Mastercard FAQ - Sports Gambling

Mastercard shared the following with ICBA Bancard in response to our enquiry on its actions relative to the overturn of the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA), a federal law that banned state sponsored sports wagering. This overturn may affect your credit and/or debit card issuing program(s).

ICBA Bancard encourages its issuers to review the parameters of their current program and consult with your processing partner to determine what, if any, changes need to be made to your issuing program or MCC code approval structure.

FAQ

Q: Is MC making any changes to the rules to accommodate the states that are permitting sports betting?

Our policy team is still working on the final version, but in speaking with them this week, it will mirror much of what was released when online gambling in NJ, NV and DE was made legal over the last few years. Merchants will have to provide to their acquirer a legal opinion, third party certification of effective controls, and any applicable license(s). This information will be required to be submitted to MC for review and registration.

Once policy is finalized, a bulletin will be released.

Q: What MCCs are affected? MCC for Online Gambling is 7801 and Sports Wagering would fall in this category.

Two other MCCs to keep in mind are 7800 for Government Owned Lotteries, and 7802 for Government Licensed Horse/Dog Tracks which have similar requirements to online gambling.

Q: Is the state restriction based on customer residence, not bank location?

The state/location restriction is connected to the actual location of the individual placing a wager. So, for example, if someone is traveling to NJ from their home state of CA, they would be geo located by the wagering entity (Draft Kings, etc.) to ensure they were in an acceptable jurisdiction (NJ in this example) to make a wager.

As mentioned above, the gaming operator is required to have a third-party audit of their controls for age, ID, and location services on their platform in order to be registered as a legal gaming entity with MC.