



# ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD

JB Pritzker • Governor Charles Schmadeke • Chairman Marcus D. Fruchter • Administrator

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February 3, 2025

**Via Email:** [service@bovada.lv](mailto:service@bovada.lv)

Harp Media B.V.  
17 Chuchubiweg  
Willemstad, Curacao

**RE: Suspected Illegal Sports Wagering by Harp Media B.V.**

To Whom It May Concern:

The Illinois Gaming Board (the “IGB”) has reason to believe that Harp Media B.V. d/b/a *Bovada.lv*, *Bovada.com* and *Bovado.com* (hereafter “Bovada”) is engaging in unlicensed sports wagering in violation of the Illinois Sports Wagering Act, 230 ILCS 45, and Illinois Criminal Code, 720 ILCS 5/28-1(a).

Under Illinois law, “sports wagering” means accepting wagers on sports events or portions of sporting events, or on individual statistics of athletes in sports events or combination of sports events, by any system or method of wagering, including, but not limited to, in person or over the Internet through websites or on mobile devices. Sports wagering includes, but is not limited to, single-game bets, teaser bets, parlays, over-under, moneyline, pools, exchange wagering, in-game wagering, in-play bets, proposition bets, and straight bets. 230 ILCS 45/25-10.

No person or entity may engage in a sports wagering operation or activity in Illinois unless licensed by the IGB. 230 ILCS 45/25-20(a). It is unlawful to knowingly establish, maintain, or operate an Internet site that permits a person to play a game of chance or skill for money or other thing of value via the Internet, or that permits a person to make a wager upon the result of any sport, game, contest, political nomination, appointment, or election via the Internet, without an IGB-issued license. 720 ILCS 5/28-1(a)(12); 230 ILCS 10/18(a)(1); 730 ILCS 5/5-4.5-55; 11 Ill. Adm. Code 1900.1210(a).

The IGB is aware that Bovada is engaged in sports wagering activity in Illinois over the Internet and on mobile devices. The IGB has neither licensed nor authorized Bovada to engage in sports wagering activity. Consequently, Bovada’s activity constitutes illegal gambling in violation of Illinois law. **Accordingly, Bovada and anyone affiliated with its operations are directed to cease and desist this illegal activity. Failure to comply may subject Bovada to civil or criminal penalties.**

Please contact the IGB Legal Division at [IGB.Legal@illinois.gov](mailto:IGB.Legal@illinois.gov) should you have any questions.

Kind regards,

Marcus D. Fruchter  
Administrator

cc: IGB Legal Division  
IGB Field Operations Division  
Illinois State Police – Statewide Gaming Command  
Office of the Illinois Attorney General