

Post 15 October 2020 State Treaty of Gambling update: Is Matched Betting still possible in Germany?



This is a follow up from the following article [“Bedeutet der deutsche Glücksspielstaatsvertrag 2021 ein Ende für Matched Betting?”](#)

15 October 2020 is a date of great significance for online casinos and bookmakers in Germany.

That date marks the start of the transitional phase for online gambling and sports betting into what will ultimately end up in a Germany wide Glücksspielstaatsvertrag.

The Glücksspielstaatsvertrag is expected to come into force in July 2021.

What changes have we seen?

When searching for information related to the change, one will often find that different sources reported different changes.

So, unless you want to read a 269-page legal document ([here is the link just in case](#)) then continue reading.

The main changes will be summarised below before we take a look at the impact or predicted impact on Matched Betting in Germany.

Here, post 15 October, we now have at least part of the answer but how the changes will be enforced is still unclear, although we know that a new governmental body has been established for that purpose.

One thing seems certain though. We will not see a decrease or removal of the 5% betting tax. However, not all bookmakers manage this tax in the same way. Some bookmakers have chosen to pass this tax on to the punters, while others have chosen to pay the 5% themselves. Others have promotional offers, where you save the tax on accumulators.

If you want to get know, which bookmakers charge the tax and which ones don't. Then you will love this list, which includes [117 different bookmakers](#).



These are the general changes for all German casino providers from 15.10.2020:

Here is an overview that was provided by Tipico in an email to their customers:

- To play Games deposit directly into the Games account. A chip transfer is not needed anymore.
- Only slot games will be offered.

- The maximum deposit limit in a 30 days period for the Games offer is 1.000€ for customers who are fully verified.
- There are no live casino games offers.
- There are no jackpot games offers.
- The previous casino offer is not accessible anymore.
- The previous swipe offer in the Sport-App is not available anymore.
- The usage of Games without verification (IDnow or SOFORT Ident) is restricted to 30 days. After this time period, the Games account will be blocked until successful verification.
- You cannot transfer funds between your Sports betting account and your Games account.

These are the changes for you directly while playing:

- The maximum playing time is 60 minutes. You need to take a 5 minutes break after this limit is reached.
- On each page and in all games in the Games sector is the possibility to activate an immediate break for 24 hours for this sector.
- There is no auto spin functionality in the games.
- You can only play one game at a time. Playing more games in different browser tabs or via split-screen is not possible.

Any changes not mentioned?

Yes, unfortunately, the list of changes does not end there.

Here are some of the additional changes that have been announced as part of the treaty.

- 1000 € is the maximum amount that German players can spend on licensed online casinos per month. If you change from one casino where you have already deposited € 500 to another, you can only deposit a maximum of € 500 there.
- In addition, an authority is to be established that will be connected to control the flow of money.
- The casino must have a ".de" domain
- Only registered players are allowed to play in demo mode
- Virtual machines may not offer table games such as roulette, blackjack or baccarat that host casinos
- The maximum stake per spin on a slot machine may not exceed € 1
- A game round on the machine must last at least 5 seconds per round (start of the reels, display of the result until the end and the new start)
- The word casino or casino games is not permitted in Section

As mentioned above, it is still very unclear how the authority intends to control the flow of money, especially in times where data protection is very much on the forefront of internet-related discussions.

Misaligned implementation?

While we await more information related to control and enforcement of the changes, we are seeing that bookmakers have different ways of implementing the changes.

While the €1 maximum stake was not mentioned by Tipico, LeoVegas has sent out an email to their customers informing them of the €1 per spin rule.

* Felix (LeoVegas)

17.10.2020, 18:42 MESZ

Guten Tag

Es tut mir leid, dir mitzuteilen, dass Spieler aufgrund der neuen deutschen Gesetzgebung nicht mehr als 1 € pro Runde setzen dürfen.

Wenn du weitere Fragen hast, zögere bitte nicht, uns erneut zu kontaktieren. Wir sind auch täglich von 08:00 bis 00:00 Uhr im LiveChat für dich erreichbar!

Wir wünschen dir einen schönen Tag!

Mit freundlichen Grüßen,

Felix

Kundendienst

LeoVegas

leovegas.com*

What about sports betting?

Until now the changes have mainly affected the casino and games side of the business.

