

# NORTHERN TERRITORY RACING COMMISSION

## NOVELTY MARKET GUIDELINE 2019

This Guideline comes into effect on 1 November 2019 and supersedes all previous guidelines issued by the Northern Territory Racing Commission (the Commission) with respect to novelty markets.

A novelty market is a betting market that allows for the placement of a bet on an outcome of an event or contingency that is not the subject of a usual or standard betting market<sup>1</sup>. A novelty market may be new, innovative or unusual but it must not be offensive, distasteful, unsavoury or cause affront to normal public standards.

The standards and rules that apply to the setting of a novelty market are as follows:

### 1. VERIFICATION

- 1.1 Licensees must only open a novelty market if the outcome of that betting market:
  - a) has a clear result which is publicly accessible;
  - b) can be resulted within five days of the conclusion of the event or contingency; and
  - c) can be independently verified (see 1.2).
- 1.2 Upon the Commission's request, a licensee must at its own cost engage a third party approved by the Commission to verify the result of a novelty market.

### 2. MARKET TIME SPAN

- 2.1 All novelty markets must be able to be settled within 12 months of the date the novelty market was first offered, other than in circumstances where an event has a predetermined timeframe for settlement, as scheduled by an official independent body.
- 2.2 All novelty markets on any contingency relating to a reality television shows (or any other medium) dependent on public voting must cease to be offered in parallel to the public voting concluding.

### 3. POOR TASTE

- 3.1 Licensees must not offer a novelty market that is offensive, distasteful, unsavoury or cause affront to normal public standards.
- 3.2 A novelty market must not be offered if it involves:
  - a) the death of a living person or animal;
  - b) criminal conduct or appears to induce criminal conduct;
  - c) a risk of inciting an individual to breach a sports governing body's rules; or
  - d) discriminatory or derogatory inferences against ethnicity, gender or sexuality.
- 3.3 Licensees must take a conservative approach when determining to offer a novelty market and in doing so, must not offer a novelty is likely to be considered offensive, distasteful, unsavoury or cause affront to normal public standards. If a licensee is unsure as to whether a novelty market would be reasonably considered to be in poor taste, the licensee must seek a ruling from the Commission prior to offering the novelty market.
- 3.4 Upon notification by the Commission, licensees must immediately close a novelty market and refund all bets taken on any novelty markets considered by the Commission to be offensive, distasteful, unsavoury or cause affront to normal public standards.

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<sup>1</sup> For the avoidance of doubt, an event or contingency which only takes place because it has been created by, or at the direction of, a licensee is not capable of being a novelty market.

**4. EVENTS OR CONTINGENCIES RESTRICTED TO MINORS**

- 4.1 A novelty market must not be offered on an event or contingency that is restricted to persons under the age of 18 years.

**5. MAXIMUM BET STAKE**

- 5.1 Any novelty market offered on any contingency relating to a reality television show (or any other medium) dependent on public voting must have a maximum bet stake of \$500.

**6. BREACH OF THIS GUIDELINE**

- 6.1 The Commission may discipline a licensee if satisfied that the licensee has breached one or more of the standards or rules as set out in this Guideline.
- 6.2 If a licensee is found to be in breach of this Guideline a third time within any two year period from the first breach, the Commission will revoke the licensee's authority to offer novelty markets for a period of one year.
- 6.3 Notwithstanding 6.2 above, the Commission may revoke the licensee's authority to offer novelty markets at any time, should the Commission consider a breach of this Guidelines to be of such a serious nature to warrant that action.

**7. COMPLAINTS**

- 7.1 The licensee shall establish a client service which shall:
- a) review all complaints relating to novelty markets offered;
  - b) establish and maintain a record of each complaint received relating to novelty markets offered; and
  - c) the action taken in respect of the complaint and whether or not the matter relating to novelty markets offered, the subject of the complaint, was resolved.



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Alastair Shields  
Chairperson