



NOTICE OF MEETING AND AGENDA

Pursuant to the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law (G.L. c. 30A, §§ 18-25), and St. 2025, c. 2, notice is hereby given of a public meeting of the **Massachusetts Gaming Commission**. The meeting will take place:

Monday | May 5, 2025 | 10:00 a.m.
VIA REMOTE ACCESS: 1-646-741-5292
MEETING ID/ PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 496 5419
All meetings are streamed live at www.massgaming.com.

Please note that the Commission will conduct this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology is intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public. If there is any technical problem with the Commission's remote connection, an alternative conference line will be noticed immediately on www.massgaming.com.

All documents and presentations related to this agenda will be available for your review on the morning of the meeting date by visiting our website and clicking on the News header, under the Meeting Archives drop-down.

PUBLIC MEETING - #553

1. Call to Order – Jordan Maynard, Chair

2. Meeting Minutes

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| a. January 13, 2023 | VOTE |
| b. September 18, 2024 | VOTE |
| c. April 3, 2025 | VOTE |
| d. April 10, 2025 | VOTE |

3. Legislative Update – Commissioner Brad Hill

4. Administrative Update – Dean Serpa, Executive Director

- a. GEU-MGMSpringfield Superintendent's Unit Citation

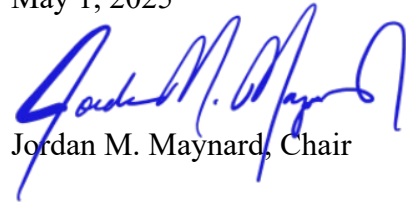


Massachusetts Gaming Commission

5. Sports Wagering Division – Carrie Torrissi, Division Chief, Sports Wagering
 - a. Updates to the Official Catalog of Events and Wagers to Clarify Russia/Belarusian Prohibition Language – Andrew Steffen, Compliance and Operations Manager; David Harrison, Compliance Officer **VOTE**
6. Community Affairs Division – Joe Delaney, Division Chief of Community Affairs
 - a. FY26 Community Mitigation Fund Discussion
7. Commissioner Updates
8. Other Business - Reserved for matters the Chair did not reasonably anticipate at the time of posting.

I certify that this Notice was posted as “Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting” at www.massgaming.com and emailed to regs@sec.state.ma.us. Posted to Website: May 1, 2025 | 10:00 a.m. EST

May 1, 2025



Jordan M. Maynard, Chair

*If there are any questions pertaining to accessibility and/or further assistance is needed,
please email Grace.Robinson@massgaming.gov.*



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

101 Federal Street, 12th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 | TEL 617.979.8400 | FAX 617.725.0258 | www.massgaming.com



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: January 13, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292

PARTICIPANT CODE: 111 1431 1966

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. Use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Cathy Judd-Stein

Commissioner Eileen O'Brien

Commissioner Bradford Hill

Commissioner Nakisha Skinner

Commissioner Jordan Maynard

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:00)

Chair Judd-Stein called to order the 423rd Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Evaluation Process](#) (01:06)

Chair Judd-Stein stated that the Commission would evaluate the category three sports wagering license application submitted by Digital Gaming Corporation USA d/b/a Betway ("DGC") in this meeting.

- a. [Presentation of application and demonstration of technology and user experience by each applicant for a Category 3 untethered sports wagering operator license in accordance with 205 CMR 218.06\(3\)](#) (01:48)

DGC's Executive Vice President of Operations, Bruce Watermeyer, introduced DGC's Head of Operations, Charl Baard, DGC's Corporate Compliance Officer, Gary Ehrlich, and DGC's Director of Human Resources for North America, Melinda Tarbock. He explained that DGC had recently been acquired by Super Group Holding Company ("SGHC") and introduced SGHC's President and CEO, Richard Hasson.

Mr. Hasson provided an overview of SGHC's company history. He explained that SGHC acquired DGC on January 3, 2023. He stated that SGHC had 4,000 employees and offered sports wagering in more than 20 jurisdictions.

Mr. Watermeyer explained that DGC was licensed in eight states. He explained that DGC was partnered with many NBA, NHL, and other professional sports teams. He explained that DGC required that all staff receive responsible gaming training. He stated that DGC employed registration controls, customer responsible gaming control tools, and a customer intervention program.

Mr. Ehrlich provided details regarding DGC's community involvement in other jurisdictions. He stated that DGC entered into a 10-year agreement with three Historically Black Colleges and Universities ("HBCU") in Virginia with a total commitment of \$2.5 million. He noted that DGC had partnered with an indigenous tribe in Arizona to provide impactful assistance. He stated that DGC planned to create cross-marketing opportunities with the Massachusetts Lottery. Mr. Watermeyer outlined additional plans for community engagement in Massachusetts, including local media buying, marketing partnerships, office rental, and in-state legal counsel.

Ms. Tarbock stated that 31% of DGC's United States workforce were women and that 28% were ethnically diverse. She stated that 41% of DGC's management team were women. She explained that there were annual trainings related to diversity, equity, and inclusion ("DEI") and unconscious bias.

Mr. Baard provided a product demonstration of DGC's sports wagering platform. Chair Judd-Stein asked if the platform would be available in other languages. Mr. Baard stated that multiple languages were offered where relevant. He stated that the United States platform was available in English, and that DGC planned to offer their platform in Spanish.

Commissioner Skinner asked if there was a notification to alert patrons to the amount of time they spent on DGC's platform. Mr. Baard stated that the feature was available and could be implemented for the Massachusetts launch.

b. [Presentations and Analysis Relevant to review and evaluation of Application for each Category 3 untethered sports wagering operator license:](#) (51:09)

i. [Technical Components](#) (51:25)

Joe Bunevith, Vice President of Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs from Gaming Laboratories International ("GLI"), provided an overview of the certification process and end verification for mobile applications and other digital platforms once they are approved by the

Commission. He stated that GLI would verify whether the platform meets all requirements specific to Massachusetts during the verification process.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if DGC's platform was GLI certified in Ohio. Mr. Bunevith stated that DGC was certified by GLI in each state that DGC was operating in.

ii. [Report on suitability of the Applicant](#) (57:40)

Chief Enforcement Counsel Heather Hall discussed the Investigation and Enforcement Bureau's ("IEB") report on the preliminary suitability of DGC. She noted that the Licensing Division identified one entity qualifier and three individual qualifiers. She stated that there were no deficiencies in DGC's submissions.

