

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. What is the role of the Benue State Sports Marketing, Gaming and Lottery Board?

The Board is the statutory regulatory authority responsible for overseeing all sports marketing, gaming, and lottery activities within Benue State. Our primary functions include licensing and supervising operators, collecting statutory levies and fees, protecting consumers from fraudulent activities, and promoting responsible gaming practices. We also work to generate sustainable revenue for the state to support sports development and social welfare programmes.

2. How can I apply for a licence to operate a gaming or lottery business in Benue State?

To apply for a licence, you must submit a formal application to the Board's office, accompanied by your company registration documents, a detailed operational proposal, and the prescribed application fee. You will also be required to attend a physical presentation and demonstration session before the Board's management team to assess the transparency and integrity of your proposed operations. Once your application is reviewed and approved, a licence will be issued subject to compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

3. What measures does the Board have in place to ensure fair play and transparency?

The Board is committed to maintaining the highest standards of integrity in all gaming and lottery activities. We require all licensed operators to demonstrate the randomness and fairness of their games through live demonstrations and regular audits. Our regulatory framework includes strict compliance requirements, routine inspections, and penalties for any form of manipulation or fraudulent conduct. We also maintain a transparent reporting system to ensure that all revenues and prize payouts are properly accounted for.

4. How does the Board protect players from harm and promote responsible gaming?

Protecting players is one of our core responsibilities. We actively promote responsible gaming by raising awareness about the risks of problem gambling and ensuring that operators implement measures to prevent underage participation. We also require operators to provide clear information on game rules, odds, and prize structures so that participants can make informed decisions. Additionally, we work with relevant stakeholders to support

vulnerable persons and provide avenues for those seeking help with gambling-related issues.

5. How can investors partner with the Board to develop the gaming sector in Benue State?

We welcome partnerships with credible local and international investors who share our vision for a transparent, innovative, and profitable gaming sector. Interested investors are encouraged to contact our office to discuss potential areas of collaboration, which include technology development, digital platform deployment, sports infrastructure, and marketing rights. We are committed to creating an investor-friendly environment governed by clear laws and fair regulations. All partnership engagements are subject to due diligence and formal approval by the Board.

6. Is the Board currently undergoing any reforms?

Yes. Under the visionary leadership of His Excellency, Rev Fr Hyacinth Iormen Alia PhD, and the new management team, the Board is undergoing a comprehensive transformation. We are updating the legal framework to suit modern gaming realities, establishing a robust digital presence (including this website and a dedicated operator portal), securing permanent and befitting office accommodation with strong ICT capacity, and building partnerships with credible investors. These reforms are designed to reposition the Board as a model regulatory agency in Nigeria.

7. What is the Board doing to address past issues of unremitted funds?

The current management is committed to transparency and accountability. We have implemented strict oversight mechanisms to ensure that all collections from operators, including levies, fees, and good cause dues, are properly remitted to the Board's account. We are also conducting a thorough review of past records and have taken steps to disengage staff who were irregularly employed. Going forward, we will enforce strict compliance and impose penalties for any defaults.

8. Does the Board have a website and online portal?

Yes. The Board now has a functional website and is in the process of deploying an integrated online portal. The portal will allow operators to apply for licences, make payments, and submit reports electronically. Members of the public will also be able to access information about our activities, regulations, and licensed operators. This digital transformation is part of our commitment to transparency and ease of doing business.

9. What are the penalties for operating a gaming or lottery business without a licence?

Operating without a valid licence is illegal and constitutes a serious offence under the laws of Benue State. The Board reserves the right to shut down unlicensed operations, seize assets, and prosecute offenders. Additionally, individuals or companies found to be operating without a licence may be subject to substantial fines and barred from future licensing. We encourage all operators to regularise their status by applying for the appropriate licence.

10. How can I contact the Board for further enquiries?

You can reach the Board through the following channels:

- i. **Office Address:**
- ii. **Phone Number:**
- iii. **Email Address:**
- iv. **Website:**

Our office is open Monday to Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. We are always happy to assist with enquiries, complaints, or partnership discussions.