Russian gambling-law reference: definitions, transfers and public lists

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What this legal extract covers

This volume explains the Russian federal-law extracts stored in the supplied Melbet source block. It preserves their distinctions and deadlines as a reference record, not a current legal opinion or confirmation of any operator's permission to provide Tower Rush. The extract says the law regulates gambling to protect morals, rights and legitimate interests, while excluding lotteries and organised trading under the separate organised-trading law. Its listed regulatory methods include operating requirements/restrictions, designated gambling zones and bookmaker/totalisator licences; missing numbered items are not reconstructed.

Complete supplied glossary: agreements and permissions

Term	Meaning in the saved extract
Gambling game	Risk-based agreement for winnings between two or more participants or with an organiser, under the organiser's rules.
Bet / wager	A gambling agreement whose outcome depends on an event that may or may not occur.
Stake	Cash or payment-card funds supplied as a condition of participation, excluding the separately defined interactive stake.
Interactive stake	Funds, including electronic money, sent using electronic payment instruments/networks/mobile communications by the unified bookmaker/totalisator transfer-accounting centre to the organiser on a participant's instruction.
Winnings	Money, other property or property rights payable when the outcome prescribed by the rules occurs.
Organiser	A legal entity conducting gambling.

Permissions and participants: glossary continued

Term	Meaning in the saved extract
Participant	An individual aged at least 18 who enters a risk-based agreement with an organiser or another participant.
Gambling zone	A designated part of Russian territory with boundaries established under the law.
Zone permit	Permission to operate in one gambling zone without a limit on the number or type of establishments.
Bookmaker/totalisator licence	A special permission evidenced by the licence register, allowing the specified activity outside gambling zones.

The licence register must identify the service type—agreements with participants or organisation of agreements between participants—plus the bookmaker/totalisator processing or interactive-processing centre, betting outlets and the domain used for the service.

Complete supplied glossary: premises and equipment

Term	Meaning in the saved extract
Bookmaker	An establishment where the organiser makes bets with participants.
Totalisator	An establishment arranging bets between participants and paying winnings from accepted stakes minus the organiser’s remuneration.
Gaming table	Equipment with one or more playing fields, where the organiser conducts games between participants or participates through employees.
Gaming machine	Mechanical, electrical, electronic or other equipment producing material winnings randomly without organiser/employee participation, by an internal device or software on a device inside or outside the housing.
Bookmaker / totalisator cash desk	Part of a betting outlet accepting non-interactive stakes and paying winnings.
Establishment cash desk	The part handling monetary operations with the equipment needed for those operations.
Service area	A separate employee area from which participants are excluded.
Exchange tokens	Chips, tokens or other signs/documents circulating in casinos and slot halls under organiser rules.

Processing, reporting and outlet definitions

An ordinary bookmaker processing centre records and processes accepted stakes, records results, calculates winnings and sends stake/winnings information to bookmaker outlets. Its interactive counterpart also concludes bets when accepting interactive stakes, processes data received from the unified transfer-accounting centre, and reports stakes, interactive stakes and calculated winnings both to outlets and that centre.

Ordinary totalisator processing performs the same recording, result, calculation and outlet-reporting functions for totalisator stakes. Its interactive centre arranges bets between participants, processes interactive-stake information from the unified transfer-accounting centre, records outcomes/calculates winnings and reports to both outlets and that centre. A bookmaker betting outlet is a geographically separate part concluding bets and reporting stakes plus paid/unpaid winnings to the relevant processing centre. A totalisator outlet instead arranges bets between participants and reports the same data.

The unified regulator’s information system is a hardware/software platform for automated transmission, receipt, registration, processing, accounting, accumulation and storage. Its recorded fields include concluded bets, stakes and interactive stakes, amounts, acceptance date/time, events and conditions, calculated winnings, paid/unpaid winnings, returned unplayed stakes, cash-desk operations, settlement form including cash, and transfers—including electronic money—in both directions. It supplies the regulator with real-time transaction information.

Territorial and online restrictions in the record

Only organisers complying with the stated federal, regional and other legal requirements may conduct gambling. The saved text prohibits gambling through telecommunications/Internet except acceptance and settlement of interactive bookmaker/totalisator stakes under Article 14.2. It treats such activity as taking place in Russia if any one condition applies: the participant resides in Russia; the relevant bank account or electronic-money operator is in Russia; the network address used to pay is registered in Russia; or the paying telephone number uses Russia’s international country code.

Gambling zones generally cannot be created on settlement land. The extract gives exceptions for federally significant Olympic facilities built without budget or the named Sochi Olympic-construction corporation’s funds, and land within the passenger terminal of Yalta seaport in Crimea. This records the legal passage’s geographic wording.