Commissioner Skinner noted that SGHC had recently acquired DGC and inquired whether the IEB had assessed any additional qualifiers from SGHC. Counsel Heather Hall stated that if a preliminary license was issued, additional qualifiers would be designated. Commissioner O'Brien noted that the corporate structure was now different than what was submitted. She asked how long it would take to receive an updated Business Entity Disclosure ("BED") and IEB report. Counsel Hall stated that the IEB was still in the scoping process for additional qualifiers.

Mr. Watermeyer stated that SGHC qualifiers planned to file with the Commission by the end of the month and noted that SGHC qualifiers had already filed in Ohio. Commissioner Skinner agreed with Commissioner O'Brien that supplemental information was required from SGHC. Commissioner Maynard asked if SGHC had provided attestations to the Commission. Counsel Hall reiterated that scoping had to be performed to identify qualifiers, and that the attestations would be submitted after that step.

iii. [Financial and Economic Impact Analysis](#) (1:08:20)

Jeff Katz, Finance Consultant from RSM US LLP ("RSM"), presented on the financial projection estimates provided by DGC, including anticipated market size in Massachusetts, year-over-year growth trends, market share data from other jurisdictions, hold percentage over time, and liquidity of the applicant.

Commissioner O'Brien noted that RSM's presentation included iGaming and requested that iGaming information be separated out as iGaming had yet to be approved in Massachusetts.

Chair Judd-Stein noted that seven operators made up 91% of the sports wagering market and asked how many operators were included in the 9% "other" category. Mr. Katz stated that RSM would provide that information to the Commission.

Mr. Katz noted that SGHC was not included as an entity qualifier in DGC's application, and that SGHC was outside of the scope of RSM's review. He stated that RSM had reviewed some publicly available statements regarding SGHC's liquidity profile.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if any of the Massachusetts applicants anticipated deducting promotional play for tax purposes. Mr. Katz stated that the applicants did not provide information regarding promotional play within their projections.

c. Review and evaluation of each Application for a Category 3 untethered sports wagering operator license as submitted by DGC in accordance with 205 CMR 218.00 including, but not limited to consideration of the following criteria: (1:42:22)

Chair Judd-Stein noted that the Commission would review DGC's application at this meeting, and that there would be a holistic review of each category three application during the meetings on January 18, 2023 and January 19, 2023.

i. Experience and Expertise related to Sports Wagering (205 CMR 218.06(5)(a)) (1:44:20)

Commissioner O'Brien noted that she had questions regarding DGC's ability to commence mobile sports wagering in Massachusetts by the scheduled go-live date. Mr. Watermeyer stated that DGC would prefer to discuss that topic in executive session.

Commissioner Hill asked whether customers could go directly to a live person for customer service or if they had to go through the chat first. Mr. Watermeyer stated that there was no requirement to use the chat before calling support. He stated that customer support would be available 24/7 in Massachusetts.

Chair Judd-Stein asked how data analysis would alert DGC to changes in behavior. Mr. Watermeyer stated that data was used to identify patterns and changes in behavior. He stated that DGC had a team checking alerts who would then reach out to customers.

Commissioner O'Brien asked for details regarding Betway Big Pick. Mr. Watermeyer stated that it was a free-to-play product that allowed users to select outcomes for events to win cash prizes. He stated that the product was used to increase brand awareness and build databases in markets where DGC did not operate sports wagering. Commissioner O'Brien asked if the same identity verification was used in connection with Betway Big Pick. Mr. Watermeyer stated that the free-to-play product required an attestation regarding the user's age but not external know-your-customer ("KYC") verification.

Commissioner Hill sought clarification regarding in-game betting. Mr. Watermeyer stated that most sportsbooks offer pre-game betting and betting that takes place during the event. He stated that it was a fairly standard offering among sports wagering operators.

Commissioner Hill noted that he could not see the responsible gaming emblem clearly. He requested that should DGC be licensed, they should work with the Commission's responsible gaming team to make it more visible. Mr. Watermeyer stated that DGC would comply with any requirements.

Chair Judd-Stein asked how customer competitive leaderboards would be consistent with responsible gaming. Mr. Watermeyer stated that there was a tightrope between attracting customers and incentivizing customers more than necessary. He stated that each incentive offered by DGC was assessed based on both its positive and negative merits.

The Commission agreed to withhold consensus as to whether DGC had met the Commission's expectations for this section of the application until after the executive session.

ii. [Economic impact and other benefits to the Commonwealth if applicant is awarded a license \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(b\)\)](#) (2:05:28)

Commissioner O'Brien inquired about the number of DGC employees in Massachusetts. Mr. Watermeyer explained that at the time DGC applied, there were two Massachusetts employees, but that a third Massachusetts resident had been hired since then.

Commissioner Hill asked about DGC's plans for community engagement in Massachusetts. Mr. Watermeyer stated that the tourism partnership planned for Massachusetts was a new venture for DGC. He stated that DGC would focus on data sharing and cross-marketing opportunities. He explained that DGC had sponsored minor league teams, engaged with restaurants, and partnered with HBCUs in other jurisdictions. He explained that DGC's African Division launched the Betway Cares program, and that the website showcased numerous community engagements.

Commissioner Skinner noted that DGC's application referenced the Commission's Vendor Advising Committee and sought further details regarding that involvement. Chief Administrative Officer Crystal Beauchemin noted that the Vendor Advising Committee was an internal team that was reactivated in 2022. She stated that community members worked with licensees for procurement opportunities.

The Commission reached a consensus that DGC had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section C of the application.

iii. [Applicant's willingness to foster racial, ethnic, and gender diversity, equity, and inclusion \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(d\)\)](#) (2:14:45)

Commissioner O'Brien noted that DGC's diversity in regard to women in the workforce seemed to fall during 2022. Mr. Watermeyer noted that DGC doubled in size between 2021 and 2022, and that the large increase in employees shifted its diverse employment percentages.

Commissioner O'Brien asked what efforts had been made in regard to hiring more women. Mr. Watermeyer stated that DGC had programs focusing on leadership and diversity. He stated that changes were made to hiring practices to focus on increasing the percentage of women in DGC's workforce.

Commissioner O'Brien asked if similar statistics were available for ethnic diversity. Ms. Tarbock stated that DGC's United States workforce was 9% Asian, 18% Black, 19% Hispanic, 51% White, and 3% other. Mr. Ehrlich explained that DGC's corporate structure in Maryland and

Virginia created drop down corporations with minority ownership. Commissioner O'Brien noted that this structure was incentivized by Maryland's statutory scheme and asked if that scheme was carried over to Virginia. Mr. Ehrlich stated that the model in Virginia was established first and not based upon a statutory scheme.