But what about sports betting?

Although sports betting doesn't seem to be as hard hit as the casino and games section, there are also changes directly related to sports betting.

Here are some changes that will affect online sports betting:

- Limitation of in-play bets
- Abolition of some betting markets such as event-based bets e.g. player x to score a goal), eSports and betting on non-sports event e.g. winner of the next election or reality show

However, while writing this article, I checked if in-play betting really had disappeared from the bookmaker's websites.

All of the sites checked, including Betsafe, Bet365 and Ladbrokes, still offer in-play betting.



What is the impact?

The casino industry has been hit very hard and if this doesn't mean the end of online casinos in Germany, at least the casino industry must currently be on life support.

While some online casinos and bookmakers have confirmed their intention to continue to offer their services to German players, others have decided to leave Germany and will no longer accept German customers.

Here is a full list of casino and bookmakers that will no longer be available to German customers and sites that have added a .de URL to comply with that specific requirement (Up to date as per 18 October 2020).

Betsafe (keine neuen deutschen Kunden)
Casino Euro (keine neuen deutschen Kunden)
Euro Casino (keine neuen deutschen Kunden)
Nordicbet (keine neuen deutschen Kunden)
Casino Winner (keine neuen deutschen Kunden)
Winning Room
Betfair (Casino wird eingestellt)
Ladbrokes (.com wird zu .de Domain)
Mr. Play
Lordlucky (.com wird zu .de Domain)
Lapalingo (.com wird zu .de Domain)
Gamebookers (.com wird zu .de Domain)
1XBet
Betolimp
Expekt
BetClic
Spinsports
24Bettle
Royal Panda
Titanbet
Ohmbet
Schnellwetten
Redbet
STSBet
Winamax
Fanteam
Mansionbet
Interwetten (.com wird zu .de Domain)
Tonybet
Betregal
William Hill (Casino wird eingestellt)
Fansbet (Casino wird eingestellt)

Is Matched Betting still possible?

Yes, Matched Betting is still possible in Germany.

In fact, we have seen no changes in reload offers since 15 October.

Casino reload offers

If casino reload offers is a big part of your Matched Betting income then you will likely see a significant change.

The main changes that will directly affect casino offers are:

- Some casino providers have left the German market but a few have already announced a .de URL e.g. Ladbrokes that can now be found on www.ladbrokes.de
- Casino reload offers often include having to play through a wagering requirement. With a €1 maximum stake that can take a while

Matched Betting

Overall sports betting is not predicted to be as affected by the changes.

However, there are still some aspects of the treaty that will have a direct impact on us matched bettors.

Here are the main ones:

- A maximum deposit of €1000 could have a minor effect. However, as we do not lose money but continuously increase our bankroll then you can get far with a €1000 and since you can deposit another €1000 the following month, you should soon be able to raise a significant bankroll where it is more likely that most months you do not need to make further deposits.
- No in-play betting will also have a negative impact. A common reload offer is one where you would qualify for a free in-play bet if you placed a qualifying bet e.g. on a specific match.
- No Esports offers. Esports gained a lot of popularity during the involuntary football break in April and May. Bookmakers pushed newly invented Esports offers and punters gladly accepted them. Nonetheless, with football back on the programme, Esports seem to have once again been reduced to a more withdrawn role.

Conclusion

The entire gambling and sports betting industry will feel the effect of the changes that are being introduced via the new treaty.

While it is questionable whether the casino and gaming part of the industry will survive these strict regulations, for now, sports betting providers can breathe a small sigh of relief and hope that this is it and Germany can finally move out of the grey zone and into a market with a clear regulation regime.

However, there are still some big questions to be answered before we cross that bridge.

How will the newly established controlling body uphold these regulations? Especially the ability to control all deposits made to any site and across sites, seem invasive and out of line with the current privacy and data protection laws.

Then there is the question of whether the EU will accept the new regulation.

Strict license requirements and an imposing monitoring regime could both reduce the number of operators and the number of players in Germany.

On the other hand, if the result of the changes will be vetting out rogue and fraudulent operators and that German players will have the governmental body to direct their complaints at, then we could really see a significant increase in operators and players.

As matched bettors, we are used to having to adapt to changes.

Bookmakers will find new ways to provide promotional offers and we will continue to find a way to earn risk-free money with Matched Betting.