

Rivers casino online sportsbook illinois



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Guests and media representatives crowd into the sports book area on March 9, 2020, at the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines as it opened the state's first legal sport book. (Stacey Wescott / Chicago Tribune)

Professional sporting events may still be few and far between under wide-ranging coronavirus restrictions, but as of Thursday, sports fans in Illinois can bet on games online.

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Rivers Casino Des Plaines and Rush Street Interactive launched the state's first online sportsbook at 10 a.m. Thursday at BetRivers. Users can sign up from home and place bets from their desktop or mobile device as they watch games live from the site, the companies said in a news release.

"We are excited to make history in bringing the first online sportsbook to sports fans in our home state just in time as American sports are coming back into action," Richard Schwartz, president of Chicago-based Rush Street Interactive, said in the release.

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Users can bet on Premier League soccer, golf, motor sports and UFC, all of which started up again recently. The NBA, WBNA and NHL are scheduled to begin next month, the release noted. And MLB is negotiating with the players union to restart its season in July.

The launch comes two weeks after Gov. J.B. Pritzker temporarily suspended the in-person registration requirement for sports wagering while the state remains under a disaster proclamation. Though many Illinois businesses have started to welcome back customers under the state's five-phase reopening plan, Illinois casinos remain closed.

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Illinois had projected sports betting would generate between \$384 million and \$680 million per year in adjusted gross wagering receipts — revenue after winnings are paid. At the enacted tax rate of 15%, that would result in annual state tax revenues of between \$58 million and \$102 million.

Rivers and Argosy Casino Alton briefly opened their bricks-and-mortar sportsbooks in March under provisional licenses before the operations were shut down by COVID-19 stay-at-home orders. Earlier this month, the Illinois Gaming Board approved sports betting licenses for seven of the state's 10 casinos through 2024.

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The licenses are part of a massive gambling expansion signed into law last year allowing casinos, racetracks and several large sporting venues to offer legal sports betting in Illinois.

DES PLAINES, IL (March 2, 2020) — Don't know your over-under from your moneyline and confused about how to parlay your interest in sports with placing a bet at a newly legalized Illinois sportsbook? Fear not. At Rivers Casino Des Plaines' soon-to-be-open BetRivers Sportsbook, resident expert Ross Sansone is making it simple for you.

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“The sports betting terms can intimidate even the biggest sports fan, but with a few pointers, you can have a lot of fun and win some money--and you don't even have to bet against your favorite team, even if they are the underdog,” Sansone said.

As Illinois prepares for sports betting to begin in time for college basketball's "March Madness" tournament, BetRivers' Sansone, known to some as "Rivers Ross" is providing a "Sports Betting 101" outline of the basics for each bet that can be made and definitions of common terms.

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Sansone says there are four main types of bets that Illinois residents will be able to make.

“A wager on the moneyline is one of the most basic bets you can make. It's as simple as picking the winning team,” he said. The favorite team is the team expected to win. This side of the bet is usually denoted with a minus “-” sign. The underdog team on the moneyline is the team that's expected to lose, usually listed with a plus “+” sign. The signs help you quickly figure out how each side will pay, if that side wins: The minus sign means the payout will be less than the original bet, the plus means the payout will be more than the original bet. Reading the odds for a money line bet is simple. If a team is +120, this means they are the underdog. If that team wins, your \$100 bet will win you an additional \$120. If a team is shown -160 that means they're a favorite (expected to win). You'll need to make a \$160 bet to be paid \$100 in winnings if that team wins.

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Example: The Chicago Bears are playing the Green Bay Packers and the Packers are favored to win at -120. If you decide to bet for the Packers, and you wanted to win \$100, you would have to bet \$120.

“A point spread bet has become more and more popular. When you bet on the point spread, it isn't on who will win or lose. It's a bet on how much the win or loss will be,” said Sansone. Similar to a moneyline bet, the “+” sign represents the underdog team and the “-” represents the favorite team. But in a point spread bet, another number is added. That is the number of points a team needs to win by for you to win your bet. There is usually an additional number in parentheses that tells you what the payout will be if you win.