Commissioner Skinner noted that the supplier diversity spending goal of 10% listed minority-owned business enterprises and women-owned business enterprises. She asked if veteran-owned business enterprises would be included in that 10%. Mr. Watermeyer stated that spending would be spread throughout all three categories. Commissioner Skinner requested that DGC submit its total spending to put the 10% diversity spending goal into context. Mr. Watermeyer stated that information related to total spending could be discussed in executive session.

Commissioner Maynard asked how many employees DGC employed in the United States. Ms. Tarbock stated that there were 117 employees. Chair Judd-Stein asked if DGC planned to open an office space in Massachusetts. Mr. Watermeyer stated that an office would be opened wherever there was a significant quota of employees.

The Commission reached a consensus that DGC had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section D of the application.

iv. [Proposed measures related to responsible gaming \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(c\)\)](#)
(2:26:58)

Commissioner O'Brien noted that the regulatory field was moving away from using the term "free bet". Mr. Watermeyer stated that DGC was discontinuing use of the term "free bet" and was moving toward using the phrase "first bet reset". He stated that offerings available to customers were no longer listed as "free bet" or "risk-free bet". Commissioner O'Brien noted that DGC's platform had a session clock and asked if DGC had the capacity to implement a time limit. Mr. Watermeyer stated that a time limit function was currently available.

Chair Judd-Stein asked if DGC notified users when their cooling-off period was expiring. Mr. Baard stated that the most responsible approach was to not provide a notification and to allow the customer to return on their own.

Chair Judd-Stein noted that there was a small chart related to fines and asked DGC's representatives to provide details regarding those incidents. DGC's Divisional Manager of eCommerce & Risk, Marsha Brusgard, explained that the first issue was related to tax identification upon registration not running for a period of six weeks. She stated that DGC implemented additional measures that would notify them if a check failed on any account.

Ms. Brusgard stated that the next matter was related to a failure in the duplicate account identification check. She stated that a single customer registered two active accounts. She stated that DGC notified the regulator and conducted an audit to confirm that it only affected one account.

Ms. Brusgard explained that during a quarterly audit of the exclusion list conducted by a regulator, 14 individuals were not included in DGC's exclusion list. She noted that the issue was self-corrected before DGC was notified of the audit.

Ms. Brusgard stated that the next issue was related to an error in code where passing electronic KYC would override account status and activate an account even if the user was excluded. She stated that one user was able to log in and wager over a two-day period. She stated that functionality was reviewed and fixed so that there was no way to override account status.

The Commission reached a consensus that DGC had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section E of the application.

v. [Technology that the applicant intends to use \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(e\)\)](#) (2:44:37)

Chair Judd-Stein asked if DGC's KYC was done in-house. Ms. Brusgard explained that DGC used LexisNexis, IDology, and IDComply as its third-party KYC providers. Commissioner O'Brien asked if DGC had any data breaches in the United States. Mr. Watermeyer stated that DGC did not have any data breaches in America. Chair Judd-Stein asked how long DGC had been operating in America. Mr. Watermeyer stated that live sports wagering began in March 2021, and that DGC offered sports wagering in eight states.

The Commission reached a consensus that DGC had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section F of the application.

vi. [Suitability of the applicant and its qualifiers \(205 CMR 218.06\(5\)\(f\)\)](#) (2:51:09)

Commissioner O'Brien noted that she had questions related to DGC's acquisition by SGHC that she hoped to discuss in executive session.

The Commission agreed to withhold consensus as to whether DGC had met the Commission's expectations for this section of the application until after the executive session.

d. [Executive Sessions](#) (2:54:47)

General Counsel Grossman reiterated the topics that the Commission identified for discussion in executive session. He stated that those topics were appropriate for executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 23N, § 6(i).

Chair Judd-Stein stated that the Commission anticipated that it would meet in executive session in conjunction with its review of each of the category 3 untethered applications in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 23N, § 6(i) to consider information submitted by the applicants in the course of the respective applications for an operator license, as examined by RSM US LLP in the context of any discussed financial metrics, ratios, or associated financial measures, that are a trade secret, competitively-sensitive or proprietary and which if disclosed publicly would place the applicant at a competitive disadvantage.

Commissioner O'Brien moved that the Commission go into executive session on the matters delineated by General Counsel Grossman and for the reasons stated by the chair. Commissioner Skinner seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.

Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Chair Judd-Stein stated that the public session of the meeting would reconvene following the executive session.

Transcriber's Note: The Commission entered executive session and returned to the public meeting session at [5:46:52](#).

The Commission reached a consensus that DGC had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section B of the application. The Commission requested that DGC provide supplemental information regarding its launch date.

The Commission reached a consensus that DGC had met the Commission's expectations with regard to Section G of the application. The Commission requested that DGC provide supplemental information regarding SGHC's entity and individual qualifiers.

Director of the IEB Loretta Lillios stated that the Licensing Division was in active communication with the applicant regarding the acquisition and was working on designating qualifiers. Executive Director Karen Wells noted that SGHC had been scoped in other jurisdictions, and that the IEB could work off of the designation letters from those jurisdictions. Director Lillios stated that the IEB would work with the applicant on that process.

Commissioner O'Brien stated that the Commission could consider conditions on DGC's license to allow the Commission to have time to receive the IEB's updated report. The Commission thanked DGC's representatives for their time.

3. [Other Business](#) (5:59:52)

Hearing no other business, Chair Judd-Stein requested a motion to adjourn.

Commissioner O'Brien moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hill.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Maynard: Aye.
Chair Judd-Stein: Aye.
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda dated January 3, 2023](#)



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: September 18, 2024, 11:00 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 944 1629

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. The use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Acting Chair Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:02)

Acting Chair O'Brien called to order the 532nd Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted.

2. [Discussion regarding collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement](#) (01:00)

a. Executive Session

Acting Chair O'Brien stated that the Commission anticipates that it will meet in Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement, as discussion at an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Commission. She further stated that the Commission did not anticipate returning to the public meeting at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Commissioner Hill moved to go into Executive Session on the matters and for the reasons stated by Acting Chair O'Brien. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Skinner.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Acting Chair O'Brien: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 3-0.

3. [Commissioner Updates and Other Business](#) (00:45)

Prior to entering the Executive Session, Acting Chair O'Brien asked whether there were any Commissioner updates or other business that was not anticipated prior to the posting of the agenda. None were noted.

