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PRESS RELEASE

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Alert Issued to Consumers with Additional March Madness Wagering Information to Help Protect Marylanders

BALTIMORE, MD (March 19, 2024) – March Madness is officially here! The NCAA tournament games are underway today with the First Four playing this evening. Our office alerted consumers last week to be wary of scams and aggressive marketing that may persuade bettors to risk more money than they intended to (<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/031524.pdf>). Today, we issued a consumer alert with some important information from the Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency (MLGCA) to help consumers make informed choices about wagering legally. This alert was issued to all consumers who have subscribed to receive consumer information from our office. Consumers can subscribe to this list here: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/MDAG/subscriber/new>.

In Maryland, the only legal wagering on sporting events is through sports wagering operators that are licensed and regulated by MLGCA. Marylanders can legally wager on sporting events at 13 retail locations or online with one of 11 websites/mobile apps licensed in the state. To find a list of Maryland's current sports wagering licensees and their operator partners (located under the Current Sports Wagering Licensees heading), click <https://www.mdgaming.com/maryland-sports-wagering/>.

Marylanders can also legally participate in online fantasy sports competitions that are offered by fantasy competition operators who are registered with the MLGCA. To find a list of online fantasy competition operators that have notified the MLGCA that they are qualified to do business in Maryland (located under the Approved Online Fantasy Competition Operators heading), click <https://www.mdgaming.com/ancillary-responsibilities/fantasy-competitions/>.

No other online gaming activity is currently legal in Maryland.

Because illegal online gaming platforms are not regulated, they pose many risks, including a heightened risk of fraud and identity theft. The Office of the Attorney General and MLGCA urge Marylanders not to use illegal sports wagering or fantasy competition operators. Gaming operators are required by law to take specific measures to protect your identity and the cash deposits you make into your account. They are also required to clearly and conspicuously show

customers the terms and conditions for their accounts and for promotions that the companies offer. MLGCA has prohibited licensed operators from using terms like “risk-free” or “guaranteed.” If you see that language, do not use those gaming platforms.

To best protect yourself from fraud, identity theft, and misleading information when gaming online, use only sports wagering or fantasy competition operators listed on the MLGCA website. If you are not sure whether a website, app or business is licensed, call MLGCA at 410-230-8800 to find out, or visit www.mdgaming.com. If you see promotions or advertising that appear to be a scam, risky, or fraudulent, stop playing.

Remember that gambling causes financial losses and should only be done in moderation. Maryland residents seeking help with a gambling problem are encouraged to call 1-800-GAMBLER, a free and confidential helpline that is available 24 hours a day and is staffed by peer counselors and professionals from the Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling, a division of the State of Maryland’s Behavioral Health Administration. Additional information on problem gambling resources is available by visiting www.mdgamblinghelp.org.

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<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2024/031924.pdf>