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Example: If the Chicago Bears are the 8.5 favorite (-8.5) over the Detroit Lions (+8.5), perhaps you want to place a \$100 bet on Chicago winning and covering the spread. In this hypothetical game, if Chicago wins by 9 points the Bears would not only win the game, but you would win your bet. If the Bears only win by 6 points—maybe because they “double-dinked” a field goal in the closing seconds—you would lose your point spread bet. “When you hear someone say ‘my team didn't cover,’ they are referring to losing a point spread bet,” he said.

An Over/Under bet is a wager on the combined total number of points scored by both teams in a game. That's why it's often called a “totals” bet. “You're just trying to predict whether the total points scored in a game will be higher or lower than a set number. It's an exciting way to bet on the action of a game without picking a winner or loser,” Sansone added. Reading the odds for an over/under, or “total” bet is simple. When the over/under is set for the Bears vs. Packers game at 37.5 and the combined score of both teams adds up to 38 or more, the “over” wins. If the total is 37 or less, the “under” wins. A unique aspect of an over/under bet, according to Sansone, is you can have a tie. “Occasionally, the total is set as a whole number. Using the Bears vs. Packers example again, if the over/under is 38 and the combined point total for the Bears and the Packers is 38 you have what is called a “push”--or a tie--and you get your money back.”

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This is a single wager that links together two or more individual bets. If any of the bets in the parlay lose, the entire parlay loses. But if all the linked bets win, the parlay wins — and the payouts can be huge. “It's an example of higher risk for higher reward,” said Sansone.

Sansone said you may hear fellow sports book customers using insider-sounding terms. “At the sportsbook and often on sports radio you'll hear people use this language to sound like they are in-the-know,” he said.

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- Bankroll: The money you have at your disposal with which to bet.
- Betting line: The odds used to determine the payout of wagers, for example, the lines move as bets are made and team news like injuries are reported.

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- First-Half Bet: A wager on the first half of a sporting event only, and not the outcome.
- Prop bets: Increasing in popularity, this can be anything from the outcome of the coin flip at the Super Bowl to the number of touchdowns Kansas City Quarterback Patrick Mahomes will throw today.

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“Sports betting has its own language, but don’t get caught up in what other people say. These simple tips --along with only betting what you can afford to lose from your bankroll--should help you have fun at the BetRivers Sportsbook or at other sportsbook locations,” Sansone said.

Responsible Gaming Rivers Casino is committed to make responsible gaming a priority and takes this issue very seriously. While many are able to gamble responsibly, there is a small portion of the population who can develop a serious, sometimes uncontrollable gambling problem. This can affect persons of any age, income, gender or race at any time.

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To protect them and others affected by their behavior, Rivers Casino established a set of policies and guidelines which deal with issues such as underage gambling, problem gambling, responsible marketing, and improper use or abuse of alcohol.

Rivers Casino employs a number of approaches to promote responsible gaming including:

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- Detailed written procedures to identify and manage these issues
- Self-restrictions for check cashing, credit and mail/promotional offers

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- Monitoring and measuring compliance with results of these programs

Founded by Neil Bluhm and Greg Carlin, Rush Street Gaming and its affiliates, headquartered in Chicago, Illinois, have developed and operate successful casinos in Niagara Falls, Ontario, Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Des Plaines, Illinois (Chicago area) and Schenectady, New York. Rush Street Gaming and its affiliates has become one of the leading casino developers in the United States and operators of online casinos and sports books. Additional information at: www.rushstreetgaming.com