Transcriber's Note: The Commission entered executive session and did not reconvene the public meeting of the Commission.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated September 16, 2024



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: April 3, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292

PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 075 9948

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. The use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Jordan Maynard
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Brodeur

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:00)

Chair Maynard called to order the 550th Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission"). Roll call attendance was conducted, and four Commissioners were present for the start of the meeting.

Chair Maynard noted that Commissioner Paul Brodeur was not able to be present at the start of the meeting but would be joining later.

2. [Sports Wagering Division](#) (0:44)

a. Presentation of Sports Wagering Operators Q4 Sports Wagering

i. [FanDuel](#) (1:21)

FanDuel representatives Ben Roth, Director of Regulatory; Keita Young, VP of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; and Ashley Cahill, Senior Director, Responsible Gaming and Community Impact, presented their Q4 report, including discussion on revenue, compliance, workforce

diversity, supplier diversity and spend, responsible gaming, and community impact. *FanDuel's quarterly report presentation is included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 5 through 20.*

Commissioner O'Brien asked what the consequence is when there is confirmation that there is underage account use and some complicity by the actual account holder. Mr. Roth confirmed that the account would be permanently suspended, and the holder may not open the account.

Chair Maynard offered congratulations to the team, and Commissioner Skinner offered congratulations to VP Young in her new role.

Commissioner Skinner asked about the information presented on workforce diversity and whether there were any goals presented. VP Young confirmed that numerical goals were not included, but they are focused on improvement within their organization. Commissioner Skinner stated that the Commission has been clear about the desire to see goals set in terms of workforce diversity and supplier diversity and requested a progress update on their identification and adoption of those goals during the next quarterly report presentation.

Commissioner Skinner asked how a customer can access FanDuel's My Spend tool. Director Cahill confirmed there are several places in the app or on the website where a customer can access the tool. Commissioner Skinner asked whether there were any in-app notifications or advertising of the tool. Director Cahill confirmed that the My Spend is promoted in a few areas in the app and also via email to customers.

Chair Maynard expressed thanks to the FanDuel team for their participation and presentation.

ii. [Bally's](#) (34:32)

Bally's representatives Kim McAllister, Corporate Director of North American Interactive; Jenn Reagan, VP of Talent, Learning and Development; Nancy Duvall and Collin Bailey, Procurement; Scott Nejrup and Alexandra Whitaker, RG and Charitable Impacts, presented their Q4 report, including discussion on revenue, workforce diversity, vendor spend and supplier diversity, compliance, responsible gaming, lottery, community outreach, and charitable impacts. *Bally's' quarterly report presentation is included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 21 through 35.*

VP Reagan explained that typically Bally's has not set numerical goals but rather focused on improving their numbers. She noted that she understood the expectation by the Commission and would be prepared to speak to that in more depth in future presentations. Commissioner Skinner confirmed the Commission's expectation to see set goals going forward.

Regarding compliance and underage access, Chair Maynard asked for clarification on the difference between the numbers reported by Bally's on registration attempts as compared to reported access. Director McAllister confirmed that there was no reported access because the individual was stopped before the account was created.

Chair Maynard expressed thanks to the Bally's team for their participation and presentation.

iii. [BetMGM](#) (55:11)

BetMGM representatives Sarah Brennan, Senior Director of Compliance; Rich Ege, Senior Regulatory Analyst; Jazmin Polite, Senior Director of DEI; Josh Wyseman, Director of Licensing; and Richard Taylor, Director of Responsible Gaming, presented their Q4 report, including discussion on revenue, vendor utility/spend, human resources, compliance, responsible gaming, lottery, community and charitable events. *BetMGM's quarterly report presentation is included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 36 through 57.*

Transcriber's note: Chair Maynard noted for the record that Commissioner Brodeur joined the meeting at [1:06:46](#).

Commissioner Skinner commented that she would like to see an update on BetMGM's progress on identifying and setting goals for vendor and employer diversity during their next quarterly report. Director Polite confirmed the same.

Commission Brodeur commended BetMGM's support of organizations, including PFLAG and Volunteers of America.

Chair Maynard expressed thanks to the BetMGM team for their participation and presentation.

iv. [Caesars Sportsbook](#) (1:14:44)

Caesars Sportsbook representatives Curtis Lane Jr., Digital Compliance Manager; Lisa Rankin, VP of Compliance and Licensing; Greg Shinbur, Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion; Kierstin Flint, SVP of Corporate Social Responsibility and Internal Communications; David Schulte, VP of Procurement; and Carolene Layugan, Director of Responsible Gaming Program, presented their Q4 report, including discussion on revenue, workforce diversity, vendor spend and supplier diversity, compliance, responsible gaming, lottery engagement, and community outreach and charitable giving. *Caesars Sportsbook's quarterly report presentation is included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 58 through 68.*

Commissioner Skinner requested that more information relative to identifying vendor and diversity spend goals be provided.

Commissioner Hill asked what Caesar's did with an account once suspicious activity was identified. Manager Lane confirmed that those accounts were closed.

Commissioner Skinner gave "kudos" to the Caesars team for their charitable outreach work.

Chair Maynard expressed thanks to the Caesars team for their participation and presentation.

v. [DraftKings](#) (1:43:37)

DraftKings representatives Jake List, Sr. Director of Regulatory Operations; Cristina Ackas, VP, HR Inclusion Equity and Belonging; Julie Hynes, Senior Manager, Responsible Gaming; and

Jared Hess, Director, Communications, presented their Q4 report, including discussion on revenue, workforce diversity, vendor/supplier spend and supplier diversity, compliance, responsible gaming, community outreach, and charitable impacts. *DraftKings' quarterly report presentation is included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 69 through 97.*

Commissioner Skinner expressed appreciation for DraftKings' charitable efforts and particularly the resources put toward veterans as well as the other programs they are involved in. Commissioner Hill expressed similar sentiments about the veteran program. Chair Maynard expressed his appreciation for the DraftKings' Boston team which voted to make a contribution to the Testicular Cancer Society.

