



# News

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **BBB Alerts Fans as Scammers use Cubs Playoff Run for a "Field of Schemes," with Fake Tickets and Merchandise**

Rockford, IL - October 5, 2016 - With the Cubs set to return to postseason play again this year ticket demand is high, and so are ticket prices. [Forbes magazine](#) predicts that the Cubs postseason playoff tickets will be baseball's most expensive ever. Tickets on the resale market could go for as much as \$920. Scammers are as excited as fans as they hit the streets and the internet with fake tickets and merchandise to unsuspecting fans, warns the Better Business Bureau.

"Whenever there's excitement about a special event, like the Cubs post-season appearance, there are counterfeiters who want to take advantage," explains Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau.

"Illegal ticket sellers know that fan fever can often cloud common sense and smart buying, Horton cautions, people need to be careful so they are not ripped-off by bad guys selling fake tickets and poor quality, unlicensed merchandise."

Late in September the Chicago Cubs and MLB announced lawsuits with vendors who were flooding the area selling illegal merchandise which can often be made with highly inferior materials.

Here are some suggestions to avoid getting taken buying fake tickets and illegal merchandise:

- **Don't fall for too-good-to-be-true deals.** [One-time good deals should be red flags](#) to anyone anxious for a ticket.
- **Buy tickets and merchandise from a reputable ticket broker or retailer.** There are established businesses that have been selling legitimate tickets for years. Many are [Accredited Businesses with the BBB](#).
- **Look for the official hologram and license from the sports league.** These are very difficult to fake and an excellent indication of a licensed product.
- **If buying merchandise online, buy from licensed sites.** Lookout for broken English in the descriptions. This could indicate an overseas company, and these companies are among the principal culprits in producing counterfeit goods.
- **Search BBB Databases at no charge** -for online reports and Consumer Reviews about Business Reports on an various businesses.
- **Use a credit card if possible, so you can appeal to the card company.** Using a credit card allows you to dispute the charge before you pay.
- **Report scammers.** If you've been cheated report the scam to authorities and the [BBB Scam Tracker](#) to warn others.

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