



Publisher
Dawn Nettles

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P. O. Box 495033
Garland, Texas
75049-5033

Phone: (972) 686-0660
Fax (972) 681-1048

lottoreport@lottoreport.com

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October 10, 2007

The Honorable Attorney General Greg Abbott Via Facsimile & US Mail
Office of The Attorney General
Consumer Protection
P. O. Box 12548
Austin, TX 78711-2548

RE: Texas Lottery - Daily 4 - "Pair Bet" coupled with "Sum it Up Bet"
an unscrupulous and unfair wager for consumers

To Whom It May Concern:

The Texas Lottery recently launched a new game called Daily 4. Unfortunately, it offers a highly promoted unfair wager and dubious odds have been quoted for the wager - specifically, the "Pair" wager in conjunction with the "Sum it Up" wager.

The Texas Lottery should NOT permit players to spend their money on a "Sum It Up" bet in conjunction with a "Pair" bet - nor should the wager have ever been in existence in the first place. For the most part, this is an absurd wager for any player.

The reason is simple.

As per the rule, players win a "Sum it Up" wager if the total sum of all FOUR digits drawn equals the sum of the numbers selected by the Player. Players do NOT select the SUM they want to play, rather, lottery terminals automatically adds the players numbers. This is the "sum" he will get for his SUM bet and it is printed on his lottery ticket.

When a player makes a "Pair" wager, which consists of selecting only TWO numbers in his wager, then the lottery terminals adds his TWO numbers to arrive at his SUM. The sum of his two numbers is printed on his lottery ticket for his Sum It Up wager.

Players win the "Sum" bet ONLY if their sum equals the sum of all FOUR numbers drawn. As you can see, for a "Pair" bet, this is nearly impossible to win and this bet is being sold by the State of Texas twice daily.

Dubious/Deceptive Odds

The Texas Lottery's "How To Play" brochure shows the odds for winning the Sum It Up feature. The odds were derived by calculating sums of FOUR digits, not TWO digits. Therefore, the odds shown for winning the SUM IT UP wager are false when coupled with a "Pair" bet because a pair sum is derived by adding TWO numbers - not FOUR.

Highly Promoted Sum It Up Feature

Not only is this feature being highly promoted on TV and Radio, but store clerks

are alerted by way of the lottery terminals to specifically ask players if they want to add the “Sum It Up” feature to their bet. Here’s how this works ... A player walks up to the counter and says, “*I want to make a front pair bet, .50 cents, and I want the numbers one-two for my front pair.*” The clerk then punches the wager into the terminal, but before a lottery ticket will print, a reading on the terminal screen says, “*Ask the customer would you like to sum it up?*”

Not only is the TLC getting FREE publicity by store clerks who are forced to ask consumers if they want to “sum it up” for Pair plays punched in manually, but this procedure also takes more time for the retailer to complete his transaction. (FYI - Some months back, the TLC also added this question to players buying Mega Millions tickets who did not select to play the “Megaplier” game which also irked retailers)

Unsuspecting players, not knowing or realizing that their sum will be the total of their TWO numbers, where the wager only pays based on the sum of the FOUR numbers drawn, are saying, “*Sure, why not.*” Then when they realize what they got, they are angry. Angry players do not add up to strong lottery sales.

There are 16,000 stores out there asking players if they want to spend more money than what the player originally planned to spend when he walked into the store. I’d definitely say this could be considered “highly promoted.”

The TLC was either grossly reckless in its game planning or they have intentionally and maliciously tried to increase revenues by offering a dishonest/unfair wager at the expense of unsuspecting loyal lottery players. This is very wrong. It needs to stop NOW.

There is an easy and fast solution to this problem. 1) The TLC can either exclude Sum it Up bets in association with Pair bets; 2) they can pay based on the sum of the pair vs the pair drawn should the same sum be drawn; 3) or they could program the computer to provide a quick pick sum for Pair/Sum it Up wagers.

Your immediate attention to this matter would be appreciated. Consumers don’t deserve to be ripped off by the state when playing the games of Texas and certainly, they deserve to know the true odds of the games they are playing.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Dawn Nettles
Publisher

cc: Texas Lottery Commission
The Honorable Governor Rick Perry
District Attorney Ronald Earle, Public Integrity Unit
Senator Jane Nelson
Representative Kino Flores
Representative Corbin Van Arsdale
Suzii Paynter