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Forex license in Belize

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Forex license in Belize



Flag

Regulator	Financial Services Commission (FSC) of Belize, formerly the IFSC [1]
License	Licence for trading in securities (financial and commodity-based derivatives, including FX) under the Financial Services Commission Act [3] [4]
Legal basis	Financial Services Commission Act; FSC (Licensing) Regulations 2023; FSC (Capital Requirement) Regulations 2023 [1] [2] [4]
Minimum capital	US$500,000 (reported) [1] [5]
Application fee	Set by the FSC's fee rules; the 2017 reform raised the annual licence fee to US$25,000 [5]
Decision time	No statutory deadline confirmed
Retail leverage, major FX	No cap found [3]
Negative balance protection	Not required
Compensation scheme	None

Cross-border passport	No
Licensed firms	No published figure found
Public register	FSC Belize licensees

In short: Forex and CFD brokers in Belize are licensed by the Financial Services Commission (FSC) of Belize, formerly the IFSC. [1] Minimum capital: US$500,000 (reported). [1] [5] Retail leverage on major currency pairs: No cap found. [3] Compensation if the firm fails: none. Figures as of November 2026.

Belize licenses forex and CFD brokers through its **Financial Services Commission (FSC)**, which replaced the International Financial Services Commission. Brokers hold a licence for **trading in securities**, covering financial and commodity-based derivatives, and must deposit their capital at a bank before the licence is issued.

License types

The license used by forex and CFD brokers in Belize: Licence for trading in securities (financial and commodity-based derivatives, including FX) under the Financial Services Commission Act. [3] [4] Legal basis: Financial Services Commission Act; FSC (Licensing) Regulations 2023; FSC (Capital Requirement) Regulations 2023. [1] [2] [4]

- **Trading in securities (derivatives, FX)** – the licence used by forex and CFD brokers
- **Brokerage, consultancy and advisory services** – for intermediaries and introducers

Capital and financial requirements

Minimum capital in Belize (2026): Fully paid-up, unimpaired capital deposited at a bank before the licence is issued, at the amount set in the 2023 regulations' schedule. The figure widely reported since 2017 is US$500,000 for FX and derivatives brokers; confirm the current schedule with the FSC. [1] [5]

Application fee: Set by the FSC's fee rules; the 2017 reform raised the annual licence fee to US$25,000. [5]

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. Form a Belize company through a licensed registered agent.
2. Prepare the application, fit and proper documents and business plan under the 2023 Licensing Regulations.
3. Deposit the fully paid-up capital and provide the bank's confirmation.
4. The FSC may approve the licence on condition that capital is in place within three months.
5. Operate under the standard licence conditions and report to the FSC.

Substance and governance

A physical address in Belize is one element of the economic substance test; companies within the substance rules must hold their capital at a bank in Belize. [1] [4]

Trader protection

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

Protection	Rule in Belize
Retail leverage limits	No statutory retail leverage cap found. Licence conditions limit FX dealing to over-the-counter markets and organised exchanges. [3]
Negative balance protection	Not required by regulation as far as we could confirm.
Client money	Licence conditions require client orders to be handled in order of receipt and net capital compliance; check the conditions for client money. [3]
Compensation if the firm fails	No investor compensation scheme.
Serving clients abroad	No.

Number of licensed firms

No published figure found (as of November 2026). The Belize FSC does not publish a count of trading-in-securities or forex licensees; use its online licensee search to check a firm.

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

New Licensing and Capital Requirement Regulations took effect in November 2023, replacing the 2020 capital rules; existing licensees' capital was carried over. [1] [2]

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: FSC Belize licensees .
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

What capital does a Belize forex broker need?

The 2023 regulations set it by schedule. The figure reported since 2017 for FX and derivatives brokers is US$500,000, deposited at a bank before the licence is issued.

Does Belize cap leverage?

We found no retail leverage cap in the FSC rules we reviewed.

Figures as of November 2026. Requirements, fees and capital change; confirm with the FSC Belize 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 Financial Services Commission (Capital Requirement) Regulations, 2023 (S.I. No. 129 of 2023) . Financial Services Commission of Belize. Accessed November 2026.
2. Official Financial Services Commission (Licensing) Regulations, 2023 (S.I. No. 120 of 2023) . Financial Services Commission of Belize. Accessed November 2026.
3. Official Trading in Securities licence: standard conditions . Financial Services Commission of Belize. Accessed November 2026.
4. Official Frequently asked questions . Financial Services Commission of Belize. Accessed November 2026.
5. Exclusive: Belize IFSC Begins Enforcement of New Capital Requirements (15 February 2017) . Finance Magnates. Accessed November 2026.

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