April 18, 2025

Volume 31, Issue 8

For more information on Michigan's gaming industry, please visit www.michigangaming.com

Editor in Chief

J.J. Burchman, Esq.

Phone: 517.999.5414

burchman@rmclegal.com

Senior Gaming Analyst & Editor Robert R. Russell, II Phone: 517.507.3858 russell@rmclegal.com

Associate Editor

David D. Waddell, Esq.
Phone: 517.507.3859
waddell@rmclegal.com

News Reporter

Carlie Shaw
cshaw@rmclegal.com

Production Coordinator
Christina M. Morris
cmorris@rmclegal.com

Subscription information: info@michigangaming.com

A publication of RMC Ventures, LLC

Asher Court 321 W. Lake Lansing Rd. East Lansing, MI 48823 Phone: 517.507.3860 Fax: 517.908.0235

MICHIGAN GAMING Newsletter



Michigan iGaming, iSports Betting Operators Report \$293.5 Million in March 2025 Revenue

As <u>reported</u> by the Michigan Gaming Control Board ("MGCB"), Michigan commercial and tribal internet gaming ("iGaming") and iSports betting operators reported a combined \$293.5 million total gross receipts in March.

March iGaming gross receipts were \$260.5 million, the highest to date. Gross sports betting receipts totaled \$33.0 million in March.

The combined total adjusted gross receipts of \$260.7 million were reported for March, including \$246.1 million from iGaming and \$14.6 million from internet sports betting.

The total internet sports betting handle was \$475.1 million in March.

The operators delivered \$51.4 million in taxes and payments to the State of Michigan during March, with iGaming taxes and fees contributing \$50.5 million and internet sports betting taxes and fees contributing \$874,052.

For the month of March 2025, the three Detroit Casinos – MotorCity Casino, MGM Grand Detroit, and Greektown Casino – reported city wagering taxes and municipal service fees of \$13.4 million, with iGaming taxes and fees contributing \$13.1 million and internet sports betting taxes and fees contributing \$281,974.

Tribal operators reported making total payments of \$6.0 million of

wagering payments to the tribes' governing bodies in March according to the MGCB.

An online gaming and sports betting revenue distribution <u>table</u> is available on the agency's website.

As of March 2025, a total of 15 commercial and tribal operators have been authorized to launch iGaming and/or internet sports betting. Currently, 12 commercial and tribal operators offer internet sports betting, and 15 operators offer iGaming. Details for each operator's internet gaming and internet sports betting <u>results</u> are available and published on the MGCB website.

MGCB Opens Investigations into Unlicensed Sports Prediction Markets

The Michigan Gaming Control **Board** ("MGCB") has announced active investigations into unlicensed sports prediction markets that have emerged across the state. These platforms, which operate outside of Michigan's legal regulatory framework, are drawing scrutiny for potentially endangering consumers and undermining the integrity of the state's licensed sports betting industry.

"We take consumer protection very seriously and are committed to ensuring that Michigan residents are engaging with safe and legal sports betting options," said Henry Williams, Executive Director of the MGCB. "Unlicensed entities not only pose a risk to consumers but also undercut the integrity and revenuegenerating potential of the state's regulated sports betting industry. We are actively investigating these practices and will pursue appropriate measures to protect Michigan bettors."

The platforms in question allow users to

"trade" predictions on sports outcomes, presenting themselves as innovative financial tools. However, by operating outside the oversight of Michigan's legal betting system, they expose users to risks including fraud, identity theft, and a lack of data protection. Unlike licensed operators, these platforms may lack essential consumer safeguards such as age verification, Know Your Customer ("KYC") protocols, anti-money laundering ("AML") policies, and integrity monitoring.

"Sports betting is meant to be a form of entertainment, not a financial investment," Williams added. "By framing sports contracts as investment vehicles, these platforms risk confusing consumers and undermining the state's commitment to responsible gaming. Moreover, many of these unlicensed platforms are often accessible to individuals as young as 18, in stark contrast to Michigan's 21+ age requirement for legal sports betting."

In addition to regulatory violations, the MGCB is concerned about the broader impact these platforms may have on responsible gaming initiatives and public trust in the state's regulated sports betting system. The agency's investigations are part of a broader trend seen across the U.S., where state regulators are responding to similar concerns.

