

This document provides a plain-language summary of the draft Gambling Ordinance (Kansspelenverordening), consultation version dated October 23, 2026, and has been prepared to support the public consultation process.

Public Summary of the Draft Gambling Ordinance

Law: National Ordinance of (date) containing rules regarding the establishment of a Gambling Authority and the regulation of games of chance (Gambling Ordinance)

Status: Draft. This law has not yet been adopted and is not in force. If adopted, it would enter into force on a date determined by national decree. Different articles or provisions may enter into force on different dates. The attached English text is a free translation. In case of any differences, the official Dutch text prevails.

What is this draft law about?

The draft would replace several existing gambling laws with one new Gambling Ordinance. It would establish the Sint Maarten Gambling Authority as an independent body for licensing, supervision and enforcement. It would introduce new rules for casinos, lotteries, lottery sales outlets and small games of chance, together with stronger safeguards for player protection, gambling addiction prevention, advertising and business integrity.

Why is there a new law?

The explanatory memorandum explains that much of the existing gambling legislation originated in the former Netherlands Antilles and is outdated. Gambling has changed, while casinos and lottery outlets are widely available in Sint Maarten. The government wants stronger supervision, better consumer protection and more effective safeguards against money laundering and terrorist financing.

What would change for players and the public?

- People under 18 would not be allowed to participate in regulated gambling.
- Gambling advertising could not target minors or other vulnerable people. Door-to-door gambling advertising would be banned. Radio and television gambling advertising would not be allowed between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.
- Casino players could voluntarily exclude themselves from casino gambling for at least six months through a central register. Casinos would have to check whether a person is registered.
- Casinos would have to refuse access to people under 18, people who cannot adequately establish their identity or age, registered self-excluded players, certain players at risk of gambling-related harm, and people who appear intoxicated.
- Casino operators would have to identify signs of harmful gambling and speak with players where there is reasonable concern.
- A public register on the Gambling Authority's website would show which gambling businesses hold a license.

What would change for gambling businesses?

- A gambling license could only be granted to a legal entity established in Sint Maarten.
- Licensed gambling activities would have to use a bank account at a bank established in Sint Maarten.
- A license could last up to five years and could be renewed.
- The Gambling Authority would assess the reliability and suitability of businesses, decision-makers and ultimate owners.
- License holders would have to establish policies and ensure staff have the knowledge and training needed to help prevent gambling addiction.
- License holders would pay a supervisory fee to help cover the Gambling Authority's reasonable costs of supervision, enforcement and other regulatory activities. The fee amounts and calculation

methods would be established through separate regulations. Fees would also apply to license applications, renewals and amendments, with further details set separately.

- Casinos would face technical inspection requirements. Electronic casino equipment and the organization of casino games would be inspected before use and every two years.
- The draft provides for Casino A licenses for legal entities that also hold a hotel license and Casino B licenses for those that do not.

What would change for lotteries and lottery sellers?

- Lottery operators would need a license, and each lottery sales outlet would require separate permission from the Gambling Authority.
- Lottery sellers would have to be adults, hold a valid certificate of good conduct and have an agreement with the lottery operator.
- Lottery tickets could not be sold to minors, certain at-risk players or people who are clearly intoxicated.
- Lottery drawings, except for scratch lotteries, would take place publicly at the Gambling Authority using an approved drawing machine.
- Winning lottery numbers would have to be published on the Gambling Authority's website within 24 hours.
- A winning prize would have to remain available for at least three months.
- Charity lotteries would have to use at least 60% of their proceeds for an approved public-interest cause. No more than 40% could be used for specified operating costs.

What about small community games?

Associations with legal personality whose statutes establish a public-interest purpose could organize small community games, such as bingo, without a license. The total value of prizes could not exceed Cg 5,000 per gathering. The Gambling Authority would have to be notified at least 14 days in advance.

What stays the same or comes later?

Online gambling is not regulated by this draft law. A section has been reserved for possible future rules, but further policy and implementation work would be needed first.

Several details would also be set later through separate rules. These include parts of the supervisory fee system, permitted casino games and some technical requirements.

Existing casino and lottery license holders would have six months after the relevant new provisions take effect to apply for a license under the new system. Until a decision is made on their application, the previous law would continue to apply to their existing license.

What do some key terms mean?

Gambling Authority: The new independent body that would issue licenses, supervise the sector and enforce the rules.

License holder: A legal entity established in Sint Maarten that holds a license to organize and operate regulated gambling activities.

Supervisory fee: A payment by license holders to cover the Gambling Authority's regulatory costs.

Point of sale: An approved location where lottery tickets are sold.

Casino A: A casino operated by a legal entity that also holds a hotel license.

Casino B: A casino operated by a legal entity without a hotel license.

Self-exclusion register: A register for people who voluntarily stop themselves from entering casinos for a period.

Vulnerable groups: This includes minors, people aged 18 to 24, people with an intellectual disability and people with a gambling addiction.

What is the current status and what happens next?

This is a draft law. It has not yet been adopted and is not in force.

The Government will carefully review and evaluate the feedback received during the public consultation and stakeholder sessions to determine whether changes to the draft law are needed.

The revised draft would then be submitted to the Social Economic Council (SER) for formal advice before being presented to the Council of Ministers. The legislative process would subsequently include review by the Council of Advice and consideration by the Parliament of Sint Maarten (the States), which would vote on whether to adopt the law.

If adopted, the law would take effect on a date determined by national decree. Different parts could enter into force at different times to allow for the necessary institutional and operational preparations.