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Rivers Casino Des Plaines is the most successful casino in Illinois and jointly owned by Rush Street Gaming and Churchill Downs Incorporated (“CDI”) (Nasdaq: CHDN). CDI is an industry-leading racing, online wagering and gaming entertainment company anchored by its flagship event – The Kentucky Derby. The company owns and operates 10 regional gaming facilities in eight states, as well as Arlington International Racecourse in Arlington Heights. ABOUT RUSH STREET INTERACTIVE Founded in 2012, Chicago-based Rush Street Interactive (RSI) launched its first betting site, PlaySugarHouse.com, in New Jersey in September 2016. The company subsequently made history by becoming the first operator in the United States to offer a fully integrated online sportsbook and casino. In addition, RSI was the first company to launch legal online sportsbooks both in Pennsylvania (PlaySugarHouse.com) and Indiana (BetRivers.com) as well as being the first to open a legal sportsbook in the state of New York (@ Rivers Casino in Schenectady). RSI also operates in-casino sportsbooks at Rivers Casinos in Pittsburgh & Philadelphia, and most recently, at the historic French Lick Resort in Indiana. BetRivers.com is also the exclusive official sportsbook partner for the Philadelphia Flyers & Wells Fargo Center. RSI was the first US-based gaming operator to launch a legal and regulated online sportsbook in Latin America (Rushbet.co in Colombia). Rush Street Interactive is also the developer and operator of a leading social gaming platform currently deployed at the group’s affiliated land-based casinos and selected third party partners. Rush Street Interactive was named “Mobile Operator of the Year” in North America at the EGR North America Awards 2019 and “American Operator of the Year” & “Casino Operator of the Year” at the American Gambling Awards in 2019. For more information, visit rushstreetinteractive.com. About Churchill Downs Incorporated Churchill Downs Incorporated is an industry-leading racing, online wagering and gaming entertainment company anchored by our iconic flagship event - The Kentucky Derby. We own and operate Derby City Gaming, a historical racing machine facility in Louisville, Kentucky. We also own and operate the largest online horse racing wagering platform in the U.S., TwinSpires.com, and we operate sports betting and iGaming through our BetAmerica platform in multiple states. We are also a leader in brick-and-mortar casino gaming with approximately 11,000 slot machines and video lottery terminals and 200 table games in eight states. Additional information about CDI can be found online at www.churchilldownsincorporated.com.

Contact: Dennis Culloton, 312.228.4780 (o) 630.699.8811 (m)

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Must be 21 years of age or older. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-426-2537).

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Rivers Casino in Des Plaines became the first to market for mobile sports betting in Illinois, launching its online sportsbook at BetRivers.com on Thursday.

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker accelerated the timeline for mobile sports betting availability June 4 when he issued Executive Order 2020-41, suspending the provision that required in-person registration for bettors to obtain a mobile app. Last Thursday, the Illinois Gaming Board granted Rivers and six other casinos Master Sports Wagering licenses, a requirement for casinos to then ask the board's approval to operate as an Online Sports Wagering Operator.

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"We are excited to make history in bringing the first online sportsbook to sports fans in our home state just in time as American sports are coming back into action," said Richard Schwartz, president of Rush Street Interactive, in a statement.

Rivers, which is located just outside Chicago's city limits and near O'Hare International Airport, was also the first in Illinois to accept in-person sports bets in March, though BetRivers Sportsbook was active less than one week before being shuttered — along with Illinois' nine other casinos — due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Pritzker legalized sports betting last June when he signed a \$12 billion capital bill into law that greatly expanded gaming in the Land of Lincoln.

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The state's casinos are still closed due to the pandemic, with the earliest possible reopening date June 26 if the state advances to Phase 4 of Restore Illinois. The IGB provided casinos with reopening protocols June 10 but did not establish a reopening date.

Illinois is the 11th state (the District of Columbia also has mobile sports betting) to launch mobile sports betting and the third in the Midwest with bordering states Indiana and Iowa. The Hoosier State has remote registration, which was a draw to Chicago-area residents with nearby casinos across the state line, while the Hawkeye State requires in-person registration until that provision sunsets at year's end.

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The bill the governor signed into law last year included an 18-month "penalty box" provision — aimed at DraftKings and FanDuel — for mobile-only operators to go live, which was to begin after the first "Owners" sports betting license was issued in Illinois. The rule was intended to punish both operators for continuing to operate daily fantasy contests in Illinois after former Attorney General Lisa Madigan issued an opinion that DFS constituted illegal gambling.

With BetRivers going live, the urgency for the two online giants to enter Illinois has climbed higher. When Pritzker issued the Executive Order, sources at FanDuel told Sports Handle they were "pleased with the development and exploring options to be live in Illinois as soon as possible." FanDuel has been engaged in talks to purchase Fairmount Park Racetrack in Collinsville, Ill., which also has access to the St. Louis market.