The MGCB stated it will continue monitoring the situation closely and take any necessary enforcement actions to protect Michigan consumers and preserve the integrity of its legal gaming market.

National Council of Legislators from Gaming States Conference: July 9-12

The National Council of Legislators from Gaming States ("NCLGS") will commence its

Summer Meeting July 9-12, 2025, at the Hyatt Regency Louisville in Louisville, KY, with top lawmakers and regulators from throughout North America participating.

The four-day Meeting will include a special forum titled "The Big Picture – Focus on the Future Gaming Leaders," which is a series of short, informative "101 classes" for legislators and regulators from across the country. Also included will be keynote addresses, legislative Committee sessions, general sessions, a joint legislator/regulator roundtable (open to all attendees), two evening receptions, and other networking opportunities.

The half-day session "Gaming 101: The Big Picture — Focus on the Future Gaming Leaders" (Thursday, July 10) will help educate legislators and regulators who seek a broad understanding of gaming policy while also providing essential insights to a wide range of stakeholders. The forum is open to all conference registrants. NCLGS President Shawn Fluharty, a Delegate from West Virginia, will moderate along with President-Elect Al Williams, a Representative from Georgia. Industry experts will provide short, focused presentations on the following critical topics:

- Global Gaming Overview: Chad Beynon, Sr. Managing Director, Head US Research, Macquarie Capital
- Sports Betting: Phil Sicuso, Partner and Gaming Group Chair, Bose McKinney & Evans
- iGaming: Jeff Ifrah, Founder, Ifrah Law
- Indian Gaming: Jacob Coin, Executive Advisor, San Manuel Band of Mission Indians Tribal Council and many more

The NCLGS <u>website</u> has a registration form to sign up.

Pokagon Band and Four Winds Casinos Donate 1,000 Easter Food Boxes to Those in Need

In a continued show of generosity and community support, the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians of Michigan and Indiana, along with their Four Winds Casinos, have donated 1,000 food boxes to individuals and families in need for the Easter holiday, which falls on Sunday, April 20, 2025.

"The Pokagon Band and our Four Winds Casinos are proud to continue our longstanding and heart-felt tradition of providing meals to those in need in Michigan and Indiana for the Easter holiday," said Matthew Wesaw, Tribal Council Chairman of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians. "This program would not be possible without the support of the Pokagon Tribal Council, Pokagon Citizens, our Four Winds Casino employees, and several community organizations. It is our hope that these food boxes provide some comfort and relief to all recipients."

GLCR Wins Award as One of the West Michigan's Best & Brightest Companies to Work For®

Gun Lake Casino Resort ("GLCR") has once again earned a place among West Michigan's Best & Brightest Companies to Work For®, marking the sixth consecutive year the resort has received this prestigious recognition from the National Association for Business Resources ("NABR").

The award underscores GLCR's ongoing commitment to creating an exceptional workplace culture, rooted in strong core values and practiced daily across all departments and operations. The honor also

reflects the resort's focus on employee wellbeing, growth, and satisfaction.

"We are delighted to be recognized with this prestigious award for the sixth consecutive year, as one of the Best and Brightest Companies to Work For in West Michigan," said Sal Semola, Chief Executive Officer of GLCR. "This award really is near and dear to our hearts, within the executive team at the casino, for the Tribal Council's governmental and community leadership. It's about people; our Team Members. Being mindful of a culture that attracts good people and providing a great career opportunity for fulfillment and advancement," Semola said.

As part of its ongoing expansion, GLCR recently hired 260 new Team Members, growing its workforce to 1,315. On March 7, the resort unveiled a new 16-story luxury hotel tower, a full-service spa, and an upgraded Sandhill Café.

Looking ahead, GLCR is preparing to open Wawyé ("WAH-Yay") Oasis in May 2025 — a first-of-its-kind tropical retreat in the Midwest. This 32,000-square-foot glass atrium will maintain a balmy 80 degrees year-round and feature live palm trees, lush tropical plants, private cabanas, and two distinct pool experiences: a 21+ VIP Pool and a Family Pool.

This continued recognition reflects the daily dedication of GLCR's Team Members and the resort's steadfast focus on building a workplace where every individual is valued, respected, and empowered to thrive.

For more information about the award, visit nationalbiz.org.