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No. S 434

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS ACT (CHAPTER 257)

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENTS (DEMERIT POINTS) RULES 2017

ARRANGEMENT OF RULES

Rule

1. Citation and commencement
 2. Definitions
 3. Award of demerit points
 4. Varying licence conditions
 5. Threshold for suspension or cancellation of licence
 6. Calculation of demerit points
 7. Revocation
 8. [*Deleted*]
The Schedules
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In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 15 and 23 of the Public Entertainments Act, the Minister for Home Affairs makes the following Rules:

Citation and commencement

1. These Rules are the Public Entertainments (Demerit Points) Rules 2017 and come into operation on 1 August 2017.

Definitions

2. In these Rules, unless the context otherwise requires —

“credit” includes any form of financial accommodation;

[S 142/2024 wef 01/03/2024]

“current demerit points” means demerit points that have been recorded in the demerit points register and have not been cancelled;

“demerit points offence” means an offence under section 28(1)(c) of the Act for contravening a condition of a licence;

[S 567/2023 wef 31/12/2021]

“fun fair” means an amusement fair which is, or may be, established and operated at a particular place or premises for a continuous period of not more than 31 days, being a place or premises to which the public or any class of the public has access, whether gratuitously or otherwise;

“licence” means a licence issued or renewed under the Act authorising —

(a) the provision of any public entertainment in a particular place or premises in respect of which a Class 1A or Class 1B liquor licence is granted under the Liquor Control (Supply and Consumption) Act 2015;

[S 567/2023 wef 31/12/2021]

(b) the provision of any of the following public entertainment at a particular place or premises:

(i) an amusement centre;

(ii) a billiard saloon;

(iii) a computer games centre; or

(c) the provision of any public entertainment which is any machine or device by the manipulation of which chances are given of obtaining prizes in money or kind, at a particular place or premises except at a fun fair;

“licensee” means the holder of a licence;

“Licensing Officer” means the Public Entertainment Licensing Officer;

“merchant voucher”, means any voucher (including any virtual voucher such as a QR code) that, on the redemption of the voucher and the fulfilment of the conditions specified in the voucher, entitles the holder of the voucher to —

- (a) receive, free of charge, the goods and services specified by the voucher; or
- (b) pay a reduced price for, or receive a rebate upon purchasing, the goods and services specified by the voucher;

[S 142/2024 wef 01/03/2024]

“money equivalent” has the meaning given by section 14 of the Gambling Control Act 2022, except that a reference to “any gambling” in that section is to be read as a reference to “any public entertainment”;

[S 142/2024 wef 01/03/2024]

“new licence” means a licence that —

- (a) is issued on or after 1 August 2017 in respect of a particular place or premises and authorising the provision of a specified public entertainment; and
- (b) is not issued in substitution for a licence in respect of the same place or premises and for the same type of public entertainment, and which has expired immediately before its issue;

“probation period”, for a licensee holding a new licence, means a period —

- (a) starting from the day on which the licensee is issued the licence; and
- (b) ending 12 consecutive months after the date in paragraph (a);

“restricted prize” means a prize that —

- (a) has a value of \$100 or more; or
- (b) is or includes money, a money equivalent, the provision of credit, or a merchant voucher;

[S 142/2024 wef 01/03/2024]

“specified public entertainment” means any type of public entertainment set out in the First Schedule.

Award of demerit points

3.—(1) The Licensing Officer must award demerit points in accordance with these Rules against a licensee who provides any specified public entertainment and who —

- (a) is convicted of, or has accepted an offer to compound, a demerit points offence committed or allegedly committed before, on or after 1 August 2017 by the licensee; or
- (b) has consented to have a demerit points offence committed on or after 1 August 2017 taken into consideration by a court for the purposes of sentencing the licensee for the commission of any other offence under the Act or any other written law.

(2) The number of demerit points to be awarded against a licensee for a demerit points offence committed or allegedly committed by the licensee is the number set out in the second column in the applicable table in the Second Schedule corresponding to —

- (a) the specified public entertainment provided by the licensee; and
- (b) the licence condition set out in the first column of the table which is contravened or allegedly contravened by the licensee.

(3) Every demerit point awarded under this rule against a licensee for a demerit points offence must be entered by the Licensing Officer into a register (called in these Rules the demerit points register).

(4) Demerit points awarded under this rule are cancelled only after the demerit points are reckoned for the purposes of cancelling a licence under section 14(4) of the Act on the ground specified in section 14(1)(e) of the Act; and those demerit points in the demerit points register must immediately be cancelled with the cancellation of the licence.

[S 567/2023 wef 31/12/2021]

Varying licence conditions

4. For the purposes of section 10(3) of the Act, the total number of demerit points awarded against a licensee is the total number of current demerit points, calculated in accordance with rule 6.

