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Forex license in the Bahamas

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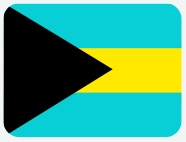

Flag

Regulator	Securities Commission of The Bahamas (SCB) [1]
License	Registration for dealing in capital markets instruments, with the separate registration for dealing in contracts for differences [1] [2]
Legal basis	Securities Industry Act, 2024; Securities Industry (Contracts for Differences) Rules, 2020 [1] [2]
Minimum capital	US$300,000 (reported) [3] [4]
Application fee	Set by the Securities Industry (Fee) Rules, 2024, with a separate fee line for CFD firms [4]
Decision time	No statutory deadline confirmed
Retail leverage, major FX	Firm policy approved by SCB (proposed) [3]
Negative balance protection	Not confirmed
Compensation scheme	None
Cross-border passport	No

Licensed firms	No published figure found [6] [7]
Public register	SCB registrants

In short: Forex and CFD brokers in the Bahamas are licensed by the Securities Commission of The Bahamas (SCB). [1] Minimum capital: US$300,000 (reported). [3] [4] Retail leverage on major currency pairs: Firm policy approved by SCB (proposed). [3] Compensation if the firm fails: none. Figures as of November 2026.

The Bahamas has a dedicated regime for CFD and forex providers: the **Securities Industry (Contracts for Differences) Rules, 2020**, now under the **Securities Industry Act, 2024**, supervised by the **Securities Commission of The Bahamas (SCB)**. Several large broker groups use Bahamas entities, and in 2026 the SCB consulted on stricter capital and retail margin rules.

License types

The license used by forex and CFD brokers in the Bahamas: Registration for dealing in capital markets instruments, with the separate registration for dealing in contracts for differences. [1] [2] Legal basis: Securities Industry Act, 2024; Securities Industry (Contracts for Differences) Rules, 2020. [1] [2]

- **Dealing in capital markets instruments** – agent or principal
- **Dealing restricted to CFDs** – the CFD firm registration
- **Arranging, advising, managing** – other registration categories

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in the Bahamas (2026): Advisers report minimum capital of US$300,000 for dealing; in 2026 the SCB consulted on amendments that would impose a regulatory capital minimum amount for CFD firms. [3] [4]

Application fee: Set by the Securities Industry (Fee) Rules, 2024, with a separate fee line for CFD firms. [4]

Capital is only the regulatory floor. Staff, audit, compliance, technology and liquidity usually cost more than the capital itself, and regulators expect a realistic budget for the first years.

Application process

Decision time: No statutory deadline confirmed. The usual steps are:

1. Set up a Bahamas company with a physical office.
2. File Form CFD1 for the firm and registrations for the CEO, compliance officer and CFD supervisors.
3. Show capital that meets the requirement for the proposed activities.
4. Pay the fees under the 2024 Fee Rules.
5. Operate under the CFD Rules and report to the SCB.

Substance and governance

Registration of a CEO, compliance officer and CFD supervisory staff with the SCB; a physical presence in The Bahamas. [2]

Trader protection

What the SCB rules guarantee a retail client, as of November 2026. See Trader protection for the same rules in every jurisdiction.

Protection	Rule in the Bahamas
Retail leverage limits	No fixed leverage cap; under the 2026 draft rules each CFD firm would need an SCB-approved minimum margin policy for retail clients. [3]
Negative balance protection	Not confirmed.
Client money	Client asset rules apply under the Act and CFD Rules. [1]
Compensation if the firm fails	No investor compensation scheme.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

No published count of CFD firms found (as of November 2026). The SCB publishes a monthly list of firms registered under the Securities Industry Act 2024, which shows each firm's categories, including registered CFD supervisory officers, but gives no total. In May 2026 three CFD brokers (Trade Nation, Pepperstone and Capital.com) founded an industry body for Bahamas CFD issuers. [6] [7]

> Counts change month to month and regulators count differently (some include banks, fund managers or every investment firm). The public register is the only current source.

Recent changes

In August 2026 the SCB published draft CFD amendment rules that would add a regulatory capital minimum and require an approved minimum margin policy for retail clients. Pepperstone, Capital.com and Trade Nation set up an industry body, the Bahamas Institute of Forex and CFD Issuers. [3] [5]

How to verify a license

1. Find the exact legal name and license number of the entity you would contract with, usually in the website footer or the client agreement.
2. Search for it on the regulator's own register: SCB registrants .
3. Check that the website address and contact details on the register match the site you are using, to rule out a clone firm.
4. Check which group entity your account would be opened with: brands often run several entities under different regulators.

Frequently asked questions

Does The Bahamas regulate CFD brokers?

Yes, through the SCB under the CFD Rules 2020 and the Securities Industry Act 2024.

Does The Bahamas cap retail leverage?

Not with a fixed ratio. The 2026 draft rules would make each firm's retail margin policy subject to SCB approval.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the SCB or a qualified adviser before applying. Where we could not confirm a figure from an official source, this article says so.

See also

- Forex licenses compared
- Forex license in the Cayman Islands
- Forex license in the United States
- Forex license in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
- Forex license in Saint Lucia
- How to verify a broker's license
- All jurisdictions

References

Entries marked **Official** are the regulator, the law or another public body. Other entries are named secondary sources, used where we could not find the figure published officially.

1. Official Securities Industry Act, 2024 (gazetted) . Securities Commission of The Bahamas. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Form CFD1: application for registration including dealing in CFDs (Securities Industry (Contracts for Differences) Rules, 2020) . Securities Commission of The Bahamas. Accessed November 2026.
3. Official Draft Securities Industry (Contracts for Differences) (Amendment) Rules, 2026: consultation . Securities Commission of The Bahamas. Accessed November 2026.
4. Bahamas Forex, CFD & Broker-Dealer License: SCB registration . Zitadelle AG. Accessed November 2026.
5. Pepperstone, Capital.com, and Trade Nation Establish Rare Collective Voice in Bahamas . Finance Magnates. Accessed November 2026.

6. Official Securities Industry Act 2024: registrants as at 30 June 2026 . Securities Commission of The Bahamas. Accessed November 2026.
7. Bahamas' financial sector matures as top CFD firms form industry body . BriefGlance. Accessed November 2026.

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