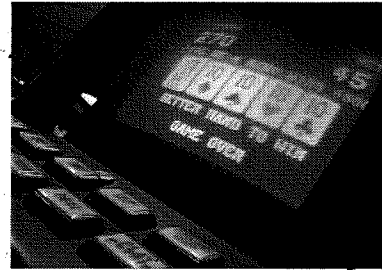




**December 30, 2015**

## **Gambling Alert**



### **Attorney General Madigan says Fantasy Sports is illegal gambling, DraftKings keeps operating for now**

Attorney General Lisa Madigan issued an opinion on December 23rd saying the daily fantasy contests offered by FanDuel and DraftKings constitute illegal gambling under Illinois law. [Read the opinion](#)

AG Madigan concluded the opinion by noting **there is legislation pending in each chamber to create a new Act-the Fantasy Contests Act-and to exempt "fantasy contests" from the general prohibition against gambling.** ([House Bill 4323](#) and [Senate Bill 2193](#)).

DraftKings filed a lawsuit the following day. On December 29th **DraftKings issued a statement and noted they had reached an agreement with Madigan's office to an expedited court schedule and bench trial.** The Attorney General must file a response to the lawsuit by January 22, and a trial date was set for June 27 or as soon as the court's schedule allows.

Madeleine Doubek wrote, "What seems apparent now is that **fantasy sports sites will continue to operate with Illinois residents participating, and it's a race against the clock to see whether the long-term operation of such games ultimately will be resolved in court or by state lawmakers at the Capitol.**" [Read more](#)

### **Balmoral Race Track to close**

The Johnston/Steinbrenner group bought Balmoral in 1987, outbidding Arlington Park Chairman Dick Duchossois at the 11th hour. Duchossois got revenge, forcing

Balmoral out of thoroughbred racing in 1991 and joining with former adversary Hawthorne to persuade the Racing Board to terminate harness racing at Balmoral at the conclusion of the 2015 meeting. [Read more](#)

The track owners filed for bankruptcy on Christmas Eve a year ago, shortly after a federal appeals court ordered them to pay nearly \$79 million to casinos in Aurora, Elgin and Joliet.

The appeals court had overturned a lower court ruling in a lawsuit that alleged the owners, specifically John Johnston, Balmoral Park's president, agreed to make a \$100,000 campaign contribution to former Gov. Rod Blagojevich in return for Blagojevich signing legislation extending an agreement to share casino gambling revenue with horse racing tracks. The contribution was never made, however. [Read more](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

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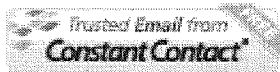
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