the betting and sporting sectors, the Remote Gambling Association has today launched an extensive consultation on sports betting (including horse and greyhound racing), particularly with regard to commercial and integrity issues.

The aim of the review is to provide the RGA's members with a thorough and objective assessment in order to enable them to take informed decisions about the range of issues that are involved. It is also hoped that the review, of which this consultation is a key stage, will identify ways in which the relationship between betting and sports can be usefully developed.

Clive Hawkswood, Chief Executive of the RGA, commented that, "There are a wide range of issues arising from the provision of betting on sports. Many of them are over-lapping and it is time for us adopt a coordinated approach, rather than dealing with them in piecemeal fashion. Within the industry we want to develop some proper evidence led policies.

We therefore believed it was important to bring in someone externally to assist us with that and we are delighted that the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport, has allowed us to take Jason Foley-Train on secondment to undertake this project."

The main international sporting organisations, such as the IOC and FIFA, have been approached to respond to the consultation, as have all of the EU's Member States and a number of other interested parties. The consultation is, however, open to any party that has an interest in this area.

Jason Foley-Train said that, "I very much hope that sports will take this important opportunity to provide clear and comprehensive views on those matters relating to the availability of betting on sport, and to influence the scope and nature of any recommendations that go to RGA members at the end of this review process. It will hopefully lead to a more productive dialogue between the two industries across a range of areas, and I look forward to engaging with them over the coming months with a view to achieving that."

The Remote Gambling Association Ltd, 6th Floor, High Holborn House, 52-54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6RL

Tel: + 44 (0) 20 7831 2195

e-mail: info@rga.eu.com

Web: www.rga.eu.com

Notes to Editors

There are four questionnaires specifically designed for: sporting organisations; governments and gambling regulators; non-RGA betting operators and trade associations; and other interested parties. The questionnaires can be found on the RGA's website at www.rga.eu.com. The consultation closing date is 14 August 2009. A round of follow-up oral consultations, with selected parties, will take place with a view to the completion of a detailed report for RGA members towards the end of this year.

The Remote Gambling Association (RGA) became operational on 1st August 2005 as a result of a merger between the Association of Remote Gambling Operators (ARGO) and the Interactive Gaming, Gambling and Betting Association (IGGBA). The RGA, the largest trade association of its kind, has 28 members (see list below), including internationally renowned businesses and leading players in the interactive global gambling market. It provides the industry with a single voice on all the issues of importance to regulators, legislators, and key decision makers around the world.

RGA members: Bellfruit; Bet365; Betfair; Blue Square; Cashcade; Chartwell Games; William Hill; Cryptologic; JAXX, Virgin; Ladbrokes; Extrabet; Littlewoods; Microgaming; Globet; Playtech; Paddy Power; PKR, 888; Skybet; Sportingbet; Stan James; Stanleybet; Talarius; Totesport; Unibet; and Victor Chandler.

Jason Foley-Train will be leading the sports betting consultation and the wider review for the RGA. He is on secondment from the UK Department for Culture, Media and Sport specifically to complete this process. He has taken up this role following a number of years as a UK International Sports Policy Adviser and, before that, as a Betting and Racing Policy Adviser.

Mr Foley-Train was the DCMS lead official during the successful negotiations with the British greyhound industry and betting operators that secured a significant increase in the voluntary contribution for that sport in 2004, as well as organising the Sports Betting Integrity Conference (held at Twickenham Rugby Stadium) in 2006. He was also part of the DCMS team that undertook the referral of the horserace betting levy to the Government in 2001/2. Since then, he has taken forward much of the Department's work on the European Commission's White Paper on Sport, including advising Ministers on the content of the Government's Explanatory Memorandum in 2007, the response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report in 2008 and representing the UK at EU sports meetings.

RGA Contact Details

For more information on this consultation, please contact the RGA via: sportsbettingconsultation@hotmail.co.uk or +44(0)207 831 2195.

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