Transcriber's note: Chair Maynard and Commissioner Hill requested a 10-minute break. The public meeting resumed at approximately [2:18:48](#). Roll call attendance was taken, and all five Commissioners were present.

vi. [Fanatics Betting and Gaming](#) (2:22:06)

Fanatics Betting and Gaming representatives Michael Levine, Senior Regulatory Counsel; Stephanie Althouse, HR Director; and Anthony D'Angelo, Responsible Gaming Sr. Manager presented their Q4 report, including discussion on revenue, workforce diversity, vendor/supplier spend and supplier diversity, compliance, responsible gaming, lottery, community outreach, and charitable impacts. *Fanatics Betting and Gaming's quarterly report presentation is included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 98 through 112.*

Chair Maynard asked about the sponsorships mentioned in their presentation, noting that some of the leagues were underage. Counsel Levine stated that the sponsorships fell within the Fanatics commerce vertical and were not associated with Fanatics Betting and Gaming.

Chair Maynard thanked the Fanatics team for their participation and presentation.

vii. [Penn Sports Interactive](#) (2:39:33)

Penn Sports Interactive representatives Sam Haggerty, Deputy Chief Compliance Officer and Regulatory Affairs Counsel, and Adam Kates, Senior Director of Compliance, presented their Q4 report, including discussion on revenue, workforce diversity, vendor/supplier spend and supplier diversity, compliance, responsible gaming, lottery, and community outreach and charitable impacts. *Penn Sports Interactive's quarterly report presentation is included in the Commissioners' Packet on pages 113 through 127.*

Commissioner Hill gave “kudos” to the company’s work with veterans.

Chair Maynard expressed sentiments of appreciation for all operators for their detailed reporting of their Q4 information as well as the Commission’s Sports Wagering Division.

Following the presentations, Commissioner Hill and Carrie Torrisi, Chief of the Sports Wagering Division, introduced the newest member of the Division, Tom Lam.

3. [Commissioner Updates](#) (2:49:30)

Upon inquiry from Chair Maynard, no Commissioner updates were noted.

4. [Other Business](#) (2:49:36)

Hearing no further business, Commissioner Brodeur moved to adjourn. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously 5-0. The meeting was adjourned.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#), dated April 1, 2025.
2. [Commissioner's Packet](#) from the April 3, 2025 Meeting (posted on massgaming.com)



Massachusetts Gaming Commission Meeting Minutes

Date/Time: April 10, 2025, 10:00 a.m.
Place: Massachusetts Gaming Commission

VIA CONFERENCE CALL NUMBER: 1-646-741-5292
PARTICIPANT CODE: 112 191 8193

The Commission conducted this public meeting remotely utilizing collaboration technology. The use of this technology was intended to ensure an adequate, alternative means of public access to the Commission's deliberations for any interested member of the public.

Commissioners Present:

Chair Jordan Maynard
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Paul Brodeur

1. [Call to Order](#) (00:00)

Chair Maynard called to order the 551st Public Meeting of the Massachusetts Gaming Commission ("Commission") at 10:00 a.m. Roll call attendance was conducted, and all five Commissioners were present for the meeting.

2. [Meeting Minutes](#) (00:31)

- a. January 9, 2023
- b. March 26, 2024
- c. September 26, 2024
- d. March 11, 2025

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve the minutes for the January 9, 2023, March 26, 2024, and September 26, 2024 meetings that are included in the Commissioners' Packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or any other non-material matters. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Abstain.
Chair Maynard: Aye.
The motion passed, 4-0 with one abstention.

Commissioner Skinner further moved that the Commission approve the minutes for the March 11, 2025 meeting that are included in the Commissioners' Packet, subject to any necessary corrections for typographical errors or any other non-material matters. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:
Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.
The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

3. [Legislative Update](#) (01:59)

Commissioner Hill stated that he does not have a legislative update today but noted that the budget is about ready to be put out by the Massachusetts State House, so he will have an update at the next public meeting.

4. [Administrative Update](#) (02:12)

Executive Director Dean Serpa stated that he had two updates. One was a reminder that the 2025 racing season opens on April 14, 2025 at Plainridge Park Casino. The second update was acknowledging the upcoming departure of Chief Information Officer, Katrina Jagroop-Gomes. The commissioners and other senior leaders recognized the work of Chief Jagroop-Gomes and offered their congratulations to her on her next opportunity.

5. [Discussion regarding collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement](#) (16:39)

a. Executive Session

Transcriber's Note: The commissioners agreed to discuss and vote on items #5(a) and #6(a) during the same executive session before reconvening the public session.

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: "The Commission anticipates that it will meet in executive session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining of the SEIU Local 888 Agreement, as discussion at an open

meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the Commission. The public session of the meeting will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.”

Commissioner Brodeur moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. Commissioner O’Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

6. Legal (19:05)

a. Meeting Minutes – Executive Session (19:05)

i. February 14, 2023

ii. April 29, 2024 (1:23 PM)

iii. April 29, 2024 (2:12 PM)

iv. May 23, 2024

v. June 17, 2024

vi. June 20, 2024

Chair Maynard read the following language into the record: “The Commission anticipates that it will meet in executive session in conjunction with its review of minutes from previous executive sessions that were convened in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) (February 14, 2023, May 23, 2024, June 17, 2024, and June 20, 2024); G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 4, § 7(26)(f) (May 23, 2024); G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) and G.L. c. 23N, § 6(i) (May 23, 2024); G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7); and G. L. c. 4, § 7(26)(n) (April 29, 2024 at 1:23PM and April 29, 2024 at 2:12PM) as their discussion at an open meeting may frustrate the intended purpose for which the executive sessions were convened. The public session of the meeting will reconvene at the conclusion of the executive session.”

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission enter executive session for the reasons stated by the Chair. Commissioner Hill seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O’Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Transcriber's note: The Commission entered executive session to discuss items #5(a) and #6(a) and reconvened the public session of the Commission meeting at 00:47:20.

- b. [205 CMR 247.03: Petition for a Sporting Event or Wager Category – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendment and Amended Small Business Impact Statement for final adoption by Commission](#) (47:20)

Associate General Counsel Ying Wang summarized the recommended changes to 205 CMR 247.03 and noted that this regulation has completed the promulgation process. She explained that the Legal Division is now seeking a formal vote to adopt the final version of the proposed regulation. Commissioner O'Brien asked whether this was originally a 3-2 vote. Associate General Counsel Wang affirmed that it was.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the amended small business impact statement and the draft of 205 CMR 247.03 as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today and further that the staff be authorized to take the steps necessary to file the required documentation with the Secretary of the Commonwealth to finalize the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Nay.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Nay.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed, 3-2.