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DraftKings has also moved to align itself with a retail sportsbook, submitting an application for a Management Services Provider license in late April, according to the IGB's official website. It remains to be seen who its potential partner in Illinois will be.

Penn National could be the next to market since the Argosy in Alton had also been provisionally approved to accept wagers before the COVID-19 pandemic, but PointsBet may also be in the running to be second. It has a deal in place to be the sportsbook at Hawthorne Racecourse, which is waiting word on approval for its sports betting license as part of a larger racino license.

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The third track in Illinois, Arlington Park, has applied only for a sports betting license and is expected to use BetAmerica for mobile sports betting. Arlington Park is owned by Churchill Downs Incorporated, which purchased a 62% stake in Rivers Casino in March 2019 and is teaming with Rush Street Interactive for a potential casino in Waukegan.

WOW.. I now have a legal online sports betting account in the state of Illinois.

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Going live at this moment looks to be optimal than in weeks past as more U.S. and international sports are returning to action. The PGA Tour saw a notable bump in attention upon its return last week, with in-play betting popular, and the English Premier League resumed play Wednesday after 100 days due to the pandemic-enforced recess.

NASCAR, the German Bundesliga, and Korean Baseball have been in action for weeks, and the U.S. market is set to pick up next month with the return of the NBA, NHL, MLS, and WNBA. Major League Baseball and its Players' Association are reportedly close to a deal that would result in a season of at least 60 games with an expanded playoffs.

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“While entertainment options are limited as we seek to minimize the spread of the virus, we are focused on BetRivers.com providing sportsbook players with a high-quality on-line product with exciting sports betting options,” Schwartz said. “We will have great customer service with fast payouts and an overall friendly approach that treats every player with honesty and care.”

Get 250 Free Bet with 1x play-through on bonus money. Use code MATCH250. ILLINOIS, New Customers 21+ only.

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Betrivers Illinois Welcome Bonus: Make a first deposit and get it matched 100% by the Betrivers Illinois sportsbook. You'll need to go through a simple 1x rollover in order to clear your funds. Use code 250MATCH.

\$250 Free Bet. Use code MATCH250. ILLINOIS, New Customers 21+ only.

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BetRivers offers one of the most straightforward and easy to access signup bonuses of any online sportsbook. New players who make their first deposit with the bonus code “250MATCH” will be eligible for a 100 percent matching bonus worth up to \$250. One of the best features of the BetRivers signup bonus is that it comes with just a 1X play-through requirement on the bonus funds.

Get up to \$250 in Free Bet Credits when using Betrivers bonus code in Illinois. BetRivers sportsbook was the first of its kind in Illinois. And with a partner deal in place with Rivers Casino, it was able to get a head start on its competitors. BetRivers now offers one of the most comprehensive range of sports wagering bonuses in Illinois.

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Rush Street Interactive, owners of the BetRivers brand, operate the iRush Rewards program. It's one of the better and more lucrative player rewards systems in the industry. Existing Betrivers players from Illinois earn Loyalty Level Points on every real money wager to increase their Loyalty Level en route to more elaborate perks. Bettors also accumulate Bonus Store Points on every real money wager. These points can be redeemed for goods in their Bonus Store.

Odds Boost: BetRivers sportsbook also offers a range of boosted odds on selected games throughout the year. These are usually restricted to the big weekend games, but aren't confined to just NFL.

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Parlay Insurance: If one of your parlay legs falls down, parlay insurance means you'll get your original stake back.

BetRivers Loyalty Program: BetRivers runs the successful iRush Rewards (iRR) program for customers. Earn points every time you place a real-money bet.

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Track your Loyalty Level Points on the iRush Rewards Progress Bar and redeem points for cash later on. You can also use your points in the Bonus Store to purchase perks and free bets.

BetRivers was first off the mark as Illinois launched legalized sports betting in 2020. Former Chicago Blackhawks forward Eddie Olczyk placed the ceremonial first bet when the sportsbook opened on March 9.

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When Illinois announced it would be launching online sports betting in June, BetRivers online sportsbook was also first out of the gate. Their website and mobile app debuted on June 18.

BetRivers is a trusted and well-established presence among the legal online sports betting leaders in the United States. Illinois is one of eight states with a BetRivers sportsbook. Pennsylvania, Indiana, Michigan, Virginia, New Jersey, Iowa and Colorado are the others.

