

IGCCB/IPGGC Restructuring of Certifications Statement

(December 2, 2024)

IGCCB/IPGGC Summary of Changes

1. The International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (IGCCB) has been renamed to the International Problem Gambling and Gaming Certification Organization (IPGGC).
2. The IPGGC is restructuring its certification program to better serve the evolving gambling and gaming industry. New certification tracks are being introduced:
 - a. Clinical Treatment,
 - b. Prevention,
 - c. Responsible Gambling/Gaming Industry, and
 - d. Peer Recovery.
3. Individuals with lived experience and without clinical education that currently hold ICGC-I or ICGC-II certifications will be converted to IGRS and BARA certifications.
4. The ICOGS and CGT certifications will be retired on December 31, 2024. No new applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2025.
5. Changes to the certification process include
 - a. new sign-off requirements for all certifications,
 - b. BACC training, and
 - c. Updated Codes of Ethics and Professional Conduct.

IGCCB/IPGGC Restructuring of Certifications Statement

(November 21, 2024)

We are excited to share several changes at the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (IGCCB). Our goal is to establish a clear, unified vision and strategic plan that addresses the evolving needs of those affected by gambling and gaming disorder issues. By streamlining processes and enhancing communication, we aim to eliminate confusion and provide clarity in certification roles. This focus will empower us to expand our reach, connect with diverse communities, and ultimately provide the highest quality certification services to those directly and indirectly impacted by gambling and gaming related harms.

1. **IGCCB** has a name change from **International Gambling Counselor Certification Board to International Problem Gambling and Gaming Certification Organization (IPGGC)**. This comes with the IRS status change to 501c3 in 2024.
2. **IPGGC Announces Restructuring of Certifications to Better Serve the Gambling and Gaming Industry**

The International Problem Gambling and Gaming Certification Organization (IPGGC) is excited to announce significant upgrades to the leading international certification program. These changes are designed to better empower the gambling and gaming ecosystem, enhance clarity for both professionals and the public, and strengthen the IPGGC's commitment to evidence-backed responsible gambling practices.

Why the Change?

As the field of gambling and gaming has evolved, so too has the need for specialized knowledge and skills. The IPGGC recognizes the importance of providing certifications that accurately reflect the diverse roles within this field. We aim to protect the client, the peer support professional, the treating clinician, and the Board. This will address the “Reasonable Person Standard” where public perception guides legal liability. This restructuring aims to achieve the following:

- **Clearer Role Delineation:** The introduction of distinct certification tracks – Clinical Treatment, Prevention, Responsible Gambling/Gaming Industry, and Peer Recovery – will provide a more precise definition of professional competencies and ethical standards within each area.
- **Enhanced Public Understanding:** By offering distinct certifications, the IPGGC aims to reduce confusion among the general public regarding the qualifications and scope of practice of certified professionals. This clarity will help individuals and their families seeking assistance to identify the appropriate professionals for their needs.
- **Mitigation of Risk:** The revised certification structure will mitigate the risk of misrepresentation by clearly defining the scope of practice for each certification. This will help to protect both the public and certified professionals from potential legal and compliance liabilities.
- **Streamlined Application Criteria:** The IPGGC has revised its application criteria to be more clear, concise, and in accordance with industry standards and requirements. This will ensure that all applicants meet the necessary qualifications for certification. These changes will appear in the Certemy application that manages all new and renewing certifications.

3. What's New?

The IPGGC will now offer certifications in distinct tracks:

- **Clinical Treatment:** This track is designed for clinicians who provide treatment to individuals and families affected by gambling and gaming disorders. Certifications in this track will focus on evidence-based treatment modalities and ethical considerations.
- **Prevention:** This track is designed for Prevention Specialists in the problem gambling and gaming field to educate and raise awareness about the risks and consequences of problem gambling and gaming. These certifications will validate the knowledge, skills, and experience of professionals who work to educate the public about the risks of problem gambling and gaming, develop and implement effective

prevention programs, and collaborate with community partners to promote responsible gambling and gaming practices. By establishing clear standards and benchmarks, we aim to enhance the effectiveness of prevention programs and ultimately reduce the negative impacts of problem gambling and gaming on individuals and communities.

- **Responsible Gambling/Gaming Industry:** This track is designed for professionals working in the gambling and gaming industry who are committed to promoting responsible gambling practices. Certifications in this track will focus on areas such as prevention, education, awareness, and regulatory compliance.
- **Peer Recovery:** This track is designed for individuals with lived experience with gambling disorder who provide support and guidance to others in recovery as peers. Certifications in this track will focus on peer support principles and ethical considerations.

Clinical Treatment	Prevention	RG/Gaming Industry	Peer Recovery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ICGC-I ● ICGC-II ● IGDC ● BACC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Clergy/Lay Person ● Prevention Specialist - In Process 	In Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● IGRS ● BARA

Our Commitment Remains Strong

The IPGGC remains committed to its overarching goal of helping people harmed by gambling and/or gaming. These changes are designed to strengthen the organization's ability to achieve this goal by providing multiple stakeholders with the knowledge, skills, and ethical framework necessary to provide effective, specialized support to those in need and promote the reduction of gambling-related harms.

The IPGGC's decision to remove Peer Specialists from holding ICGC-I or ICGC-II certifications reflects a proactive approach to managing public perception and the associated potential legal liability. Simultaneously, this decision empowers the IGRS certification, allowing peer recovery trained individuals to gain bespoke certification through a best-in-class customized program. By ensuring that only those with direct clinical training & experience are certified, the IPGGC strengthens the public's trust in the gambling and gaming disorder counseling profession. This action minimizes the risk of potential legal challenges arising from individuals without clinical education and training providing counseling services, which may lead to misinterpretations or mismanagement of the care and treatment related to gambling and gaming disorders. This move emphasizes the importance of clinical training and experience in ensuring competent counseling and safeguards the public and the profession's reputation.

Looking Ahead

The IPGGC is confident that these changes will benefit all certified professionals and the public by providing greater certification clarity, enhancing professional development, and strengthening the organization's commitment to responsible gambling and gaming. We encourage all current and prospective certification holders to explore the new certification structure and consider how these changes can support their professional goals while mitigating any potential legal liabilities.

4. Defining The Future of Certification

Please see below for relevant certification updates and how they may apply to both certified professionals and the public.

- Peers with lived experience currently holding ICGC-I certifications shall be converted to IGRS certifications.
- Peers with lived experience currently holding ICGC-II certifications shall be converted to IGRS and BARA certifications.

The conversion is available by contacting the board and requesting the change, or it will be offered at the time of expiration of the existing certification.

- The ICOGS and CGT certifications shall be formally retired on December 31, 2024. All existing ICOGS and CGT certifications will continue as is within the Certemy recertification process. No new ICOGS or CGT applications will be available starting January 1, 2025.

Additionally, ongoing process updates for all certifications may be found below:

- For new clinical certifications, we will now require sign-off by one (1) BACC and one (1) colleague. This change is designed to remove confusion as to who is a clinical supervisor or colleague.
- Individuals who apply for BACC & BARA certifications shall be required to complete a training on what is expected of the BACC/BARA certification and their role.
- All current BACCs will be required to complete a training on what is expected of the BACC role as part of recertification.
- All new and existing certification holders shall be required to review and sign an updated Code of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.
- All BACC, ICGC-I, ICGC-II, IGDC recertifications shall now include the uploading of their most recent and/or highest level of education and licensure (where applicable). This could be a college transcript, local license, or other documentation of their clinical education. We are requiring this since we have the duty to conduct internal audits as needed for compliance to ensure we are legally maintaining correct public records in the public directory.