Director's Advisory Bulletin: 2019-01

RE: Media References to Unauthorized Sports Wagering Websites

The purpose of this Director's Advisory Bulletin is to inform news and media outlets and other entities engaged in sportsbook advertising in New Jersey about the importance of not endorsing or referencing internet sportsbook operators that are not authorized to accept wagers from customers located in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement (DGE) is charged with protecting New Jersey's consumers from the dangers posed by these illicit sites, which, in addition to not being authorized to accept wagers from New Jersey based customers, lack consumer protections, integrity protocols, and money laundering controls. Due to these concerns, DGE recommends that outlets engage in the following practices when discussing sports wagering websites:

- Only source information from sites that are licensed either in New Jersey or another jurisdiction.
- Limit discussion on wagering odds for an event when there is no authorized source available.
- If an unauthorized site must be mentioned in a report, include a statement that the site is not licensed to provide sports wagering bets in New Jersey, and direct readers to the DGE website that contains the approved list of sports wagering entities and events.
- Avoid including a hyperlink that takes readers directly to an unauthorized website, as individuals may utilize this path to access illicit wagering.
- Contact DGE at info@njdge.org for any questions on unauthorized wagers.

DGE encourages all outlets to follow these suggestions but reminds entities that are licensed or registered with DGE that they are obligated to comply with DGE's mission to uphold the integrity of the Casino Control Act. See N.J.S.A. 5:12-80b and 80d. DGE also reminds outlets that, consistent with its June 4, 2015 Director's Advisory Bulletin, they should not enter contracts with illegal sites, as such contracts will negatively impact their suitability for licensure.
DGE is committed to work with news and media outlets to educate them about unauthorized gaming websites. A news or media outlet that has been in contact with a website offering unauthorized wagering is encouraged to contact DGE immediately, regardless of whether the outlet is presently licensed or registered with DGE, to obtain more information on the standards for sports wagering licensure in New Jersey.

Dated: November 24, 2019

David Rebuck
Director