Threshold for suspension or cancellation of licence

5.—(1) For the purposes of section 14(4) of the Act, to suspend a licence on the ground specified in section 14(1)(e) of the Act, the number of demerit points accumulated by a licensee is —

- (a) where the licensee is not the holder of a new licence —
 - (i) at least 21 current demerit points, calculated in accordance with rule 6(1); but
 - (ii) not more than 23 current demerit points, calculated in accordance with rule 6(1); or
- (b) where the licensee is the holder of a new licence —
 - (i) at least 21 current demerit points, calculated in accordance with rule 6(2)(a) and (b)(ii); but
 - (ii) not more than 23 current demerit points, calculated in accordance with rule 6(2)(a) and (b)(ii).

[S 567/2023 wef 31/12/2021]

(2) For the purposes of section 14(4) of the Act, to cancel a licence on the ground specified in section 14(1)(e) of the Act, the number of demerit points accumulated by a licensee is —

- (a) where the licensee is not the holder of a new licence, 24 or more current demerit points, calculated in accordance with rule 6(1); or
- (b) where the licensee is the holder of a new licence —
 - (i) 13 or more current demerit points, calculated in accordance with rule 6(2)(a) and (b)(i); or
 - (ii) 24 or more current demerit points, calculated in accordance with rule 6(2)(a) and (b)(ii).

[S 567/2023 wef 31/12/2021]

Calculation of demerit points

6.—(1) For the purposes of rules 4 and 5, when calculating the number of current demerit points awarded against a licensee in respect of a licence (that is not a new licence) authorising a specified public entertainment to be provided at a particular place or premises, the Licensing Officer must only reckon such demerit points as have been awarded against the licensee —

- (a) in respect of the same place or premises, whether or not in relation to the same licence and whether or not in relation to a different type of public entertainment; and
- (b) for any demerit points offence committed or allegedly committed by the licensee during a period of 24 months preceding the date of the latest demerit points offence committed or allegedly committed by the licensee.

(2) For the purposes of rules 4 and 5, when calculating the number of current demerit points awarded against a licensee holding a new licence authorising a specified public entertainment to be provided at a particular place or premises, the Licensing Officer must only reckon such current demerit points as have been awarded against the licensee for any demerit points offence which —

- (a) relates to the new licence; and
- (b) is committed or allegedly committed by the licensee either as follows:
 - (i) within the licensee's probation period;
 - (ii) outside of the licensee's probation period but during the validity of the new licence.

Revocation

7. The Public Entertainments and Meetings (Demerit Points) Rules (R 2) are revoked.

8. [*Deleted by S 567/2023 wef 21/08/2023*]

FIRST SCHEDULE

Rule 2

SPECIFIED PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT

1. Nightclubs, cabarets, discotheques, bars, lounges and other public houses
2. Computer games centre
3. Billiard saloon
4. Amusement centre
5. [Deleted by S 386/2025 wef 01/07/2025]
6. [Deleted by S 386/2025 wef 01/07/2025]
7. Crane or game machines at premises other than amusement centres
8. Pool table
9. Soccer table
10. Dance show

SECOND SCHEDULE

Rule 3(2)

DEMERIT POINTS AND DEMERIT POINT OFFENCES

PART 1

NIGHTCLUBS, CABARETS, DISCOTHEQUES, BARS, LOUNGES AND
OTHER PUBLIC HOUSES

Division 1 — Demerit points

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Condition contravened</i>	<i>Demerit points</i>
(a) Paragraph 1(n) of Division 2 of this Part	12
(b) Paragraph 5 of Division 2 of this Part, where —	
(i) the number of persons in the licensed premises is more than 20% above the capacity of the premises; or	9
(ii) the number of persons in the licensed premises is not more than 20% above the capacity of the premises	6

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(c) Any condition in Division 2 of this Part but not specified in paragraph (a) or (b)	6
(d) Any other condition of the licence	3

Division 2 — Licence conditions

1. The licensee must take all appropriate steps to ensure that the following offences are not committed by any employee while on duty, or any patron or other person in the licensed premises:

- (a) sale, consumption or trafficking of controlled drugs;
- (b) use of criminal force;
- (c) criminal restraint and confinement;
- (d) intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace;
- (e) affray;
- (f) assault;
- (g) rioting;
- (h) sexual offences (e.g. rape or outraging of modesty);
- (i) theft;
- (j) robbery;
- (k) extortion;
- (l) gambling or betting;
- (m) causing the disappearance of evidence after an offence has been committed;
- (n) offences under the Women's Charter 1961 relating to prostitution.

