

## ON-COURSE BETTING FROM 1 DECEMBER 2014

If you are an on-course bookmaker this guide, which is accurate as at August 2015, aims to help you with what you have to do in respect of General Betting Duty (GBD). It is intended to provide you with basic information about GBD, in one central place, since the law changed on 1 December 2014. It is not a full guide to GBD and will not be kept up to date. Full guidance on GBD may be found in our notice at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/excise-notice-451a-general-betting-duty/excise-notice-451a-general-betting-duty>

The treatment of on-course bets has not changed. An on-course bet is not a general bet and so is not liable to GBD.

### What is an on-course bet?

On-course bets are bets taken:

- at a horse or dog race meeting where both the person making the bet (and not an agent acting on their behalf) and you the bookmaker, or Tote operator, accepting the bets are present
- from a UK bookmaker, who is not at the meeting, but who makes hedged bets with you the bookmaker who is present at the meeting.

### What is an off-course bet?

All other bets are off-course bets and are liable to GBD. This includes:

- bets made over the telephone, or
- bets made on behalf of another person not present at a meeting, or
- any bets made through a betting exchange.

These can be bets on horse races or bets made on other sports or events.

**Note:** Anyone who lays a bet through a betting exchange in the course of their business, whether as on-course bookmaker or not, is laying a dutiable off-course bet. Hedging a bet however is not the same. Anyone who hedges a bet on a betting exchange is not laying an off-course bet. This is not liable to GBD.

### As an on-course bookmaker who doesn't accept off-course bets what do I need to do?

Since 1 December 2014 if you're an on-course bookmaker, who doesn't accept off course bets, you don't need to do anything. You don't need to pay GBD and don't need to notify or register with HMRC.

### As an on-course bookmaker who does accept off-course bets what do I need to do?

If you're an on-course bookmaker who **does** accept off-course bets you need to register with HMRC and pay GBD on any off-course bets you take in the course of your business. Anyone who takes dutiable bets must be registered with HMRC.

As an on-course bookmaker accepting dutiable bets you will be treated in the same way as an off-course bookmaker and you must register and complete returns in the same way as an off course bookmaker.

### **What if I lay bets through a betting exchange?**

If you lay bets through a betting exchange you must register for GBD as an off-course bookmaker, **not** as a betting exchange. Only betting exchanges themselves must register as such for GBD.

### **How do I register?**

If you hold or are required to hold a remote operating licence you must register online using the Gambling Tax Service (GTS). For more information about how to do this go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/gambling-tax-service-online-service-guide-for-general-betting-duty-pool-betting-duty-and-remote-gaming-duty>

Otherwise you can register by completing and returning a paper registration form. You can get this form from HMRC by writing to the address below:

### **HMRC National Registration Unit**

Cotton House  
7 Cochrane Street  
Glasgow  
G1 1GY

### **What is the registration form I need as an on-course bookmaker?**

There are no specific on-course betting registration forms. You need to fill in the section of the GBD registration form (GBD1) for off-course betting, **not** the section for spread bets or betting exchanges.

### **What if I had already registered with HMRC as an on-course bookmaker before 1 December 2014?**

If you were already accepting off course bets and had registered with HMRC before 1 December 2014 you don't need to register again with HMRC. HMRC should have sent you a new registration certificate showing your new Gambling Duty reference number. You must use this reference number when contacting HMRC and when making GBD payments.

If you haven't received your registration certificate, you should write to the National Registration Unit (NRU) at the address given above.

### **How long is my accounting period?**

From 1 December 2014 standard accounting periods for GBD are three calendar months, **not** one calendar month. You can request 'non-standard' periods which must still be three

months long but may have a different start or end date, up to 16 days before or after, the standard start/end dates.

### **How do I file my GBD returns?**

If you hold or are required to hold a remote operating licence you must file your return online using the Gambling Tax Service (GTS). For more information about how to do this go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/gambling-tax-service-online-service-guide-for-general-betting-duty-pool-betting-duty-and-remote-gaming-duty>

Otherwise you can choose to complete and return a paper form which HMRC will send out to you shortly after the end of your accounting period. You must send it to the address below:

HMRC Banking

Bradford

BD98 1YY

### **When do I send in my returns and payment for my GBD?**

If you are making a paper return to HMRC, you should send your return along with your GBD payment, before the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the last working day of your accounting period. For online returns, please follow the instructions on the Gambling Tax Service (GTS).

### **How do I pay my GBD?**

There are various ways in which you can pay your GBD - electronically by Bacs, CHAPS or Faster Payments, by credit/debit card payment from a UK bank or by cheque in the post. For more information on how to pay go to:

<https://www.gov.uk/pay-gambling-duties>

### **Which return form do I need as an on-course bookmaker?**

There are no specific on-course betting return forms. You need to fill in the section of the GBD return for off-course betting, **not** the section for spread bets or betting exchanges.

### **How do I fill in my return form?**

You need to ask your Betting Exchange to give you a statement of your profits from your layed bets for the return period. This will give you the figures you need to complete boxes 2 to 5 of your return.

**At box 2** of the return form you will need to enter the value of stakes owed to you for bets you have laid in the period. On the statement provided by the betting exchange, this may be labelled as 'Lay stakes' or 'Bet size layed' or something similar.

**For box 3** we are only interested in the amounts you have paid out as winnings in the period. On the statement provided by the betting exchange this figure may be listed for you, it may be headed 'amount won/lost' and may be shown as a plus (win) or minus (lost) figure.

This will be the minus figure, as shown in the "Amount" column in example 1 below.

#### EXAMPLE 1

BET_DESC	BET_SIZE	Layed/Backed	WIN_LOSE	AMOUNT	PL_AMT_GBP
Layed – Bed Rum	7.00	L	WON	7.00	7.00
Layed – Mr Edd	12.26	L	WON	12.26	12.26
Layed – Black Booty	9.77	L	LOST	-203.57	-203.57
Layed - Samson	2.04	L	WON	2.04	2.04
Layed – Mighty Morengo go go	3.50	L	WON	3.50	3.50

Alternatively you may need to calculate the winnings yourself from the other figures provided in your statement. For example, if only the stakes layed figures and the net winnings layed figures are given (as in example 2 below) then you will need to calculate the gross winnings figure for box 3 by deducting the net winnings from the stakes layed figures. This is shown in the last column in example 2 below.

#### EXAMPLE 2

Event Classifier Name	LayStake	Lay Net winnings	
11:55   Kempton	900.00	288.00	612.00
12:25   Kempton	325.00	185.02	139.98
13:00   Kempton	795.00	-553.04	1348.04
13:35   Kempton	1063.42	813.41	250.01
14:10   Kempton	700.00	-619.52	1319.52

**At box 4** of the return you must enter the net profits figure in the period on which tax is due. This will be your box 2 figure minus your box 3 figure above.

#### Do I still need to send a return even if I have made no profits from my off-course bets?

Yes you must send a return even if you have made no dutiable profits from your off-course bets. This is a nil return.

#### How do I send a nil return?

Exactly the same procedure applies for a nil return as applies for a return showing a dutiable profit.

**At box 4** of the return if you did not make any profits from your off course gambling but made a loss because you were owed less in stakes than you paid out in winnings you need to enter zero at box 4 and enter the amount of loss in box 5.

**Box 5** is specifically for any losses you have made in the period.

**Where can I find more detailed information on GBD?**

For more information on GBD, visit our website at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) or see the notice General Betting Duty 451A which you can find at [Excise Notice 451a: General Betting Duty](#)