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Claims club encouraged gambling

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A SYDNEY club could face fines of up to \$300,000 if found to have breached anti-gambling laws, Gaming Minister Grant McBride said today.

The Moorebank Sports Club is under investigation by the Department of Gaming and Racing following reports it instructed staff to encourage customers to play the pokies.

"This is totally in opposition to the ethos of clubs," Mr McBride told reporters in Sydney today.

"Clubs are ... about community organisations doing the best they can for their local community, and returning funds to their local community.

"Over the last six years, we've been working very hard at the issue of problem gambling in our society and we've made lots of reforms ... in that particular area.

"What we've got is a club with a policy ... in total conflict with that.

"If they're in breach of the legislation, they could incur fines of up to \$300,000."

In a customer service handbook signed by each staff member, the Moorebank club allegedly instructed employees not to issue \$2 coins because "you cannot fit a \$2 coin into a gaming machine", *The Daily Telegraph* reported today.

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