



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **International Problem Gambling and Gaming Certification Organization (IPGGC) Advances Global Reach and Specialized Certifications to Bolster Support for Evolving Field**

**June 1, 2025** – Building on its successful rebranding in January, the International Problem Gambling and Gaming Certification Organization (IPGGC) today announced significant strides in its mission to provide comprehensive support and specialized certifications for professionals addressing gambling and gaming disorders worldwide. The organization is intensifying its focus on empowering diverse support roles and expanding its international partnerships to meet the growing global demand for qualified expertise.

Since its transition from the International Gambling Counselor Certification Board (IGCCB), IPGGC has solidified its position as a leading authority in certification, committed to fostering a highly skilled and ethically sound workforce across the spectrum of problem gambling and gaming support.

#### **Empowering Diverse Support Roles Through Specialized Certifications:**

IPGGC's restructured certification program is designed to provide clear pathways and competencies for a wide array of professionals dedicated to mitigating gambling and gaming harms. These specialized tracks ensure that individuals and communities receive targeted, high-quality support:

- **Clinical Treatment:** Certifying clinicians who provide evidence-based therapeutic interventions for individuals and families affected by gambling and gaming disorders.
- **Prevention:** Equipping specialists with the knowledge and tools to educate the public, raise awareness, and implement effective prevention strategies.
- **Responsible Gambling/Gaming Industry:** Supporting industry professionals committed to integrating and promoting responsible gambling practices, education, and regulatory compliance within their operations.
- **Peer Recovery:** Providing specialized certification for individuals with lived experience who offer invaluable support and guidance to others on their recovery journeys.

This strategic delineation of certifications ensures that professionals are recognized for their specific expertise, enhancing public trust and clarity within the field.

#### **Expanding Global Impact Through Strategic Partnerships:**

IPGGC is actively forging and strengthening international collaborations to extend its reach and impact across continents. These partnerships are crucial in building a global network of certified professionals and advocating for best practices:



- **LATAM Partnership:** This initiative focuses on collaborating with mental health professionals across various Latin American countries. The goal is to facilitate their certification in responsible gambling/gaming and pathological gambling, addressing a critical need for specialized expertise in the region.
- **Asia-Pacific Partnership with Seagulls Flock Organization (SFO):** Through this vital alliance, SFO in the Philippines serves as IPGGC's local representative, providing a voice and presence in the Asia-Pacific Region. SFO assists individuals in becoming certified according to IPGGC standards, while IPGGC equips SFO with the necessary tools and training to offer local and regional training. In May, Seagulls Flock Organization hosted the 2nd annual International Conference on Responsible Gambling and Gaming Addiction in Manila, Philippines.

"Our growth is a testament to the increasing recognition of the need for specialized, ethical, and globally consistent standards in addressing problem gambling and gaming," said Jody Bechtold, President of the IPGGC Board of Directors. "By focusing on tailored certifications and cultivating strong international partnerships, IPGGC is not only empowering professionals but also ensuring that individuals impacted by these issues receive the highest quality of care and support, no matter where they are in the world."

IPGGC remains dedicated to its overarching mission of reducing the harms associated with gambling and gaming. The organization encourages all current and prospective certification holders, as well as global partners, to engage with its evolving framework and contribute to a more robust and responsive international support system.

**About IPGGC:** The International Problem Gambling and Gaming Certification Organization (IPGGC) is a leading international body dedicated to certifying professionals in the field of problem gambling and gaming. Through rigorous standards, comprehensive certification programs, and strategic global partnerships, IPGGC aims to enhance the quality of care, promote responsible practices, and reduce the harms associated with gambling and gaming disorders worldwide.

**Contact:** [certification@igccb.org](mailto:certification@igccb.org)

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