

March 2021

The Danish Gambling Authority blocks 55 illegal gambling sites

The Danish Gambling Authority succeeded in blocking 55 websites offering illegal gambling activities at the Danish city court. The Danish Gambling Authority has blocked websites since 2012, and this year's number of websites is the highest ever.

It is the Danish Gambling Authority's main task to ensure a fair and regulated gambling market in Denmark, where players are protected against unfair and illegal gambling. Therefore, gambling operators must have a licence from the Danish Gambling Authority to offer gambling products and services in Denmark.

The Danish Gambling Authority continuously work to close and block websites that offer illegal gambling by aiming their activities towards the Danish market without a licence from the Danish Gambling Authority, *cf. box 1*.

Most recently the city court ruled in favour of the Danish Gambling Authority to have all 55 sites blocked for offering illegal gambling. 32 of the websites offered betting, online casino and lottery illegally and the remaining 23 websites offered skin betting illegally, that is games, where virtual items from video games are gambled instead of money. Most of the sites offered a single type of gambling, while some offered more types of gambling activities at the same time, e.g. both online casino and lottery, *cf. figure 1*.

For comparison, nine websites offering online casino and online betting were blocked in 2020, and in addition to this, seven skin betting sites were also blocked.



Figure 1. Blocked websites with illegal provision of gambling in March 2021



Source: the Danish Gambling Authority.

How does the Danish Gambling Authority work to combat illegal gambling?

The Danish Gambling Authority continuously monitor the gambling market to detect illegal gambling. This is for example done by searching for potentially illegal gambling websites in cooperation with the Danish Tax Agency. In addition to this, the Danish Gambling Authority follow up on the reports received from citizens and businesses.

When the Danish Gambling Authority become aware of a website offering illegal gambling or illegal mediation, they send a request to the owners of the website. In this letter, they inform the owners of the violation and request that the website stops the illegal provision of gambling. In several cases, the request is sufficient to stop the violation, as the operators have complied with the Danish Gambling Authority's request.

If the illegal provision of gambling does not cease, the Danish Gambling Authority can have the website blocked with the Danish Internet providers via the city court. Since the current Gambling Act entered into force in 2012, the Danish Gambling Authority has had a total of 145

websites blocked via the city court. In all cases tried since 2012, the city court has ruled in favour of the Danish Gambling Authority.

Box 1. When is gambling illegal in Denmark?

It is illegal to provide gambling in Denmark without a licence from the Danish Gambling Authority. The same applies if a foreign gambling operator aims its gambling activities towards Denmark. A game is considered aimed at the Danish market if one or more of the following elements are present:

- Danish language
- Danish currency
- Debit cards that only work in Denmark
- Danish customer service
- Steam as login solution (Digital distribution platform for video games)

It is also against the Gambling Act to mediate or advertise gambling operators without a licence.

145

Websites blocked

Since 2012 and up until today, the Danish Gambling Authority have successfully had 145 websites offering illegal gambling blocked via the city court.

