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## MGM Springfield Fined for Sports Wagering Catalog Noncompliance

MGM Springfield Sportsbook Offered Wagering on Multiple Unauthorized Events

The Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) has issued a fine of \$20,000 to MGM Springfield (MGM) as a result of MGM's sportsbook offering wagering on two unauthorized events involving a Massachusetts collegiate team not involved in a collegiate tournament, which is prohibited under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 23N Section 3, MGC regulation 205 CMR 247.01(2)(a)(2), and the Massachusetts Sports Wagering Catalog.

MGM offered wagers on a February 3, 2023 Harvard v. Yale men's basketball game and a February 4, 2023 Harvard v. Brown men's basketball game. Wagering was offered for approximately 21 hours and 20 hours on each event respectively, and twenty-eight tickets were sold that included wagers on the two events. All wagers were placed at kiosks, and two winning tickets were redeemed at the sportsbook counter and two other winning tickets were redeemed at a kiosk.

Upon hearing of potential noncompliance events at other Category 1 sports wagering operators, MGM asked their vendor, BetMGM, to review all sports bets placed at the Springfield casino since the launch of sports wagering in the Commonwealth. Following a review that was conducted on February 9 and February 10, 2023, MGM informed the MGC's sports wagering division of the noncompliance incidents.

Wagering was allowed on the unauthorized events because BetMGM had previously incorrectly designated Harvard as being in Connecticut. This error has been corrected and BetMGM confirms that the location of all Massachusetts collegiate teams is correctly designated.

Following the incidents, MGM instituted a daily audit of potential offerings before the sportsbook opens for the day. BetMGM will also conduct periodic quality control reviews of its internal guidance documentation. This includes verifying newly added information and conducting a quarterly audit to confirm continued accuracy. MGM has also continued to emphasize to their sportsbook team the importance of vigilance in reviewing potential wagers for noncompliance.

The MGC appreciates that MGM self-reported the noncompliance to the sports wagering division and their work to ensure that similar noncompliance events will not happen in the future.

The full decision can be found <u>here</u>.

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