- c. [205 CMR 3.00: Harness Horse Racing – Discussion and Review of Regulation Amendments and Small Business Impact Statement for authorization for emergency enactment and to begin the promulgation process by the Commission](#) (50:28)
- i. 205 CMR 3.13(13): Licensee: duties and obligations
 - ii. 205 CMR 3.15(3): Owners
 - iii. 205 CMR 3.21(7): Trainers
 - iv. 205 CMR 3.23(12)(13): Claiming Races
 - v. 205 CMR 3.32(3)(k): Testing
 - vi. 205 CMR 3.33(6): Postmortem Examinations

Associate General Counsel Melanie Foxx summarized the six proposed amendments to the harness horse racing regulations under 205 CMR 3.00. She explained that these amendments are being brought forward with a request for a vote by emergency enactment for two primary reasons: first, these regulations are in the interest of the Commonwealth and its citizens to ensure the health and safety of the public participants and animals involved in racing and second, for the regulations to take effect prior to the start of the racing season which begins on April 14, 2025.

Commissioner Brodeur inquired about the difference between a regulation promulgated by emergency and the ordinary promulgation process. Associate General Counsel Foxx explained that if they were to file these amendments with the Secretary of the Commonwealth by emergency, the amended regulations would immediately go into effect prior to the racing season and that it is valid for 90 days. She further explained that during those 90 days, the regulations would still go through the normal promulgation steps.

Commissioner Hill thanked Dr. Alexandra Lightbown, Director of the Racing Division, and the Legal Division for their hard work on these regulations. He noted that this review has been going on for a while and that a lot of work went into these regulations. Chair Maynard agreed with Commissioner Hill.

Director Lightbown noted that as a courtesy, she met with the Harness Horseman's Association and Steve O'Toole, Director of Racing at Plainridge Park Casino, about these regulations. She noted that she received an email from the Harness Horseman's Association noting their concerns on the medication regulation, but they didn't go any further than saying they would like to discuss it. Director Lightbown still recommended moving forward with these regulations today to remedy a gap in the regulations which was identified last season. She noted that there will be an opportunity for further changes later on.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the amended drafts of 205 CMR 3.13(13), 205 CMR 3.15(3), 205 CMR 3.21(7), 205 CMR 3.23(12)(13), 205 CMR 3.32(3)(k), and 205 CMR 3.33(6) as discussed here today and that the staff be authorized to take the steps necessary to file the required documentation with the Secretary of the Commonwealth by emergency and thereafter to begin the regulation promulgation process. He further moved that the staff shall be authorized to modify chapter or section numbers or titles to file additional regulation sections as reserved or to make any other administrative changes as necessary to execute the regulation promulgation process. Commissioner Brodeur seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

7. [Presentation by Local Enterprise Assistance Fund \(LEAF\)](#) (1:02:11)

Senior Programs Manager Boniswa Sundai introduced the representatives from the Local Enterprise Assistance Fund (LEAF) and explained that they are going to provide a brief update on their work. She provided background that LEAF was originally awarded a grant by the Commission to develop a database and to provide technical assistance to minority-owned and veteran-owned businesses interested in contracting with the Commission's casino licensees.

Amine Benali, LEAF Managing Director of Strategy and Development, thanked the commissioners and noted that the last update they presented was in March 2022. He provided a brief background on LEAF and explained that they are a Boston-based, immigrant-led non-profit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) founded in 1982 to provide funding to the cooperative economy and has provided financing and advisory services to underserved businesses in Massachusetts to preserve and grow jobs in low-income areas since 2016. He explained their eight impact areas of focus, which are categorized into three sections: economic inclusion, access to healthy food, and access to affordable housing. Managing Director Benali then discussed LEAF's Elevate Small Business program. He described their partnership initiatives with the Commission, including assisting local diverse businesses since the pandemic by providing financial management technical assistance and capital, participating in the Quarterly Advisory Team meetings convened by the Commission at various casinos, assisting the Commission in their diverse procurement search, and developing a state-of-the-art online platform for buyers to securely and privately identify vendors for their needs. Managing Director Benali explained how their work and impact has changed since 2022. He described how they have upgraded their platform to make sure their database systems are secure and provided a demonstration of the "vendor universe" of vendor search projects and vendor data platforms.

Commissioner Brodeur inquired about how their work will be impacted long-term by federal funding constraints. Managing Director Benali responded that nothing material has impacted their ability to do their work and that CDFIs have bipartisan support. He emphasized that their financing sources are diverse and that they generate income by providing capital to businesses. Therefore, he doesn't see that as a risk but mentioned that he will continue to monitor the news.

8. [Racing Division](#) (1:23:04)

a. [Jockeys' Guild Recognition](#) (1:23:29)

Director Lightbown stated that under M.G.L. c. 128A, §5(h)(4), pari-mutuel taxes paid to the Commission can be used to pay \$65,000 annually to the organization determined by the Commission to represent the majority of jockeys to provide health and other welfare benefits to active, disabled, or retired jockeys. She noted that, for years, the organization that has represented these jockeys has been the Jockeys' Guild and that her recommendation is that the Commission approve the Jockeys' Guild as the organization that represents the majority of jockeys for the purposes of M.G.L. c. 128A, §5(h)(4).

Attorney Mindy Coleman, Counsel at Jockeys' Guild, Inc., expressed appreciation for the Commission's consideration and noted that these funds are distributed among the qualifying individuals and makes a difference, especially for those former jockeys who are permanently disabled.

Commissioner Hill moved that the Commission approve the Jockeys' Guild as the organization that represents the majority of jockeys for the purposes of M.G.L. c. 128A, §5(h)(4). Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.
Commissioner Hill: Aye.
Commissioner Skinner: Aye.
Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.
Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. [Racing 2024 Annual Report](#) (1:26:23)

Director Lightbown then discussed the Racing Annual Report for 2024. She highlighted the new Commission mission statement included at the beginning of the report. For milestones, the report mentions the paddock renovations at Plainridge Park Casino. She also noted that they recently got new flooring in the test barn. For racing stats or licensing numbers, Director Lightbown noted there wasn't much change from the year before. For testing, Director Lightbown noted they did see a little bit of improvement (down to 12 from 18 in 2023). She described that they also added a section on horse health to the report.

Then Chad Bourque, Financial Analyst in the Racing Division, summarized the Racing Division's financials and parimutuel activity as included in the report.

Transcriber's Note: The Commission went on break at 1:31:58 and reconvened at 1:42:07. A roll call was conducted, and all commissioners were present.

