



News Release

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Arizona Department of Gaming Cease-and-Desist: Bovada Online Gambling

PHOENIX – The Arizona Department of Gaming ("ADG") has taken action against an overseas gaming company in Curaçao that is allegedly operating illegal online gaming sites, Bovada.com and Bovada.lv (Bovada), accessible to Arizona residents. Following an investigation into the matter, the ADG sent a cease-and-desist letter to Harp Media B.V., which operates Bovada, on November 8, 2024.

The operation of Bovada in Arizona is alleged to be a felony criminal enterprise and Bovada has been directed to desist from any future illegal gambling operations or activities of any type in Arizona. Due to the unregulated and illegal online gaming offerings on Bovada, Harp Media B.V. is claimed to be in violation of Arizona gaming laws, including:

1. Promotion of Gambling (Felony) -- Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-3303.
2. Illegal Control of an Enterprise (Felony) -- Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-2312.
3. Money Laundering (Felony) -- Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 13-2317.

Harp Media B.V. has been directed to **immediately** cease all online (or other) gambling operations and activities in Arizona, and take the necessary steps to immediately prevent and exclude Arizona residents from gambling on their websites.

"We are actively monitoring the evolving landscape of online gaming and taking proactive steps like this helps us protect Arizona's communities and economy from illegal activities," said Jackie Johnson, Director of the ADG. "Our enforcement team is committed to preventing unauthorized operations from establishing a foothold here. Arizona will not be a safe haven for unlicensed or unlawful gaming, nor will we allow unlawful entities to compromise the integrity of gaming within our state."

In light of these developments, the Arizona Department of Gaming urges residents to exercise caution with online gaming activities. Only legal, regulated operations provide important consumer protections not found in the illegal market, helping ensure a safer experience for participants. Certain online event wagering is legal in Arizona. A list of all licensed and regulated event wagering operators legally taking bets in Arizona can be found on the Department's website at gaming.az.gov.

ADG takes complaints about illegal gambling seriously. To report suspected illegal gambling activity, visit our website, call (602) 255-3886, or email publicaffairs@azgaming.gov. You can remain anonymous.

About ADG

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, ADG is the state regulatory agency for [tribal gaming](#), [event wagering & fantasy sports contests](#), [racing and pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering](#), and [unarmed combat sports](#). ADG also provides and supports education, prevention, and treatment programs for people and families affected by problem gambling through its [Division of Problem Gambling](#) and 24-hour confidential helpline, 1-800-NEXT STEP.