

NO Amnesty For Unreported Internet Gambling Winnings

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While the poker bloggers and newsletters, including that of the AGA are talking about new alliances being formed between big casino companies and offshore internet poker operators, there is little hope for the players who have won money on the sites and not reported the winnings.

Whatever deal, if any, that may get struck between the offshore operators, big casino companies and the state and federal regulators and prosecutors there is no one who will be speaking for the players. Players who won and did not report can expect that demands will be made for information about them as a condition of any deal approval. What information, you should expect the same type of information request as the <u>IRS</u> is now demanding of offshore banks, meaning, name, address, id number, and total deposits, total withdrawals, (by year) banking information (where was the money sent) and a bunch more. The <u>IRS</u> and state taxing agencies, may then filter by amount of activity (amount played and won) and audit accordingly.

Whether there will be prosecutions will remain to be seen, but players should expect to get a note in the mail stating "I'm from the <u>IRS</u> and I am here to help you". If you filed returns and didn't report winnings, watch out for the "false statement crime" allegations. Big players are likely to be the first targets. Some may want to consider corrective approaches now. It may be time to discuss your options.

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