9. [Sports Wagering Division](#) (1:42:37)

a. [DraftKings Request to Void Wagers pursuant to 205 CMR 238.35\(2\)](#) (1:42:52)

Andrew Steffen, Compliance and Operations Manager of the Sports Wagering Division, described DraftKings' request to void nine pending wagers from the account of a deceased patron. He stated that the request, made by an attorney representing the patron's spouse, seeks to return the \$106,100 in staked funds to the estate. He explained that pursuant to 205 CMR 238.35(2), the Commission is responsible for reviewing and authorizing requests to cancel or void wagers of a specific type, kind, or subject. Manager Steffen concluded that the Sports Wagering Division has reviewed the request and confirms that all requirements under 205 CMR 238.35(2) have been satisfied. Therefore, it recommended that the Commission approve the request to void these wagers and return the funds to the estate as requested.

Commissioner Brodeur inquired about what would happen if the bets were not voided. Manager Steffen explained that in that situation, the account would either collect the winnings or the wages would be settled as a loss once those games are settled in May or June 2025. In the event of a win, he further explained that the estate would be able to withdraw those winnings after they're settled. Peter Harrington, Director of Legal at DraftKings, Inc., agreed with Manager Steffen's explanation.

Commissioner Skinner moved that the Commission approve DraftKings' request to void wagers as included in the Commissioners' Packet and discussed here today and to authorize the staff to

issue a written order pursuant to 205 CMR 238.35(4). Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

b. [Update on Wager Limitations by Operator Discussions](#) (1:47:29)

Carrie Torrisi, Chief of the Sports Wagering Division, updated the Commission on the ongoing review of wager limitations by operators. She explained that the Sports Wagering Division sent a data request to operators in December 2024 seeking data related to patron accounts and activity to see if the data would show a correlation between patrons who are limited who tended to win as well as the inverse of patrons who have their limits raised and who tended to lose. Chief Torrisi explained that they have received submissions from all operators, and the Sports Wagering Division has been reviewing that data internally. She explained that it has become quite clear that the volume of data submitted as well as the intricacies of the data would greatly benefit from the assistance of a data analyst. Chief Torrisi stated that she is proposing two next steps: first, to work with a data analyst to review the data that has already been submitted by the operators and second, to send a second request to the operators seeking answers to several specific questions related to both patron limiting and VIP programs.

Chair Maynard expressed support for moving forward. Commissioner O'Brien agreed.

10. [Research and Responsible Gaming](#) (1:50:29)

a. [Proposed FY26 Research Agenda](#) (1:50:53)

Mark Vander Linden, Director of the Research and Responsible Gaming Division, reviewed the proposed FY26 gaming research agenda. He noted that there are seven key focus areas, including economic impact research, community-engaged research, public safety research, responsible gaming program evaluation, the Massachusetts Gaming Impact Cohort (MAGIC), and data sharing. Director Vander Linden then discussed several multi-year research projects that are currently underway or upcoming from previous years' research agendas. He noted that the proposed FY26 Gaming Research Agenda budget is estimated to be \$1,882,000, which is a slight decrease from the adopted FY25 budget of \$1,930,000.

Commissioner Brodeur expressed his support for studies on youth gaming and the impact and access by youth in the marketplace. Director Vander Linden stated that they will carry this message forward in terms of their plan for the final year of the project. He also mentioned that the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office is currently doing concrete work in this area. Commissioner O'Brien and Chair Maynard agreed with Commissioner Brodeur on an interest in

youth protection and access. Additionally, Chair Maynard expressed an interest in a study on the illegal gaming market.

11. [Commissioner Updates](#) (2:19:29)

No commissioner updates were raised by the commissioners.

12. [Other Business](#) (2:19:39)

No other business was raised by the commissioners.

Commissioner Brodeur moved to adjourn. Commissioner O'Brien seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Commissioner O'Brien: Aye.

Commissioner Hill: Aye.

Commissioner Skinner: Aye.

Commissioner Brodeur: Aye.

Chair Maynard: Aye.

The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

List of Documents and Other Items Used

1. [Notice of Meeting and Agenda](#) dated April 8, 2025
2. [Commissioners' Packet](#) from the April 10, 2025 meeting (posted on massgaming.com)



TO: Chair Jordan Maynard
Commissioner Eileen O'Brien
Commissioner Bradford Hill
Commissioner Nakisha Skinner
Commissioner Paul Brodeur

FROM: Andrew Steffen – Operations & Compliance Manager, Sports Wagering
David Harrison – Compliance Officer, Sports Wagering
Carrie Torrisi – Division Chief, Sports Wagering

MEMO	MEETING
DATE: 4/9/2025	DATE: 5/5/2025

RE: Proposed Revisions to the Event Catalog Regarding the Russian/Belarusian Prohibition

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The Sports Wagering Division was asked to provide additional clarification and illustrative examples to guide interpretation of the Russian and Belarusian prohibition in the [MGC Event Catalog](#) for the Commission's consideration.

REGULATION BACKGROUND:

Pursuant to 205 CMR 247.01(2)(i), an Operator may not offer Sports Wagering on any other Sporting Event or Wager Category until the Sporting Event or Wager Category has been approved by the Commission in accordance with 205 CMR 247.03.

DISCUSSION:

Since the launch of sports wagering and the publication of the initial event catalog in 2023, the Commission has prohibited sports wagering operators from offering wagers on "any event or league overseen by a Russian or Belarusian governing body or body headquartered in Russia or Belarus. Further, no wager shall be offered or accepted on any athlete competing individually or on any team in an event authorized in the Commission's catalog if the individual or team is known to represent Russia or Belarus".



Sports Wagering Division

Section 11 of the event catalog continues to state that “wagering is permitted on a Russian or Belarusian born, based, or affiliated athlete competing individually or on a team in an event authorized in the Commission’s catalog if the event is scheduled to be conducted outside of Russia or Belarus and they are not known to represent or promote these countries.”

The current event catalog outlines two examples of understanding:

Examples of understanding

1. Wagers on a Russian born fighter competing in a boxing match in England may be accepted assuming that the fighter is not known, prior to the event, to represent or promote Russia. If, for example, such a fighter engages in activity that promotes Russia while walking into the ring, all wagers on that fighter would remain valid and need not be cancelled. However, wagers on that fighter in future matches would not be allowed.

2. If Russia is participating in the FIFA World Cup, wagers may be accepted on the event, but not on the Russian team itself or individual players on the team. For example, a futures wager on Argentina to win the World Cup may be accepted even though the Russian team has qualified to participate in the event. Further, a wager may be accepted on a specific game that the Russian team is participating in as long as the wager is not on the Russian team itself, or on a Russian player, directly. For example, if Russia is playing France, a wager on France to win that game, or on a specific French player to score a goal, may be accepted.

