



REPUBLIKA NG PILIPINAS
TANGGAPAN NG PANGULO
LUPON SA MGA LARO AT LIBANGAN
(Games and Amusements Board)
Legaspi Towers 200
Paseo de Roxas,
Makati City

MEMORANDUM ORDER 2022-009

FROM : THE GAB OFFICER-IN-CHARGE

**TO : PROFESSIONAL SPORTS & OTHER
PROFESSIONAL GAMES DIVISION**

**BOXING & OTHER CONTACT SPORTS
DIVISION**

**HORSE RACING & BETTING SUPERVISION
DIVISION**

ALL CONCERNED

**SUBJECT : ONE FULL YEAR VALIDITY OF PROFESSIONAL
LICENSES ISSUED IN 2022**

DATE : 05 DECEMBER 2022

Most of GAB's licensees have been adversely affected by the reduced number of professional sporting events in 2020 and 2021 at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. In consideration of the plight of its licensees, GAB has extended the validity of licenses issued beginning March 16, 2020 to be valid until December 31, 2021. Thereafter, GAB has likewise extended the validity of all new GAB licenses issued from November 2021 to be valid up to December 31, 2022.

Starting around the second half of 2022, sports and amusements have started to return to normal operations. As such, applicants who have postponed their applications for licenses and/or renewal thereof have applied for or renewed their licenses. New leagues have also been

recognized, whose athletes and officials have applied for licenses outside of the traditional application period of January to March.

It has been observed by the operations divisions that many of GAB licenses issued in 2022 (and thus expiring on December 31, 2022 consistent with current practice) will be valid for only a few months, instead of the intended annual validity of licenses. This creates an iniquitous situation where the licensees will again have to pay for their license fees come January 2023 despite having just applied for or renewed their licenses.

In their respective memoranda, the Boxing and Other Contact Sports Division, Professional Sports Division, and Horse Racing Betting Supervision Division, acting on the clamor of their respective licensees, have discussed the foregoing situation and recommended the recognition of the one full year validity of licenses issued by GAB.

The above premises considered and pursuant to Section 5 of Executive Order 120 s. 1948,¹ Section 4 of Presidential Decree No. 871,² and for reasons of equity, the Boxing and Other Contact Sports Division, Professional Sports Division, and Horse Racing Betting Supervision Division are directed to observe the full year validity of licenses issued by the GAB, as follows:

1. All GAB licenses issued in 2022 are valid for one year, starting from the date of issue until the day prior to the anniversary of approval/renewal. For example, a license issued in December 5, 2022 shall be valid from December 5, 2022 to December 4, 2023. Said validity period shall be stated in the license.

¹ **SEC. 5. Licensing of officials, boxers, wrestlers, etc.**-Persons particularly directly or indirectly in a boxing or wrestling contest or exhibition, such as judges or referees, physicians, match-makers, professional boxers and wrestlers, their managers, trainers and second, timekeepers, announcers, and such other persons as may be included under this classification, shall first secure a license from the Commission before engaging as such. Such license shall be obtained yearly. xxx

² **SEC.4 - License.** No person, entity or association may employ any player, referee, scorer, timekeeper or other persons performing duties connected with professional games, unless such persons has been duly licensed by the Board. Such license shall be obtained from the Board yearly and shall, however, be subject to withdrawal or revocation in any case where the Board shall have reason to believe that any of the aforesaid persons is guilty of any dishonest or fraudulent practice, or has violated any law, decree, executive order, rule or regulation on professional basketball games or other professional games, or for any just cause.

2. The three (3) month grace period for renewal without the fifty percent (50%) penalty allowed in previous GAB Resolutions³ shall be applied to the three (3) months after the validity period. For example, a license valid up to December 4, 2022 may be renewed without penalty on or before March 4, 2023.

The above grace period refers only to the non-imposition of penalty. It does not extend the validity of the license.

3. The penalty for late renewal shall be fifty percent (50%) of the prevailing license fee at the time of renewal.
4. Any licensee who has failed to renew his/her license within two (2) years from the end of the validity period shall be considered a new licensee and shall submit all requirements for a new license.

Boxers and other contacts sports fighters shall not be considered as new or come-backing boxers/fighters for purposes of the age cut-off/requirement.

The Chief, Administrative and Finance Division/Board Secretary is hereby requested to submit the foregoing rules for the consideration of the incoming Board for application to licenses issued in 2023 and thereafter.


Atty. ERMAR U. BENITEZ
Officer-in-Charge and Chief, Legal Division

³ GAB Resolution No. 2019-03, s. 2019 – Adopting a GAB ID License Renewal System to be done on an Annual Basis from January to March of every Year.