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The Us Vs Online Gambling – Part One

By Kenneth Bateman

The 2006 World Series of Poker provided an excellent opportunity for Internet poker sites to

advertise their web presence to the public at large. The Full Tilt Poker Lounge at the Rio in Las Vegas, the home of the WSOP championship tournament, was one example of the swank hospitality suites set up to promote online poker games.

Potential customers are invited to learn the ropes of internet poker by playing free games where no money changes hands. However, although many of these online gambling sites offer other betting options in addition to poker, those options are no longer promoted at the poker hospitality suites because online sports betting is illegal in the United States.

Currently, there is a convoluted controversial debate in Congress regarding the business of Internet gambling as it occurs in the U.S. During the 2006 WSOP tournament run for instance, Bodog.com, an internet casino and sports book based in Costa Rica had planned to host the biggest Internet gambling conference ever held at Wynn Las Vegas. The conference was to be chaired by Bodog's founder and chief executive, Calvin Ayre. Ayre is high profile entrepreneur who has appeared on the cover of Forbes "Billionaires" issue and was featured in People magazine's "Hottest Bachelors" issue as well.

Ayre cancelled the conference primarily because of the arrest of David Carruthers, at a Texas airport. Carruthers was (he has since been fired) the chief operating officer of Bentonsports PLC, a company that owns a number of online sports books and casinos, and launched a successful public stock offering in London in 2004.

Carruthers arrest was made because he represented an organization that accepted bets from gamblers in the U.S. Under the Federal Wire Act - a rule established in the 1960s designed to close down mafia-run bookmaking operations in the United States -that, as defined by the U.S. Department of Justice, rules that all forms of Internet gambling are illegal.

At least two U.S. courts have upheld the Federal Wire Act, confirming that the Act is violated when any type of gambling is conducted to/from the U.S. via the internet. However, one court's decision could become a path to legality for online poker in particular, since that court's verdict asserts that the Wire

Act applies specifically to sports betting and not other forms of gambling.

With that court's decision as a basis for argument, some legal experts and spokespersons for Internet poker sites are saying that Internet casinos and poker sites are different from their sports-betting counterparts.

Meanwhile, Bodog's hospitality suite which promotes the company's online poker site is open and entertaining at the Rio as is the lounge for ParadisePoker.com, a London-based site owned by a publicly traded company. Neither lounge makes any mention of online sports betting.

Kenneth Bateman writes numerous articles on the subject of online casinos. To read more of his articles on the

<http://www.21-online-casinos.com>

Online Gambling – Keep Control

By Adel Awwad

Gambling can be addictive no matter where you are doing it – at a land casino, playing the lottery or at an online casino. Sometimes it is easier to get carried away at an online casino than at a regular land casino because you aren't actually handling money or chips, your money is all digitally displayed. Further, money can go fast when you are having fun.

As it is with all gambling, it is important to keep control when you are gambling at an online casino. By keeping track of your credits and cash and setting yourself honest limits that you adhere to, online gambling won't be a problem for you. Further, by setting limits on yourself for how much money you are willing to gamble and lose, you can keep control of your online gambling habits and make it a fun experience as it was meant to be. Gambling can be a lot of fun, a real adrenaline rush—especially when you are winning. There is an adrenaline rush when you are losing too, and that's when online gambling can get out of control and before you know it, you've spent much too much money, much more than you intended to gamble away. There are other precautions you can also take such as watching your drinking, not playing when you are tired and setting a time limit on each gambling session.

If you think you have a gambling problem, then please contact your local gambler's anonymous help group and get some help. It is so important not to let gambling run or ruin your life. "Just one more twenty/hundred/thousand dollars" is never something you should say more than you can afford to. Watch and keep track of what you are doing, how much money you are inputting into an online casino and keep the game and gambling experience fun for you and everyone.

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