These Examples of Understanding could be further clarified to provide more explanation and guidance for the Sports Wagering operators.



Proposed Language:

Examples of Understanding:

Unless otherwise specified, references to voiding wagers apply only to wagers that have not yet been settled (i.e., pre-event or pre-result).

- 1. Wagers on a Russian or Belarusian born, based, or affiliated fighter may be accepted if the fighter is not known to represent or promote Russia or Belarus. However, if a fighter is found to promote or represent Russia or Belarus at any time prior to the day of the event, such as holding the Russian or Belarusian flag during weigh-ins, actively displaying the Russian or Belarusian flag on the fighter's gear, holding or wearing the Russian or Belarusian flag leading into or in the ring, or holding or wearing the Russian or Belarusian flag during post-fight interviews, wagers shall not be accepted.*
- 2. Wagers on a Russian or Belarusian born, based, or affiliated fighter competing in a match in England may be accepted if the fighter is not known, prior to the event, to represent or promote Russia or Belarus. If, for example, such a fighter engages in activity that promotes or represents Russia or Belarus such as holding the Russian or Belarusian flag during weigh-ins, actively displaying the Russian or Belarusian flag on the fighter's gear, holding or wearing the Russian or Belarusian flag leading into or in the ring, or holding or wearing the Russian or Belarusian flag during post-fight interviews, wagers on that fight may be accepted but all future wagers on that athlete shall not be accepted.*
- 3. If Russia or Belarus is participating in the FIFA World Cup, wagers may be accepted on the event, but wagers may not be accepted on the Russian or Belarusian teams or any individual players on the teams. For example, a futures wager on Argentina to win the World Cup may be accepted even if a Russian or Belarusian team has qualified to participate in the event. Further, a wager may be accepted on a specific game that a Russian or Belarusian team is participating in as long as the wager is not on the Russian or Belarusian team itself or on a member of the Russian or Belarusian team. For example, if Russia is competing against France, a wager on France to win that game or a wager of a player on the French team may be accepted.*
- 4. If a Russian or Belarusian fighter is participating in a match and the fighter is known to promote Russia or Belarus, wagers may be accepted on the event but may not be accepted on the fighter themselves. For example, if a Russian fighter is competing against a Spanish fighter, wagers may be accepted on the Spanish fighter.*
- 5. If a Russian or Belarusian club soccer team is participating in a European tournament, wagers may not be accepted on the Russian or Belarusian club team but may be accepted on the*



opposing team.

6. If a Russian or Belarusian born player is participating in a Premier League soccer match as a member of a non-Russian or non-Belarusian team, wagers may be accepted on the player provided the player is not known, prior to the acceptance of wagers, to represent or promote Russia or Belarus. If it is discovered prior to the start of the event that the player is promoting or representing Russia or Belarus, all wagers on the player must be voided. If such promotion is discovered after the event has started or wagers have been settled, the wagers shall stand, but wagers on the player in future events shall not be permitted.

The Sports Wagering Division continues to conduct routine research into participants that may fall within this category of prohibited wagers. The Compliance Officers remain in regular communication with our sports wagering operators who are also conducting ongoing research and review.

OPTIONS:

The Sports Wagering Division has outlined options for Commissioner consideration.

- Maintain the current event catalog with no changes.
- Revise the event catalog to include the proposed examples and clarifications.
- Draft additional examples based on Commissioner feedback for future consideration.



TO: Chair Jordan Maynard and Commissioners Eileen O'Brien, Bradford Hill, Nakisha Skinner and Paul Brodeur

FROM: Joseph E. Delaney, Chief of Community Affairs

CC: Dean Serpa, Executive Director

DATE: April 30, 2025

RE: Community Mitigation Fund (CMF) Budget Update

In light of the House Ways and Means budget, the Community Affairs Division has done some evaluation as to the availability of funds for FY 2026 and FY 2027. For this purpose, we have assumed that no additional funds will be placed into the CMF. For ease of discussion we have rounded the dollar values to the nearest \$1,000.

After the Commission made grant awards for FY 2025, CFO Lennon calculated the availability of funds in the CMF going forward. This evaluation took into account the use of CMF funds for administrative costs in FY 2025 - 2027. Based on this evaluation, there is currently \$27,820,000 available for CMF grants.

The CMF requests for FY 2026 total \$24,772,000. In preparation for the FY 2026 grant round, staff estimated that the total value of grants would be approximately \$19,200,000. Therefore, waiver requests total \$5,562,000.

Given the current circumstances, Community Affairs staff is looking to the Commission for some guidance in the award of grants for the current fiscal year as well as planning for the use of any remaining funds in the CMF in future years.

Staff has looked at the issue and has identified three basic options that the Commission could consider. They are as follows:

1. Spend down as much of the budget as possible – The total request for FY 2026 is \$25,772,000, which includes \$5,562,000 in waivers. If the Commission awarded the full amount of the requests, there would only be \$2,048,000 remaining in the fund for FY 2027. Under this scenario, for any entity requesting a waiver, staff would review the eligibility of the projects and provide a discussion on the waiver request. It would then be up to the Commission to decide on the efficacy of the waiver.



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2. Keep to the recommended amount of funding – The guidelines targeted about \$19,200,000 in grant awards for FY 2026. If this amount were awarded without granting any waivers, there would be \$8,610,000 in available funding for FY 2027. If the Commission was generally inclined to not grant waivers, staff would need to verify with those communities which projects had the highest priority (we have already asked communities to rank their projects).
3. Reduced funding for FY 2026 – The Commission could award less than the anticipated \$19,200,000 in funding, which would result in additional funding being available for FY 2027. For instance, if the Commission only awarded \$14,000,000 in funding for FY 2026, there would be \$13,820,000 million available for FY 2027. To institute this option, staff would need to recalculate the amounts of available grants to the communities and regional agencies and would need to ask communities to reprioritize their applications. It would be unlikely that we could complete this effort within the timelines we have established for the fund this year. While there is no statutory requirement to complete grant awards by June 30, that has always been our target.

Please note that regardless of the option, if waivers are granted to Region B, much of these funds would need to be transferred from Region A. For FY 2026, we have already moved \$4.3 million from Region A to Region B.



Massachusetts Gaming Commission

101 Federal Street, 12th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 | TEL 617.979.8400 | FAX 617.725.0258 | www.massgaming.com