

Controlled Skill Games Ruling

Fantasy Sports

Ruling issued in terms of regulation 8 of the Gaming Authorisations Regulations

1st August 2018

The Malta Gaming Authority (hereinafter the 'Authority') is hereby issuing this ruling in terms of regulation 8 of the *Gaming Authorisations Regulations* (S.L. 583.05) (hereinafter the 'Regulations'). In terms of this ruling, 'fantasy sports' as defined hereunder, shall be considered a controlled skill game, requiring a licence in terms of the same Regulations, extending the previous ruling on the same subject matter issued on the 27th January 2017 in terms of regulation 6 of the *Skill Games Regulations* (S.L. 438.11).

Scope: For the purposes of this ruling, and its effects at law, fantasy sports shall be defined as a contest offered by means of distance communications, wherein players commit a consideration of monetary value, whether in the form of a stake, a periodic subscription or the purchase of in-game items which provide an advantage to the player, to compete against other players for the possibility to win a prize of money or money's worth. The fantasy sports contest shall be one where the outcome is determined by the accumulation of statistical results of the performance of a number of individuals competing in actual sporting events.

This definition shall exclude the forecast of the score, point spread, or the result of any other future occurrence of one or multiple events, and for the avoidance of doubt, the winning outcome must be determined predominantly through the skill or knowledge of the player. The onus of proving all these factors shall rest with the applicant.

Effects: Persons offering fantasy sports in or from Malta are required to apply for a controlled skill game licence, adhering to the obligations stipulated in the Regulations and any other relevant regulatory instrument.

Ruling Reference: SG/001