



# ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD

JB Pritzker • Governor Charles Schmadeke • Chairman Marcus D. Fruchter • Administrator

## Press Release

For Immediate Release  
August 5, 2021

### **Illinois Gaming Board publishes application for online only sports wagering operator licenses**

**CHICAGO** – On August 5, 2021, the Illinois Gaming Board (the “IGB”) published on its website [short](#) and [long](#) form applications and related bid summary forms for entities seeking an [Illinois Online Master Sports Wagering License](#). The publication of these materials officially opens the statutory application and competitive bid selection process for the initial three online only sports wagering operator licenses authorized under the Illinois Sports Wagering Act (the “SWA”). The short form allows current IGB licensees to file an expedited application, while the long form application is for entities that are not already IGB licensees or Temporary Operating Permit holders. By Rule, the application period ends on December 3, 2021. No bid will be accepted after the close of the application period.

The competitive selection process for the three online only sports wagering operator licenses is governed by [Section 25-45 of the SWA](#) and [IGB Sports Wagering Rule 1900.620](#). The SWA and Rule 1900.620 mandate numerous requirements and procedures that applicants and the IGB must complete before the bids are publicly disclosed and the licenses are ultimately awarded. Some of these requirements could result in an applicant’s disqualification. Following the close of the application period, the IGB must determine whether each of the applicants are qualified and meet certain minimum standards under [SWA Section 25-45\(d\)](#) and [Rule 1900.520\(b\)](#).

Pursuant to SWA Section 25-45(e), the identity of each applicant and the contents of all bids shall remain confidential and not subject to public disclosure until the IGB determines the qualification of each applicant. After the IGB either qualifies or disqualifies each applicant, the IGB must open all qualified applications in a public forum within 48 hours. At the time of opening, the IGB will disclose: (1) the identity of all qualified applicants; (2) the identity of all disqualified applicants; (3) the 5.1 Disclosure of Records Statements submitted by each applicant; and (4) each applicant’s bid summary form.

Within 90 days of the IGB’s public announcement of qualified bids, the IGB must identify three winning bidders. The factors the IGB shall consider when determining the winning bidders are enumerated in [Sports Wagering Rule 1900.620\(l\)](#). Once the IGB selects the three winning bidders, the IGB must complete an investigation to determine whether each winning applicant is suitable for licensure. A winning bidder deemed suitable following the IGB’s investigation can then become licensed upon payment of the \$20 million license fee. Upon completion of the statutory competitive selection process and issuance of the first online only sports wagering operator license, the requirement for in-person sports wagering account registration under SWA Sections 25-30, 25-35 and 25-40 terminates.

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