For remote bookmaker/totalisator activity, ordinary transfers, electronic-money transfers, payment-agent/subagent acceptance and postal transfers to the organiser are excluded except qualifying interactive stakes and card acquiring through the unified transfer-accounting centre at an outlet. Interactive stakes must be transferred by that centre, using electronic payment instruments on participants’ instructions; postal transfers are excluded.

A further fragment reserves certain agreements to casinos/slot halls in gambling zones where performance or other discharge occurs before the third day after conclusion, including use of incoming proceeds for another agreement before then. It ties performance to specified contingencies, but only the contingency concerning non-performance or improper performance by legal entities, a state or municipalities is

reproduced here. This restriction is said to apply regardless of arithmetic/mathematical transformation of agreement information into images or symbols, including casino-like imagery. The missing contingency list is not completed by inference.

Blocked recipients and permitted-operator registers

A payer's bank must refuse an individual's transfers, including electronic money sent directly or through foreign payment-service providers, to listed prohibited recipients. The categories cover Russian legal entities, individual entrepreneurs and foreign business persons/entities, including foreign organisations without separate legal personality. Payment agents, telecom operators and postal operators must not accept individuals' payments for listed recipients. A card issuer must refuse a cross-border payment when transaction codes identify gambling activity or available information identifies a blocked recipient.

Banks, payment agents, telecom and postal operators cannot contract to transfer individuals' money to a gambling operator absent from the authorised-operator list. The transition note applies this to agreements made before 13 July 2021, requiring termination within 60 days after publication of the operator list; it gives a publication deadline of 12 August 2021 under Federal Law No. 355-FZ of 2 July 2021. These are historical transition dates.

The government sets list-maintenance procedures, information content and communication arrangements; information supplied to banks is coordinated with the Central Bank. The competent gambling supervisor publishes the prohibited-recipient and authorised-operator lists online and in designated official periodicals. Covered financial/payment/telecom/postal bodies are treated as notified five working days after the information is communicated.

Listing, investigation and removal

Listing is based on a reasoned supervisory decision. The reproduced ground concerns evidence of unlicensed/unpermitted gambling plus individual transfers or payments for participation; decision is due within five working days of receipt. The authority may conduct transactions to verify unlawful gambling or payment services for it. Information received from the unified regulator requires a listing decision or reasoned refusal within five working days.

A removal decision may be extended by no more than 20 working days where requests to public bodies or persons are needed to verify grounds. Listed removal grounds are an administrative decision after obtaining a permit/licence or considering a reasoned application, a final court judgment overturning listing, or a final judgment overturning refusal to remove. The excerpt does not supply the initial decision period, so the extension is not presented as the total deadline.

Foreign payment-service providers: separate list

The supervisor maintains a public list of foreign payment-service providers that accept or transfer individuals' funds to blocked recipients or operators absent from the authorised list. Foreign banks are excluded from this provider list because a separate bank list is described below. The government defines maintenance, content and notification, coordinating bank information with the Central Bank. For this provider list, the saved notification period is five days, rather than the five working days used for the recipient/operator lists.

On first detection, including through a test transaction, the provider receives a notice requiring correction within at least 30 calendar days. Repetition after that deadline leads to listing. A provider may seek removal, including after ceasing the activity. Verification requests can extend the removal decision by no more than 40 working days. Removal grounds include an administrative decision on the application or a final court judgment overturning listing or refusal to remove.

Banks must refuse individuals' transfers to listed providers, and card issuers must refuse cross-border card transfers where available information identifies such a recipient. Payment agents, telecom and postal operators cannot accept payments for them. The same bodies cannot contract with listed providers and must terminate existing agreements within one month of online publication. The supervisor reports Russian banks' transfers to blocked recipients or providers to the Central Bank for measures against the banks and officials.

Foreign banks and supervisory information requests

A separate public list covers foreign banks accepting card payments for blocked recipients or listed foreign providers. The government sets its maintenance and content. First detection produces a corrective notice with at least 30 calendar days; repeated activity after the deadline leads to listing. The bank may seek removal, including after stopping the activity, and verification requests may extend the decision by no more than 40 working days. The excerpt does not supply every later consequence or removal ground for this bank list.

The supervisor may require and receive information from banks, payment agents, telecom and postal operators about persons identified through evidence or lawful test transactions as conducting gambling without the required zone permit or bookmaker/totalisator licence, including interactive-stake activity. These are recorded enforcement mechanisms, not instructions for bypassing payment restrictions.