[S 567/2023 wef 31/12/2021]

2. The licensee must ensure that no immoral activity is carried out in the licensed premises.

3. If any of the offences set out in paragraph 1 or any immoral activity has been committed or carried out in the licensed premises, the licensee —

- (a) must report the offence to the police as soon as the offence comes to the licensee's knowledge;
- (b) must not remove, conceal or obliterate any evidence of the commission of the offence;

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

(c) must not cause obstruction to the police officers investigating the offence; and

(d) must provide reasonable assistance to police officers when requested.

4. The licensee must not employ, engage or permit any person to provide any service (with or without any consideration) by way of or in connection with surveillance, security, screening or the control of admission into or in respect of the licensed premises (with or without any consideration) if the licensee knows or ought reasonably to have known that the person is a member or a former member of an unlawful society or has previously been convicted of an offence involving criminal assault, violence, intimidation or any form of criminal trespass to persons or property.

5. The licensee must ensure that there is no overcrowding in the licensed premises.

6.—(1) The licensee must not allow dancing by patrons in the licensed premises without the approval of the Licensing Officer.

(2) Subject to sub-paragraph (1), if the licensee allows dancing by patrons in the licensed premises, the licensee must ensure —

(a) that the licensee's employees on duty at the premises do not dance with patrons;

(b) that persons below 16 years of age are not allowed into or to remain in the licensed premises during the hours that the licensed premises are not operated as a restaurant; and

(c) that any area used for dancing by patrons is structurally sound and safe in all aspects.

PART 2

COMPUTER GAMES CENTRE

Division 1 — Demerit points

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Condition contravened</i>	<i>Demerit points</i>
(a) Any condition of the licence in Division 2 of this Part	6
(b) Any other condition of the licence	3

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued**Division 2 — Licence conditions*

1. The licensee must take all appropriate steps to ensure that the following offences are not committed by any employee while on duty, or any patron or other person in the licensed premises:

- (a) sale, consumption or trafficking of controlled drugs;
- (b) use of criminal force;
- (c) criminal restraint and confinement;
- (d) intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace;
- (e) affray;
- (f) assault;
- (g) rioting;
- (h) sexual offences (e.g. rape or outraging of modesty);
- (i) theft;
- (j) robbery;
- (k) extortion;
- (l) gambling or betting;
- (m) causing the disappearance of evidence after an offence has been committed.

2. If any of the offences set out in paragraph 1 has been committed in the licensed premises, the licensee —

- (a) must report the offence to the police as soon as the offence comes to the licensee's knowledge;
- (b) must not remove, conceal or obliterate any evidence of the commission of the offence;
- (c) must not cause obstruction to the police officers investigating the offence; and
- (d) must provide reasonable assistance to police officers when requested.

3. The licensee must ensure that no person below 16 years of age is admitted into the licensed premises at any time on any school day except between 6.30 p.m. and 11.59 p.m.

4. The licensee must ensure that no student wearing his or her school uniform or any part of a school uniform, or a school T-shirt, is admitted into the licensed premises.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

5. The licensee must not provide a change of clothes to any student.

PART 3

BILLIARD SALOON

Division 1 — Demerit points

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Condition contravened</i>	<i>Demerit points</i>
(a) Any condition of the licence in Division 2 of this Part	6
(b) Any other condition of the licence	3

Division 2 — Licence conditions

1. The licensee must take all appropriate steps to ensure that the following offences are not committed by any employee while on duty, or any patron or other person in the licensed premises:

- (a) sale, consumption or trafficking of controlled drugs;
- (b) use of criminal force;
- (c) criminal restraint and confinement;
- (d) intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace;
- (e) affray;
- (f) assault;
- (g) rioting;
- (h) sexual offences (e.g. rape or outraging of modesty);
- (i) theft;
- (j) robbery;
- (k) extortion;
- (l) gambling or betting;
- (m) causing the disappearance of evidence after an offence has been committed.

2. If any of the offences set out in paragraph 1 has been committed in the licensed premises, the licensee —

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (a) must report the offence to the police as soon as the offence comes to the licensee's knowledge;
 - (b) must not remove, conceal or obliterate any evidence of the commission of the offence;
 - (c) must not cause obstruction to the police officers investigating the offence; and
 - (d) must provide reasonable assistance to police officers when requested.
3. The licensee must ensure that no person below 16 years of age is admitted into the licensed premises.
4. The licensee must ensure that no student wearing his or her school uniform or any part of a school uniform, or a school T-shirt, is admitted into the licensed premises.
5. The licensee must not provide a change of clothes to any student.