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Along with their online site, BetRivers also operates a retail sportsbook in Illinois out of the Rivers Casino in Des Plaines. It features an LED high definition wall and premium stadium seating.

They leave no stone unturned at BetRivers when it comes to the betting markets they offer. BetRivers offers wagering on all the major North American sports – NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL and NCAA basketball and football. Soccer fans will find wagering offered on matches, leagues and

international tournaments from around the world. Each of the leading tennis and golf tour events are also on tap. This is also true for MMA, boxing and motorsports.

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Followers of niche sports such as surfing, Aussie Rules, snooker, rugby, darts, cycling, volleyball, handball, track and field, table tennis and cricket will also uncover ample markets at BetRivers.

BetRivers IL betting platform is also rich in wagering opportunities. On average, a bettor will find 300 different lines on each game. These include straight wagers such as moneylines, spreads and totals, alternate lines, first and second half wagers, a variety of prop and future bets, parlays and teasers.

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Deposit options at BetRivers include ACH/eCheck, Visa, Mastercard, PayNearMe, the BetRivers prepaid card and cash at the Rivers Casino cage.

For withdrawals, accepted methods are the BetRivers Prepaid Card, ACH online banking, check by mail and cash at the Rivers Casino cage.

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Available for one-click download from the BetRivers Illinois web page, their mobile app is compatible with both Android and iOS devices. Access the app for daily odds boosts and specials, in-game betting options, safe and secure deposits, and fast payouts.

BetRivers Illinois betting app offers both online and mobile options for gamblers. The software is built by Rush Street Interactive, an affiliate of Rivers Casino in Des Plaines.

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Bet Builder: The BetRivers Illinois betting app also includes a BetBuilder function to use at the Rivers Casino retail sportsbook. Set your own bets on your phone and choose a stake. You can then place the bet automatically using the QR code at the casino.

The NFL's Chicago Bears rule over the city. The Monsters of the Midway are the biggest game in town, although baseball's Chicago Cubs are a close second. The NBA's Chicago Bulls have lost some of their aura from the days when Michael Jordan made them the best team in the world.

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The Chicago White Sox are the heroes of the South Side, but will always play second fiddle to the Cubs. With three Stanley Cup wins between 2010-15, the Chicago Blackhawks regained relevance across the city and state. The minor-pro Chicago Wolves play in the AHL. Soccer fans can wager on Chicago Fire FC of the MLS, or the Chicago Red Stars of the NWSL. There's also the Chicago Sky of the WNBA.

Currently, betting on any of the Illinois university teams is prohibited. However, a bill before the state legislature is seeking to change that status.

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It's been used as a prop in numerous feature films and no trip to Illinois is complete without taking in a game to watch the Cubs play at venerable Wrigley Field, with its ivy-covered brick outfield wall and hand-turned scoreboard.

The annual Illinois-Northwestern football game has pitted the top college teams in the state against each other 112 times since 1892.

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In the past, Chicago has played host to both the NFL and NHL drafts. Chicago bid for the 2016 Summer Olympic Games but lost out to Rio de Janeiro.

As a BetRivers IL customer, you can make real-money deposits via the usual banking methods. Use your Visa or Mastercard to make instant transactions, or transfer cash from your PayPal e-Wallet. You can even make deposits in person at the Rivers Casino sportsbook desk.

IL BetRivers offers a good selection of customer support options. You can get the help you need via live chat, email, or phone (855-906-1271).

Creating an account is easy. Simply click on the link and select the JOIN NOW button in the top-right corner, or enter personal information right in the banner at the top.

No. Players are not charged any fees to create an account, nor do BetRivers charge any monthly fees to maintain an account. However, in order to wager and win real money, a player will need to make a deposit.

Not on the BetRivers mobile app. WiFi does need to be enabled on desktop and laptop computers in order to locate properly, but players may play on a mobile device using their 3G or 4G connection. However, please keep in mind that the connection will be much quicker on WiFi and the app may not perform optimally when the mobile connection is poor. Additionally, players will be responsible for any mobile data charges incurred while playing.