

June 9, 2017

Volume 23, Issue 20

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A publication of  
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# The \_\_\_\_\_ MICHIGAN GAMING \_\_\_\_\_ Newsletter



## **MICHIGAN LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: HORSE RACING; FANTASY SPORTS BILL INTRODUCED IN HOUSE**

### **Horse Racing Bill Referred Out of Senate Committee**

Yesterday, June 8, 2017, a bill seeking to allow Michigan residents to electronically wager on horse races was reported favorably and recommended with immediate effect out of the Senate Committee on Agriculture. The bill now goes before the Senate Committee of the Whole for consideration.

H-4 to [House Bill No. 4611 \("HB 4611"\)](#) previously passed the Michigan House 65-43. It seeks to amend Michigan's Horse Racing Law of 1995 to allow for Advanced Deposit Wagering on horse races.

The legislation seeks to add several key provisions to the current law to allow the Racing Commissioner to license, "third party facilitators" to facilitate electronic wagering on live and simulcast racing. Per the proposed legislation, a third party facilitator license would require a contract with a horse track within the state.

The Michigan Senate is scheduled to be in session until June 15th, after which time it will adjourn for summer recess.

### **Fantasy Sports Bill Introduced**

Yesterday, June 8, 2017, Michigan Rep. Jim Tedder (R-Clarkston) introduced two bills that seek to permit and regulate fantasy sports betting to be offered to adults 18 years or older within the state. [House Bill 4743](#), the "Fantasy Sports Games Consumer Protection Act" would authorize "licensed game operators" to offer fantasy sports games on sporting events (excluding

a university, college, high school, or youth sporting event) and would be regulated by the Michigan Department of Regulatory Affairs (“Department”).

The proposed legislation provides an exception to allow game operators that were conducting fantasy sports games in Michigan on May 1, 2016 to continue operating fantasy sports games until the game operator is issued or denied a license under the legislation.

Licenses issued under the proposed legislation are valid for one year and must be renewed annually. The initial and annual fees would be \$5,000 and \$1,000, respectively and must not exceed 10% of the total amount of entry fees collected by the applicant from the operation of fantasy games less the total amount of cash and value of cash equivalents paid as prizes or awards to game participants.

The proposed legislation also sets forth procedural requirements that must be submitted to the Department including various safeguards preventing the operator and its close affiliates from competing in a fantasy sports game.

The legislation is tie barred with [House Bill 4742](#) that seeks to amend the Michigan Penal Code to also allow for fantasy sports games to be offered in Michigan.

## **MICHIGAN GAMING CONTROL BOARD APPROVES SIX ADDITIONAL 2017 RACE DATES AT NORTHVILLE DOWNS**

On Thursday, June 8, 2017, the Michigan Gaming Control Board (“MGCB”) announced that it has approved six additional 2017 harness racing dates at Northville Downs, thus extending the season until December 16. The additional race dates are December 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, and 16.

“This is the third consecutive year one of Michigan’s pari-mutuel horse racetracks has

requested and received additional race dates,” said Richard Kalm, MGCB executive director.

The 2017 season now expands to 60 dates. Northville Downs originally was granted 54 days of live standardbred race dates for 2017 on Fridays and Saturdays from March 3 through June 10 and from Sept. 8 through Nov. 25.

Simulcasting schedules remain unchanged through the end of the year.

## **GUN LAKE TRIBE ANNOUNCES REVENUE SHARING PAYMENTS**

On June 1, 2017, The Gun Lake Tribe (“Tribe”) announced the details of its spring revenue sharing payments. According to the Tribe’s press release, the State of Michigan received \$3,744,3951, the local revenue sharing board received \$1,872,475, and GLIMI, an economic development entity, received \$1,123,485. Revenue sharing payments are distributed semi-annually under terms of the tribal-state gaming compact and the figures are calculated from electronic gaming revenues reported from October 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.

“Our team members at the casino deserve a lot of credit for their outstanding contributions to the strong results for this revenue sharing distribution,” said Scott Sprague, Chairman of the Gun Lake Tribe. “The construction team is also recognized for their professionalism which allowed for seamless operations during the last year while the expansion was built.”

According to the Tribe, the Gun Lake Casino opened in February 2011 and now employs more than 1000 team members and has shared a total of \$93,368,258 with state and local governments over twelve distributions.

## **SELECT ONLINE GAME CARD PURCHASES OFFER BONUS FREE PLAY TO LOTTERY PLAYERS**

On June 1, 2017, the Michigan Lottery (“Lottery”) announced that lottery players have a chance to receive bonus free play with select Online Game Card purchases. Starting June 5, those players who buy Online Game Cards for \$10 \$20, \$50, and \$100 will have bonus free play of \$2, \$5, \$12, and \$25, respectively, added to their card. Online Game Cards may be printed from Lottery terminals at retailers and are valid for five years from the date of purchase.

Players may redeem up to \$500, not including bonus play, in Online Game Cards per week in their online accounts.

## **GLOBAL GAMING WOMEN ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS**

On Tuesday, June 6, 2017, Global Gaming Women (“GGW”) announced that it will award scholarships to this year’s Southern Front Line Leaders Conference. The event will take place on August 15 and August 16 at the IP Casino Resort Spa in Biloxi, Mississippi. According to GGW, the annual conference, for women with at least one year experience in the gaming industry, is for women who want to broaden their leadership skills. The purpose of the conference is to inspire women to tap into their personal impact and influence capabilities.

For more information on how to apply for any of the GGW scholarships, please visit the GGW website by [clicking here](#).

Scholarship applications must be received no later than June 30, 2017.

## **SIXTH ANNUAL FOUR WINDS INVITATIONAL TO BE HELD IN SOUTH BEND**

The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians and its Four Winds Casinos announced that the sixth annual Four Winds Invitational will be held from Friday, June 9 through Sunday, June 11 at Blackthorn Golf Club in South Bend, Indiana. This stop of the Symetra Tour – Road to the LPGA will feature a field of 144 professional women golfers from around the globe vying for a chance to compete within the Ladies Professional Golf Association (“LPGA”) and a \$150,000 purse.

For more information on the event please visit: <http://www.symetratour.com/tournaments/four-winds-invitational/leaderboard>

*The Michigan Gaming Newsletter would like to thank Alexa Daughterty for her contributions to this Newsletter.*