

► RESPONSIBLE GAMING

>>THE DO'S AND DON'TS OF PLAYING RESPONSIBLY

Mark Twain observed that “a dollar picked up in the road is more satisfaction to us than the 99 which we had to work for, and the money won at Faro or in the stock market snuggles into our hearts in the same way.” Gambling has a lot to do with human passion. As such, a passion for gambling left unchecked is ever veering from the reasonable to the unreasonable. It takes a steady hand and a disciplined mind to ensure that along the highs and lows of gambling you remain fully in control.

For millions of people around the world, gambling is a harmless-enough form of leisure and entertainment. Unfortunately, for some people gambling becomes a serious problem, as habit slowly but surely leads to addiction. Compulsive gamblers are bound to suffer serious consequences. It is well to remember a few rules when you decide to gamble:

DECIDE BEFORE-HAND HOW MUCH YOU ARE WILLING TO WAGER

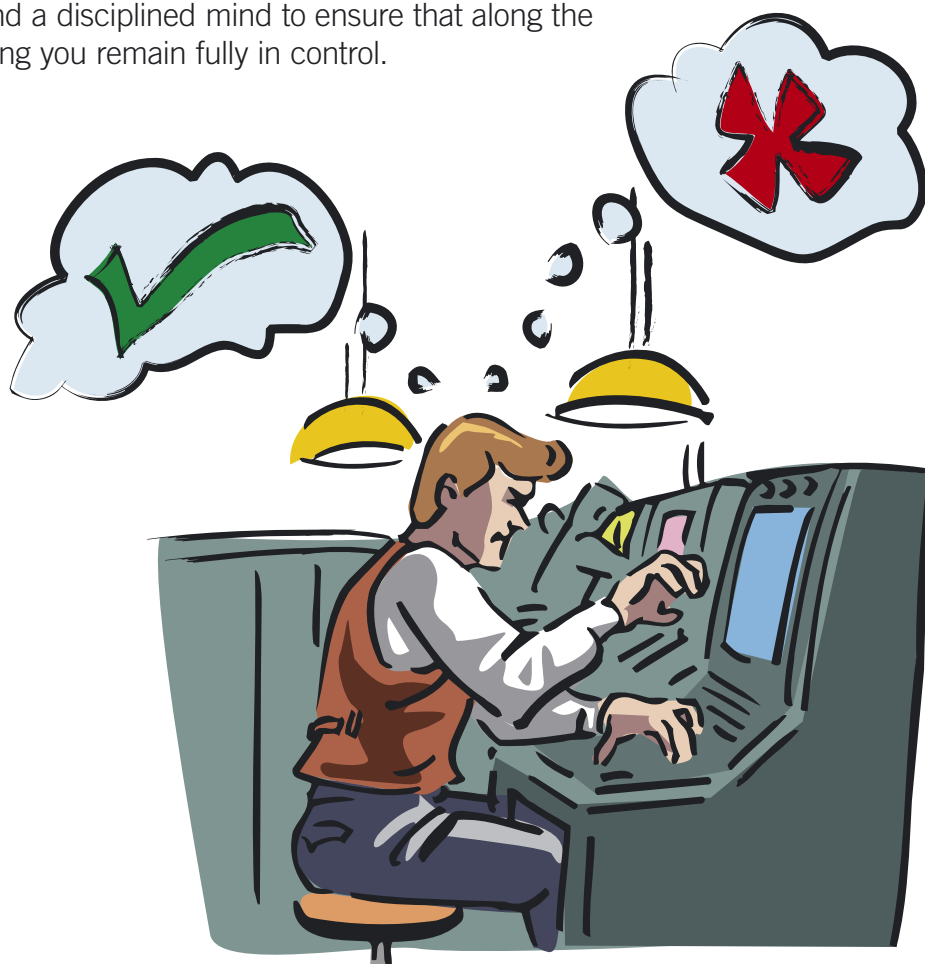
As a leisure activity, gambling should not be eating away money from disposable income that you require for necessities. Set a limit before you start and stick to it. Bonuses offered by numerous operations should not encourage you to set a higher limit on the amount you can comfortably wager.

Inducements by reputable gambling operations are not meant to cheat you, however they are meant to encourage you to part with more money. Your limit should be your own decision and made with a cool mind.

DO NOT TRY TO RECOVER YOUR LOSSES

It is very easy to be tempted to try one last time, in the hope of recovering your losses. The ensuing result is frequently increasing your losses. Any form of gambling is predominantly

based on chance. There is no real reason to assume that the outcome of your next wager might be better than the preceding wager. If you are worried about the losses you incurred, learn your lesson and next time wager less money. ►



BEWARE OF HOW OFTEN AND FOR HOW LONG YOU PLAY

Leisure is just that because you do it occasionally and for a limited period of time. If you are gambling too often and your gambling sessions are getting longer – it is time for a reality check. Habit, if it goes unchecked, might be your first step to addiction. The consequences of gambling addiction are not worth the risk!

EVEN WHEN YOU ARE WINNING TAKE OCCASIONAL BREAKS

You are having fun and you've had a

winning streak. If lady luck has been smiling on you – it does not mean that you should push your luck. If you decide to go ahead you might lose your winnings and start incurring losses.

Being clever, means keeping within your safety limits and knowing when to stop – even when you are winning.

GAMBLING IS NOT A WAY TO GET RICH QUICKLY OR TO PAY OFF YOUR DEBTS

If you decide to gamble because you have financial problems or any aspirations to get rich quickly – you are gambling for all the wrong reasons. Gambling does not fulfill aspirations – you

are going to be disillusioned. More so, gambling does not solve financial problems – you are going to be worse off than when you started.

ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT GAMBLING IS CHANCE

There are no systems or formulas to guarantee success. The best workings based on the rule of probability are a long way from certainty; and put in a single context with so many variables that most of the time the player is not even aware of, they are meaningless. It was Einstein who said "You cannot beat a roulette table unless you steal money from it". The golden rule should be 'Do not gamble with your life'. Compulsive gambling is destructive and will have serious consequences on your life and that of your family and friends. If you think you have a problem seek professional help immediately.

The resources section of the Lotteries and Gaming Authority of Malta www.lga.org.mt can provide you with valuable information in this respect.



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