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ONLINE SPORTS BETTING FRAUD

Аннотация: в статье обсуждаются методы и различные схемы мошенничества, применяемые букмекерами для получения прибыли. Методы, используемые ими для убеждения клиентов в достоверности информации, также подробно описаны.

Ключевые слова: мошенничество, ставки на спорт, легкие деньги, информанты, цифровая эра, договорный матч.

Abstract: the article discusses the methods and various schemes used by scammers to get money from players on bets. The methods they use to convince people of the reliability of their information are also detailed.

Keywords: fraud, sports betting, easy money, informants, the digital age, contractual match.

When people see easy prey, they immediately agree to do anything. However, it often leads them to bad consequences. Nowadays, or rather in the digital age, breeding people for money has become a trifling matter for fraudsters. There is a certain layer of society in the modern world that is ready to do literally anything in order to earn easy money. The scammers offer people to quickly earn some extra money but on the contrary, they take money from them and earn profit themselves. A huge number of scammers are interested in sports betting.

Sports betting are bets between a person and the bookmaker. We can also say that this is a kind of a «disease», as the essence of betting is that with initially insig-

nificant winnings a person enters a state of euphoria and then begins to increase the amount of bets which is exactly what the scammers want. Because fraud schemes are based on forcing a person to lay out as much money as possible and not allow him to win. Scammers use various schemes and tricks in the industry of sports betting which work on naive people. This article will tell you about it and how to avoid falling on the hook of a fraudster.

First of all, we should talk about the most popular breeding scheme [2]. It is selling information on contractual matches. This scheme can work because there are a lot of contractual games in real life. In the public domain there is a huge amount of news, which tells about the organization of contractual matches and their exposure. While reading such news people start to think that it is really profitable to own such information since you know the result and you will definitely be in advantage. But the vast majority of players are unable to extract such information themselves because it is necessary, firstly, to have connections in the sports industry and, secondly, to have an impressive start-up capital. Therefore, people find an easier way to get information – they just look for informants who they can pay to and get information about the match for further «bigger» winnings. But it's not that simple.

A very small number of people can know about the real result of the match. It is usually the players and the organizers of these contractual matches. Of course, losing the match is not very difficult because all you need is a couple of players who will purposely miss the goals and a goalkeeper whose mission is extremely simple. Information about such actions rarely can go beyond this circle of people as it will be unprofitable mainly for them. The reason for that is that they bet huge sums on these matches. And if there are a big number of high bets on a certain outcome then bookmakers start to suspect something and simply remove this event from the line. It is also important to mention that such manipulations are possible in lower division matches only because it is almost unreal to organize such a scheme with large matches for objective reasons. Based on all of the above we can conclude that the less people know about the unsportsmanlike nature of the match the more likely organizers

will earn money on it themselves. Even if we assume that such information is still leaked to the Internet no one will ever know how reliable it is.

One of the ways used by scammers to convince people in the absolute reliability of their information is to provide them with screenshots of large winnings of past games. Obviously any information about the date of the event and the teams is smeared. Only the coefficient and the big win are shown. Why is this the most naive deception? Because nowadays it is extremely easy to make a fake picture using photoshop. However there are still people who continue to be trapped. Once a person believes that the fraudster is a reliable source and with his help he will be able to earn a lot of money scammers begin to request an advance payment for information. If this bet goes in (which is an extreme rarity and absolute luck) then you will have to pay for the information provided. If not you will be left with nothing. But don't forget that you have already lost a certain amount on the prepayment to your informant. Here begins the most interesting part as the people whose bet has played have already fallen on the hook and are absolutely sure of the veracity of their source. Now they are ready to pay any money for the outcome of the next match. Dissemination process is extremely simple from the side of the fraudsters: they send different information to each group of people (to the first group they say that the match outcome will be 1–0, to the second that it is going to be draw, to the third that it is going to be 3–0 and so on) and eventually they will still have a certain amount of people that will fall for the trick and will continue sending them money for information about the next matches' outcome. To sum up, we can say that information about contractual matches simply does not exist on the Internet. This is just a made-up story which fraudster tries to present to you as the absolute truth.

The next very similar to the first scheme is the scheme of forecasting sports events. People who do not have deep knowledge in this field naively believe that there are people who are able to make predictions with amazing accuracy and are willing to share them with those who can pay them a small amount of money.

Sale of forecasts can occur both on an advance payment (everything is obvious here) and on payment after passage of the rate (after payment). It is necessary to

make a remark that the bet may be winning not because of the reliability of your informant but simply because of luck. The probability of a second such opportunity to earn money is very low.

There are many myths about contractual matches and sports forecasting that need to be learned [3]:

– all the information that is actively used by scammers (screenshots with winnings, drawn statistics in the network communities) is not a proof that these people play with advantage. Many people blindly believe them for one simple reason: fraudsters tell only about their successes not about the failures;

– if someone really had information which is absolutely reliable then he would never distribute it and try to sell it to someone, won't he? He would have been a billionaire himself for a long time now.

These are just some of the possible ways of betting fraud on the Internet. A lot of new schemes are created every day. Inexperienced players continue to fall for them. But do not think that if some ways are deceptive then there are those that can bring profit and «good» money. Any schemes and frauds associated with sports betting and distributed on the Internet are only a way to earn money for scammers. It should also be noted that such activity is punishable under Article 159 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation [1].

References

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