



Memorandum

Date: March 5, 2024

To: All Sports Wagering Class A and B Operators
Washington, D.C.

From: Peter S. Alvarado, Director *Peter Alvarado*
Regulation and Oversight Division
Office of Lottery and Gaming (“OLG”)

In re: Wagers on Collegiate Sports or Athletic Events taking place in the District of Columbia

On February 2, 2024, OLG published in the District of Columbia Register a proposal to amend 30 DCMR § 2127. Specifically, the amendment would eliminate the prohibition on wagers associated with collegiate sports or athletic events that take place in the District of Columbia. 30 DCMR § 2127.1(b). The 30-day comment period expired on March 3, 2024. OLG did not receive any comments.

OLG has submitted to the District of Columbia Register for publication the final rulemaking to adopt the proposed rule, unchanged, from the proposed rule published on February 2, 2024. The final rule will be published within 2-3 weeks. In the interim, OLG is notifying all sports wagering Class A and B operators in the District of Columbia that they are authorized to accept wagers on collegiate sports and athletic events taking place in the District of Columbia subject to the other restrictions of 30 DCMR § 2127.1 (see attached). Please be aware the final adopted rule **does not change the prohibition on wagers** associated with any collegiate teams or individuals of such teams that are based in the District of Columbia (e.g., American University, George Washington University, Georgetown University, Howard University, etc.) regardless of where event takes place. 30 DCMR § 2127.1(a).

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HIGHLIGHTS

- D.C. Council enacts Act 25-372 to establish a school support office within the Office of the State Superintendent of Education to focus on academic improvement in the lowest performing schools
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner updates procedures regarding the disposition of a decedent's property after their remains are released from the Office
- Department of Energy and Environment announces availability of funding for Trash Free Communities: Trash Reduction Through Behavioral Change campaign
- Board of Ethics and Government Accountability publishes a summary of registered lobbyists' information for Calendar Year 2024
- Department of Health announces upcoming relocation of its agency operations
- Department of Human Resources proposes rules concerning volunteer services to the District of Columbia government
- Office of Lottery and Gaming proposes the repeal of prohibition on accepting wagers on certain collegiate sports or athletic events occurring in the District of Columbia

OFFICE OF LOTTERY AND GAMING**NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

The Executive Director of the Office of Lottery and Gaming (Office), pursuant to the authority set forth in Section 4 of the Law to Legalize Lotteries, Daily Numbers Games, and Bingo and Raffles for Charitable Purposes in the District of Columbia, effective March 10, 1981 (D.C. Law 3-172; D.C. Official Code §§ 36-601.06(a) and 36-621.02 (2012 Repl.)), and Office of the Chief Financial Officer Management Control Order No. 96-22, effective September 24, 1996, hereby gives notice of the intent to amend Chapter 21 (Privately Operated Sports Wagering) of Title 30 (Lottery and Charitable Games) of the District of Columbia Municipal Regulations (DCMR).

The purpose of the rulemaking is to repeal the prohibition on accepting wagers on collegiate sports or athletic events occurring in the District of Columbia. The prohibition on accepting wagers on any collegiate sports or athletic event in which any District of Columbia based college or university team participates, regardless of where the event takes place, remains in effect.

The Executive Director gives notice of the intent to take final rulemaking action to adopt these proposed rules in not less than thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice in the *District of Columbia Register*.

CHAPTER 21, PRIVATELY OPERATED SPORTS WAGERING, of Title 30 DCMR, LOTTERY AND CHARITABLE GAMES, is amended as follows:**Section 2127, PROHIBITED SPORTS EVENTS, is amended to read as follows:****2127 PROHIBITED SPORTS EVENTS**

2127.1 No wagers may be accepted or paid by any Sports Wagering Operator in any of the following instances:

- (a) Any collegiate sports or athletic event in which any District of Columbia based college or university team participates, regardless of where the event takes place.
- (b) Any high school sports or athletic event, including high school electronic sports events and high school competitive video game events.
- (c) Any amateur sports or athletic event with the exception of the following.
 - (1) Olympic sporting or athletic events sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee where the majority of participants are age eighteen (18) or older, subject to limitation by the Office.
 - (2) International team sports events in which persons under age 18 make up a minority of the participants.

- (d) Any sports or athletic event which the Sports Wagering Operator knows, or reasonably should know, is being placed by or on behalf of a coach or participant in that athletic event.
- (e) Any event or athletic sports event unless approved by the Office.

2127.2 If at any time an athletic or sports event becomes a prohibited athletic or sports event as defined in Subsection 2127.1, the Sports Wagering Operator shall cancel any wager on that event and return to each player, at minimum, the full amount of the wager.

Persons desiring to comment on the subject matter of this proposed rulemaking should file comments, in writing, no later than thirty (30) days after the date of publication of this notice in the *District of Columbia Register*. Comments should be filed with Antar Johnson, Senior Counsel, Office Lottery and Gaming, 2235 Shannon Place S.E., Washington, D.C. 20020, or e-mailed to swrules@dc.gov. Copies of the proposed rules may be obtained between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. at the address stated above. Questions may be directed to (202) 645-8026.