PART 4

AMUSEMENT CENTRE

Division 1 — Demerit points

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Condition contravened</i>	<i>Demerit points</i>
(a) Any condition of the licence in Division 2 of this Part	6
(b) Any other condition of the licence	3

Division 2 — Licence conditions

1. The licensee must take all appropriate steps to ensure that the following offences are not committed by any employee while on duty, or any patron or other person in the licensed premises:
- (a) sale, consumption or trafficking of controlled drugs;
 - (b) use of criminal force;
 - (c) criminal restraint and confinement;
 - (d) intentional insult with intent to provoke breach of the peace;
 - (e) affray;
 - (f) assault;

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

- (g) rioting;
 - (h) sexual offences (e.g. rape or outraging of modesty);
 - (i) theft;
 - (j) robbery;
 - (k) extortion;
 - (l) gambling or betting;
 - (m) causing the disappearance of evidence after an offence has been committed.
2. If any of the offences set out in paragraph 1 has been committed in the licensed premises, the licensee —
- (a) must report the offence to the police as soon as the offence comes to the licensee's knowledge;
 - (b) must not remove, conceal or obliterate any evidence of the commission of the offence;
 - (c) must not cause obstruction to the police officers investigating the offence; and
 - (d) must provide reasonable assistance to police officers when requested.
3. The licensee must ensure that no person below 16 years of age is admitted into the licensed premises at any time on any school day except between 6.30 p.m. and 11.59 p.m.
4. The licensee must ensure that no student wearing his or her school uniform or any part of a school uniform, or a school T-shirt, is admitted into the licensed premises.
5. The licensee must not provide a change of clothes to any student.
6. No obscene or objectionable slides may be shown on the "mini-movie" machines in the licensed premises.
7. The licensee must not —
- (a) give, or offer, a restricted prize (other than a token that may be exchanged with the licensee for a good that is not a restricted prize) to a person for playing, or winning, a game in the licensed premises; or
 - (b) exchange, or offer to exchange, a restricted prize for a prize, or token, given to a person for playing, or winning, a game in the licensed premises.

[S 142/2024 wef 01/03/2024]

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

Part 5

[Deleted by S 386/2025 wef 01/07/2025]

Part 6

[Deleted by S 386/2025 wef 01/07/2025]

PART 7

CRANE OR GAME MACHINES AT PREMISES OTHER THAN
AMUSEMENT CENTRES*Division 1 — Demerit points*

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Condition contravened</i>	<i>Demerit points</i>
(a) Any condition of the licence in Division 2 of this Part	6
(b) Any other condition of the licence	3

Division 2 — Licence conditions

1. The licensee must ensure that no student wearing his or her school uniform or any part of a school uniform, or a school T-shirt, is permitted to play at any of the machines in the licensed premises.

[S 142/2024 wef 01/03/2024]

2. The licensee must not —

- (a) give, or offer, a restricted prize (other than a token that may be exchanged with the licensee for a good that is not a restricted prize) to a person for playing, or winning, at a machine in the licensed premises; or
- (b) exchange, or offer to exchange, a restricted prize for a prize, or token, given to a person for playing, or winning, at a machine in the licensed premises.

[S 142/2024 wef 01/03/2024]

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 8

POOL TABLE

Division 1 — Demerit points

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Condition contravened</i>	<i>Demerit points</i>
(a) Any condition of the licence in Division 2 of this Part	6
(b) Any other condition of the licence	3

Division 2 — Licence conditions

1. The licensee must ensure that no person below 16 years of age is permitted to play at any pool table in the licensed premises.
2. The licensee must ensure that no student wearing his or her school uniform or any part of a school uniform, or a school T-shirt, is admitted into the licensed premises.
3. The licensee must not provide a change of clothes to any student.
4. The licensee must ensure that no gambling or betting takes place in the licensed premises.

PART 9

SOCCER TABLE

Division 1 — Demerit points

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Condition contravened</i>	<i>Demerit points</i>
(a) Any condition of the licence in Division 2 of this Part	6
(b) Any other condition of the licence	3

Division 2 — Licence condition

The licensee must ensure that no gambling or betting takes place in the licensed premises.

SECOND SCHEDULE — *continued*

PART 10

DANCE SHOW

Division 1 — Demerit points

<i>First column</i>	<i>Second column</i>
<i>Condition contravened</i>	<i>Demerit points</i>
(a) Any condition of the licence in Division 2 of this Part	6
(b) Any other condition of the licence	3

Division 2 — Licence conditions

1. The licensee must ensure that any performance in the licensed premises must not consist of —

- (a) any depiction of any sexual act or any act of titillation;
- (b) shows or acts which depict, directly or indirectly, themes of homosexuality, bestiality, sadism or masochism;
- (c) kissing;
- (d) pumping action, gyrating or forward thrusts of the pelvic area.

2. Female performers must not perform topless in the licensed premises.

Made on 31 July 2017.

LEO YIP
*Permanent Secretary,
 Ministry of Home Affairs,
 Singapore.*

[MHA 112/2/091 – TF3; AG/LEGIS/SL/257/2015/2 Vol. 1]

(To be presented to Parliament under section 23(2) of the Public Entertainments Act).