



About The IGC

The Interactive Gaming Council, a not-for-profit organization, is the leading international interactive gambling trade association. Founded in 1996 in the US, the IGC relocated to Canada, incorporating there in March 2000, with its head office in Vancouver. The organization was established to provide a forum for interested parties to address issues and advance common interests in the global interactive gaming industry, to establish fair and responsible trade guidelines and practices that enhance consumer confidence in interactive gaming products and services, and to serve as the industry's public policy advocate and information clearinghouse. The IGC does what it set out to do, and more.

The IGC has progressed markedly since its formative years, attaining a high-profile position within a much-scrutinized industry, a focal point and public voice for a membership comprising leading industry players. These members come from around the globe, including the U.S., the U.K., South Africa, Israel, Canada, the Caribbean, Australia, Denmark and Sweden -- to mention a few.

The IGC has built a reputation for reliability, integrity and credibility through its high standards. Affiliation with our association ensures that you have a trusted organization fighting for the promotion and enhancement of our industry, fighting for you when you need it, fighting to protect your most valuable asset ... your business.

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Our Mission

The Interactive Gaming Council serves as a collective voice for the interactive gaming industry. The IGC builds credibility in the industry and creates member benefits by aggressively addressing legislative and regulatory challenges and opportunities.

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The Future of The Online Gaming Industry?



This is a subject that is paramount to all, and now is an especially strategic time to join an organization that is respected as the leading authority and spokesperson in the interactive gaming industry. The IGC has been engaged in an aggressive campaign fighting U.S. prohibition legislation such as the Internet Gambling Prohibition Act, legislation at State level (e.g. California), provisions in anti-money laundering legislation and prohibition provisions aimed at using ISPs and financial institutions as "Internet police," and in developing a strategy to combat similar objectives as they arise. More is to come with the Bachus-Leach Bill now dominating efforts to prohibit the industry. The IGC has also submitted written testimony to gaming review bodies throughout the world (e.g. the UK, Australia and New Zealand).

The IGC's concerns are global, not just related to the U.S. The industry, particularly in Europe, is growing, with an increasing number of more robust regulatory regimes. The IGC is currently actively promoting alliances with like-minded industry groups and is the driving force behind establishing an international working group of regulators.

But with more than half of online gamblers residing in the U.S., enactment of a prohibition bill in the U.S. would have a far reaching, and international, impact. Prohibition would cause a chilling effect globally. If you think that a prohibition bill would not apply to you, envision the following headline: "U.S. BANS INTERNET GAMBLING." If the industry does not unite, it will surely fall alone. The IGC is the only organization leading the way in fighting regressive legislation. The IGC retains Washington, D.C., lobbyists and well-known former gaming regulators to fight for our cause and help keep our industry viable.

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*IGC Logo*

By virtue of having the IGC logo downloaded to your business website and using our promotional materials, not to mention using the programs developed by the IGC, you are conveying to others your desire to promote and maintain acceptable and fair business practices, written and upheld by the leading authority in the industry.

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*Creating
Consumer
Confidence*



The IGC has developed the "Code of Conduct" and a set of "Responsible Gambling Guidelines," which are industry standards and policies by which all members must abide. In drafting guidelines, the IGC approaches international industry experts for input.

The IGC is an enthusiastic supporter of the self-labeling program of the Internet Content Rating Association (ICRA), which gives parents the tools to make informed decisions about their children's access to Internet sites.

The IGC and ICRA share two common goals – protecting children from potentially harmful material, while at the same time protecting the right to freedom of choice on the Internet.

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*IGC Helping  
Hand Program*



The IGC has revamped its "Helping Hand" program, a program that has been widely received. The program provides users with, amongst other things, links to compulsive / problem gambling service providers, links to general information and links to filters to assist adults in blocking access to gaming sites by minors. The program's scope has also been expanded to provide links covering a greater geographical diversity, and to include links to useful tools for operators.

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Media Awareness

The IGC has gained a widespread global media presence that has opened many important doors. It is not uncommon to see the IGC referred to in print or electronic media, or quoted by local and foreign newsgroups alike. The IGC's worldwide marketing / PR program will continue to be alert for opportunities.

Networking Opportunities



Would your business benefit if you were able to network with the industry's leading participants, including software companies and operators? How would you like to perhaps share a drink and converse with some of the most respected and knowledgeable industry experts, such as attorneys, regulators, lobbyists, marketers, consultants and guest speakers, all in a casual environment?

You would be privy to cutting edge news about our industry and its legal environment. IGC meetings are held all over the world, in conjunction with other industry conferences that would be of interest to you. We not only make it advantageous for you to attend, but we make it fun!

As with any trade group, membership often leads to new business opportunities as members interact with one another and learn more about each other's capabilities and services.

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Important IGC Initiatives

In response to pressure from U.S. banks, and in recognition of global consumer preferences in other parts of the world, gaming sites are experimenting as never before with alternate payment solutions to credit cards. Even so, the IGC recognizes the major impact that credit card issues still have on our industry, and continues to work diligently to build solid relationships and enact improvements in this area.

The IGC has a Payment Policy Working Group which continues to explore options with regard to current problems in the financial sector, and, as an extension of the Group, the IGC last year engaged Mayer Brown Rowe and Maw, a leading law firm with strong links to the card associations and banks. Representatives of the IGC also met with senior officials of VISA and MasterCard.

The IGC provides to its members a value-added B2B feature: an exclusive online forum that acts as a means of information exchange based on personal experiences and shared advice among members; and an arena to view and promote internal/external business goods and services. This B2B section of the forum will also provide non-member vendors, upon payment of a fee, an opportunity to reach IGC Members in a controlled environment devoid of any sales pressure. All business presentations will be screened but not endorsed by the IGC and will act as a guide to members who are researching various gaming issues.

Another important current initiative has been fighting against the inclusion of Internet gaming prohibition provisions in the anti-Money Laundering Legislation being considered in Washington as part of the anti-terrorism package. Obviously a sensitive issue, but one at which we have been successful to date.

The IGC submitted a response to the FATF Recommendations on Money Laundering, is developing anti-money laundering principles and procedures for its members, maintains ongoing liaisons with the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (about online gambling by minors) and is actively promoting responsible gambling initiatives such as ICRA self-labeling. It is currently drafting best practice guidelines for age and identity verification.

In Europe, the IGC plans to continue these efforts on behalf of the industry and its membership.

In Summary



Membership in the IGC is a must for leading companies associated with the online industry, regardless of geographic location and type of business (*including other industry associations*).

There is far greater impact with a united front, not to mention the ability to combine the resources of individuals into a cohesive voice.

The IGC's efforts translate into immediate benefits for its members. The advantages of membership greatly outweigh any membership cost, membership fees that should be considered a small investment that pays large dividends in the longer term. Please know that once you've joined the IGC you will be associated with the leading authority and spokespersons in our industry.

For more information about the work the IGC is doing to build credibility for online gaming and its membership or to review an application form, please visit our web site at www.igcouncil.org.

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