

The Illegal Gambling Playbook: Dodge, Deceive and Disregard



Illegal and unregulated gambling dodges regulations, deceives the most vulnerable, and disregards consumer protections. This stands in stark contrast to the rigorous regulatory compliance of legal gaming operators and manufacturers. Compare legal versus illegal gambling side-by-side.

Legal and Regulated Gambling

VS

Illegal and Unregulated Gambling

Operators and manufacturers undergo stringent licensing and background investigations of business entities, corporate officers, directors and key employees.

Law enforcement and gaming regulators interview executives and directors regarding personal and professional history – in some states annually. Anyone working on the manufacture or repair of a game is vetted and licensed.

All games meet technical standards, pass independent testing, and are monitored for ongoing compliance.

Legal games make sure the rules and odds of winning are clear to customers.

Frequent regulatory checks throughout shipping and installation ensures gaming machine integrity.

Licensed companies invest hundreds of millions of dollars annually in responsible gaming and problem gambling resources, education, research and employee training.

Customers have options to self-limit and self-exclude.

Consumer protection laws mean customers can appeal to state gaming regulators and law enforcement if needed.

Minors are excluded from physical properties. When online, robust identity- and age-verification ensures only adults play.

Operators must meet strict anti-money laundering (AML), customer verification and financial standards and reporting requirements from the federal government.

Marketing and advertising are overseen by regulators and comply with industry codes of conduct. Advertising only reaches intended audiences.

Legal operators generate over \$10 billion in tax revenue each year to support vital public services.

Legal operators and manufacturers create good-paying jobs and put money back into communities.

No licensing requirements.
No background checks. Often headquartered in countries with lax or non-existent gaming regulation.

No interviews. No vetting.
Murky ownership.
Manufacturer can be a mystery.

No standards. No testing.
No monitoring.

No transparency.
Consumers are misled about their chances of winning.

No checks. No oversight. Machines may be tampered with at multiple points in the procurement process.

No RG investments. No RG training.
No access to RG resources.

No regard for self-exclusion lists.
No self-limitation or budget-setting tools.

No recourse for unfair conduct, play or lack of payouts.

No identity- or age-verification.
No concern for underage gambling.

No reporting. No verification.
An open door for criminals looking to launder money.

No controls in place. No protection against deceptive practices. Promotions reach the vulnerable.

No taxes paid. State and local government robbed of billions in revenue.

No support for local jobs. Communities robbed of critical funds.