



Matamata-Piako District Council

TAB Board Venue Policy

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Table of Contents

Context and Goals	3
1.0 Community Awareness	3
1.1 What this means	3
2.0 Harm Minimisation.....	4
2.1 What this means	4
3.0 TAB Board Venue Limits	4
3.1 TAB Board Venue limit review	4
3.2 What this means	4
3.2.1 New applicants	4
3.2.2 Minimal negative impact	5
4.0 Application Criteria	5
4.1 Zoning.....	5
4.2 Association with family and children’s activities.....	5
5.0 Applications	5
5.2 Charges	5
6.0 Review and Monitoring.....	6
7.0 Definitions.....	6
7.1 Board	6
7.2 TAB Board Venue.....	6
Appendix 1: Application Process Flowchart	2

Context and Goals

The Racing Act 2003 (the Act) has the following purposes:

- to provide effective governance arrangements for the racing industry; and
- to facilitate betting on galloping, harness, and greyhound races, and other sporting events; and
- to promote the long-term viability of New Zealand racing.

The Matamata-Piako District Council (Council) TAB Board Venue Policy (Policy), which Council is required to have under the Act, covers stand alone TAB Board Venues, which are owned or leased by the New Zealand Racing Board. Council consent is not required under the legislation to establish a TAB facility in a bar, hotel or club. If a TAB Board Venue wishes to also host gaming machines a separate application must be made under Council's Class 4 Gambling Venue Policy and the TAB Board Venue must also meet the additional criteria set out in that policy.

This Policy identifies Council responsibility and role in meeting the goals and objectives of the Racing Act 2003 and managing the social issues that surround gambling within the Matamata-Piako District.

1.0 Community Awareness

The Council recognises that gambling is an issue of interest for many communities. Many of the groups who may be interested or concerned about the social, community and individual harms arising from gambling, do not have access to up to date literature and reference material. To address this, Council is committed to ensuring the availability of up to date resources and literature are available to the local community and local agencies interested in this topic.

1.1 What this means

Council will ensure that the Citizens Advice Bureau and other interested agencies have access to the most recent literature and resource material recommended by key groups, such as national gambling agencies and central government. Some examples of key groups are: the New Zealand Racing Board (NZRB), the Problem Gambling Foundation of New Zealand, the Ministry of Social Development, and Local Government New Zealand.

In addition to the availability of gambling based literature, Council will collect and make available specific information concerning the number and location of TAB Board Venues in the district and the formulae and rationale behind any licensing decisions.

Circulation of this information will be the responsibility of Council.

2.0 Harm Minimisation

TAB Board Venue operators are required under the Racing Act 2003 regulations to demonstrate a satisfactory level of compliance with responsible gambling codes of practice, ethical operations, and practices of problem gambling harm minimisation.

2.1 What this means

As the regulation of TAB Board Venue operators is the responsibility of the NZRB the Council will not require applicants to establish their reliability as an operator. The Department of Internal Affairs has a limited role in the regulation of Board venues.

3.0 TAB Board Venue Limits

Regardless of present numbers and population changes this Policy allows a maximum of one TAB Board Venue for each township, i.e. Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha.

	Population Over 18 as at 2006 Census	Ratio Limit (TAB Board Venues to people)	Number of TAB Board Venues (rounded to nearest figure)
TAB Board Venue	N/A	1:Township	1:Township

In the public consultation conducted for the development of the original policy a strong preference was indicated for maintaining the status quo while allowing room for future growth of the industry. To accommodate this input a district cap has been developed. The system will limit the number of TAB Board Venues available in the district.

3.1 TAB Board Venue limit review

The maximum number of TAB Board Venues that Council will consider for approval will be reconsidered at the time of the next policy review in 2013. Increasing these limits will be contingent on the levels of gambling related harm measurable or reported in the district remaining at, or below, current levels.

3.2 What this means

3.2.1 *New applicants*

Council will only approve applications for a new TAB Board Venue consent when the approval will not result in a ratio of TAB Board Venues to area population greater than that outlined in this Policy, and the applicant can reliably demonstrate that they are likely to have minimal negative impact on the surrounding community.

3.2.2 *Minimal negative impact*

Minimal negative impact is seen as a balance between the intrinsic problems that are associated with gambling. It would include evidence of harm minimisation strategies and responsible gambling provisions in place by the applicant.

4.0 Application Criteria

New TAB Board Venues must meet the application criteria outlined in this Policy.

4.1 Zoning

Applications for new stand alone TAB Board Venue consents will only be considered within urban areas zoned for business under the Matamata-Piako District Plan.

4.2 Association with family and children's activities

Consideration will not be given to proposed TAB Board Venues such as sports clubs, family restaurants or other venues where families and young people under 18 are likely to be present.

4.3 Other Considerations

In considering where any TAB Board Venue may be located, Council may have regard to any relevant matters, including the following considerations set out in section 65D(4) of the Racing Act 2003:

- the characteristics of the district and parts of the district;
- the location of kindergartens, early childhood centres, schools, places of worship, and other community facilities;
- the cumulative effects of additional opportunities for gambling in the district;
- the current district cap levels (as provided in clause 3 of this Policy); and
- whether or not the applicant can demonstrate that they are likely to have minimal negative impact on the surrounding community (as provided in clause 3 of this Policy).

5.0 Applications

5.1 Applications

Applications will be made to the Council Environmental Health Officer. Applications should include all relevant documentation and an application fee.

Council will respond with their decision in 30 days of receipt of an application.

5.2 Charges

The application and processing fees associated with TAB Board Venue applications, if not listed separately, are the same as those listed for Class 4 Gambling Venues as listed in Council's Fees and Charges document.

6.0 Review and Monitoring

This Policy will be reviewed within three years of its adoption by Council. Any review will consider the growth and spread of gambling as a recreational activity in the district and the incidence of problems or benefits arising from its presence.

The review will specifically examine the quota formulae and the district caps this level imposes on the number of TAB Board Venues in the district. Criteria to increase or decrease any district limits on TAB Board Venues will be based upon an evaluation of the evidence of harms or benefits arising from gambling.

7.0 Definitions

Some definitions were seen as useful to clarify the intent, purpose and meaning of this Policy.

7.1 Board

Board means the New Zealand Racing Board established under Section 7 of the Racing Act 2003.

7.2 TAB Board Venue

A TAB Board Venue for the purpose of this document refers to the definition in the Act of 'Board Venue' means premises that are owned or leased by the Board and where the main business carried on at the premises is providing racing betting or sports betting services under the Act

A subset of this definition should not be used to allow increased quotas of TAB Board Venues by expanding the TAB Board Venues available to an operator (i.e. TAB Board Venue should not be considered as a room for the purpose of quotas when more than one room in the same building is intended for gambling purposes – for the purposes of this Policy the most inclusive consideration of TAB Board Venue is intended).

This definition is not intended to prohibit operators maintaining separate TAB Board Venues, providing all other aspects of this Policy are adhered to, and the TAB Board Venues can be considered separate and individual places of operation.

Appendix 1: Application Process Flowchart

