

1996

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

BOOKMAKERS ACT 1985

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

DETERMINATION OF RULES FOR SPORTS BETTING

No. 286 of 1996

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Minister for Sport and Recreation

Outline

The *Bookmakers Act 1985* (the Act) governs the activities of bookmakers in the Australian Capital Territory.

Part IIIA of the Act provides for the conduct and control of sports betting. In particular, the legislation empowers the Minister to determine the rules for sports betting.

Section 39C (1) of the Act provides that the Minister may, by instrument, determine or vary rules for sports betting.

This instrument sets out the rules for sports betting at the approved sports betting venue at the Manuka Oval. The rules encompass issues such as the-

- different betting rules in respect of the approved sports betting events;
- minimum and maximum bet limits;
- approved methods of betting;
- requirements for giving security in respect of long term bets; and
- record keeping requirements

In particular, this instrument sets out the types of bets a sports bookmaker may take bets on and provides the betting rules in respect of each approved sports betting event. These provisions were set out in Determination No 158 of 1995, notified in Gazette No S179 of 6 November 1995 and apply to the determined sports betting venue at the Manuka Oval.

This instrument sets the minimum and maximum face value of bets at the discretion of the licensed sports bookmaker for sports betting with the exception that, if requested by the punter, the bookmaker must accept any bet to lose a minimum of \$1,000.00 in respect of any approved sports betting event. The requirement that a bookmaker is compelled to accept a bet to lose a minimum of \$1,000 is designed to ensure that a reasonable level of service is provided to punters.

The instrument determines the methods of accepting sports betting transactions. In respects of bets accepted at Manuka Oval, the instrument restricts betting to face-to-face only.

The instrument further determines that the arrangements for the security of long term wagers set out under Determination No 158 of 1995, notified in Gazette No S179 of 6 November 1995 also apply to the determined sports betting venues at Manuka Oval.

Finally the instrument outlines the requirements for sports bookmakers to maintain records of bets and provide a return to the Registrar of Bookmakers in respect of bets accepted at Manuka Oval.

Financial Implications

The financial implications of this instrument relate to the opportunity for sports bookmakers licensed in the ACT to increase their profile to both local and interstate patrons. The establishment of sports betting in the ACT has provided a modest return to the Government since its inception approximately one year ago

The provision of sports betting service by bookmakers at live sporting events will provide a unique feature to the services available at Manuka Oval for this cricket match. It represents a valuable opportunity for Canberra based sports betting bookmakers to promote their services to potential clients.