

Formal Warning

under section 64A of the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001*

To: FBC B.V.

Of: Emancipatie Boulevard Dominico F. "Don" Martina 31
Curaçao

Attention: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED],
Managing Directors of e-Management N.V., Statutory Director of FBC B.V.

I, [REDACTED], delegate of the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA), being satisfied that FBC B.V. has contravened subsections 15(2A) and 15AA(3) of the *Interactive Gambling Act 2001* (the IGA):

HEREBY issue FBC B.V. a formal warning under section 64A of the IGA, for one or more contraventions of subsections 15(2A) and 15AA(3) of the IGA, being civil penalty provisions.

Details of the contravention/s

Obligations under the IGA

1. Subsection 15(2A) of the IGA provides that a person must not provide a prohibited interactive gambling service that has an Australian customer link.
2. A 'prohibited interactive gambling service' is defined in section 5 of the IGA and 'gambling service' is defined in section 4 of the IGA.
3. Subsection 5(3) of the IGA lists services that are not prohibited interactive gambling services, including an excluded wagering service (paragraph 5(3)(aa)).
4. An 'excluded wagering service' is defined in section 8A of the IGA and includes betting on a sporting event except to the extent it is an in-play betting service (subsection 8A(3) of the IGA).
5. An excluded wagering service is a kind of regulated interactive gambling service (as defined in section 8E of the IGA).
6. Subsection 15AA(3) of the IGA provides that a person must not provide a particular kind of regulated interactive gambling service if:
 - (a) the service has an Australian customer link; and
 - (b) the person does not hold a licence (however described) under a law of a State or Territory that authorises the provision of that kind of service in the State or Territory.
7. Under section 8 of the IGA, a gambling service has an Australian-customer link if, and only if, any or all of the customers of the service are physically present in Australia.

Investigation

8. Under section 21 of the IGA, on 18 September 2024, the ACMA commenced an investigation into whether the FreeBitco.in service provided a prohibited and unlicensed regulated interactive gambling service in contravention of the IGA.
9. During the period of the investigation the FreeBitco.in service was available via the URL <https://freebitco.in>.
10. FBC B.V. is a provider of the FreeBitco.in service

Contravention of subsections 15(2A) and 15AA(3) of the IGA

11. The FreeBitco.in service offered 'gambling services', including:
 - > games of chance or mixed chance and skill, played for money where the customer gave consideration to play the game (paragraph (e) of the definition of 'gambling service' in section 4 of the IGA); and
 - > services for the placing, making, receiving or acceptance of bets (paragraph (a) of the definition of 'gambling service' in section 4 of the IGA).
12. The FreeBitco.in service was provided in the course of carrying on a business and was provided to customers using an internet carriage service (section 5 and paragraph 8E(1)(i)-(j) of the IGA).
13. The FreeBitco.in service had an Australian customer-link.
14. FBC B.V. is not licensed by an Australian State or Territory to provide regulated interactive gambling services to Australians (paragraph 15AA(3)(b)).
15. The ACMA found that, as a provider of the FreeBitco.in service, FBC B.V. has contravened subsections 15(2A) and 15AA(3) of the IGA by providing a prohibited and unlicensed regulated interactive gambling service to customers physically present in Australia.

Dated this 24 October 2024





Delegate of the Australian Communications and Media Authority