

**STATE OF ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD**

RULE 1900.1170(j) ORDER

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

*In re Casino Queen, Inc.
February 2 2022 Burkina Faso-Senegal*

ORDER

This matter comes before the Illinois Gaming Board (the “Board” or “IGB”) under Section 1900.1170 (“Cancelled or Void Wagers”) of the Board’s Adopted Rules for Sports Wagering (the “Rules”). 11 Ill. Adm. Code 1900.1170. This Order issues under Rule 1170(j). 11 Ill. Adm. Code 1900.1170(j).

I. SUMMARY

On February 7, 2022, sports wagering patron Rabah Hattab (“Hattab”) submitted a Sports Wagering Rule 1900.1170(j) request seeking Administrator review of a voided wager Hattab placed on February 2, 2022 through Crown IL Gaming LLC (“DraftKings”).¹ On February 3, 2022, DraftKings voided the wager pursuant to Sports Wagering Rule 1900.1170(k) on the grounds of the obvious error that DraftKings made the wager available after the outcome was already determined and publicly known.

For the reasons discussed below, I find a reasonable basis exists to believe there was obvious error in the placement or acceptance of Hattab’s wager. Accordingly, Hattab’s request is denied and the subject wager remains void.

II. RELEVANT FACTUAL BACKGROUND

DraftKings is a Management Services Provider Temporary Operating Permit Holder, conducting the sports wagering operation on behalf of Master Sports Wagering Licensee DraftKings at Casino Queen. During all relevant times, DraftKings offered wagering on international soccer games, including the Africa Cup of Nations. In addition to offering wagers on the final outcomes of the Africa Cup of Nations matches, DraftKings offered a variety of proposition bets (“prop bets”) on those games, including whether a particular player would score a goal. DraftKings determines the outcome of such prop bets based on data DraftKings receives from a third party data provider, Sportradar.

On February 2, 2022, Burkina Faso played Senegal in the Africa Cup of Nations tournament. During the match, one of the wagers DraftKings offered was whether Senegal player Idrissa

¹ DraftKings accepts Illinois sports wagers on behalf of Casino Queen, Inc. d/b/a DraftKings at Casino Queen (“DraftKings at Casino Queen”) in East St. Louis, Illinois.

Gueye (“Gueye”) would score a goal. At approximately 2:39 PM Central Time, Gueye scored a goal.² Due to human and technical errors related to the data feed from Sportradar, the wager on whether Gueye would score a goal was not promptly removed from the DraftKings list of offerings. At approximately 2:44 PM Central Time, roughly five minutes after Gueye had already scored against Burkina Faso, Hattab placed a wager that Gueye would score a goal in that match. Sportradar subsequently notified DraftKings of the data feed error that allowed Hattab to place the subject wager. On February 3, 2022, DraftKings voided Hattab’s wager under Rule 1170(k), citing the obvious error of making a wager available after the outcome of the wager was determined and publicly known.

On February 7, 2022, Hattab submitted a Rule 1170(j) request for Administrator review of DraftKings’ determination to void the subject wager.

III. DISCUSSION

Our analysis begins with Sports Wagering Rule 1170(k). Under the Rule, a sports wagering operator may void a wager where there was obvious error in the placement or acceptance of the wager. Specifically, Rule 1170(k) provides as follows:

A master sports wagering licensee may declare a wager to be void if the licensee has reasonable basis to believe there was obvious error in the placement or acceptance of the wager. Those errors include, but are not limited to:

1. The wager was placed with incorrect odds;
2. Human error in the placement of the wager;
3. The ticket does not correctly reflect the wager; or
4. Equipment failure rendering a ticket unreadable

11 Ill. Adm. Code 1900.1170(k)

Sports Wagering Rule 1170(j) allows a patron to ask the Administrator to review any wager voided by a sports wagering operator. If the Administrator concludes there is no reasonable basis to believe there was obvious error in the placement or acceptance of the wager, the Administrator may order the master sports wagering operator to honor the wager.

In this case, human and technical errors combined to enable DraftKings to make a wager available after the outcome of the wager was already determined and publicly known. Indeed, Hattab bet that Senegal’s Gueye would score a goal against Burkina Faso five minutes *after* Gueye already scored. Media reports and public information about the Burkina Faso – Senegal

² The Guardian, *GOAL! Senegal 2-0 Burkina Faso (I Gueye 76)*, (February 2, 2022, 3:40 PM Eastern), <https://www.theguardian.com/football/live/2022/feb/02/burkina-faso-v-senegal-africa-cup-of-nations-semi-final-live-score-updates?filterKeyEvents=false&page=with:block-61faebdd8f08ed69ff281298#block-61faebdd8f08ed69ff281298>.

Africa Cup of Nations match, as well as contemporaneous internal documentation from DraftKings and Sportradar, confirm the sequence and timing of these events. Had those errors not occurred, DraftKings would not have made the wager available to the public and Hattab would never have had the opportunity to place the wager. There can be no doubt that the option to place the subject wager after the outcome was determined and publicly known should never have been available to Hattab under any circumstances. This is not unique to Hattab or his wager, but is instead a fundamental aspect of maintaining the integrity and fairness of sports wagering.

It is unnecessary to examine a patron's behavior to draw inferences as to whether the patron was aware of the erroneously offered wager, or intentionally sought to take advantage of the error to their own benefit. Accordingly, this Order draws no conclusions and makes no judgment in that regard.

IV. CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, there is reasonable basis to believe there was obvious error in the availability of the subject wager after the outcome was determined and known. Therefore, Hattab's request under 11 Ill. Admin. Code 1900.1170(j) is hereby **DENIED**.

Entered: February 18, 2021



Marcus D. Fruchter
Administrator
Illinois Gaming Board