



# News

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**BBB – Rockford Regional Office**

Rockford, IL 61101

815.963.2226

815.323.8419 (cell)

815.963.0329 (fax)

[www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org)

Contact: Dennis Horton

BBB - Rockford Regional Office

[dhorton@chicago.bbb.org](mailto:dhorton@chicago.bbb.org)

## BBB Alert - Ticket Scammers Look to “Blitz” Football Fans

ROCKFORD, IL – September 13, 2016 – With the Chicago Bears headed back to Soldier Field for their first home game of the new season next Monday Night, Sept 19<sup>th</sup> and Green Bay Packer fans looking forward to their first home game Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> - ticket scammers are already blitzing the internet with fake tickets and preparing to unbox shoddy merchandise.

The Better Business Bureau is cautioning supporters to control their enthusiasm for the home opener and the excitement of Monday night football when looking to purchase tickets and merchandise.

“Fan enthusiasm for a team’s performance is exactly what scammers are looking for, as their passion often gets in the way of being a smart consumer” explains Dennis Horton, director of the Rockford Regional Office of the Better Business Bureau.

Horton adds, “Counterfeiters selling fake tickets and poor quality, unlicensed merchandise are two ways that bad guys make money from other people’s good times.”

Here are some suggestions on how to avoid buying fake tickets and illegal merchandise:

- **Don't get “sacked” with too-good-to-be-true deals.** One-time good deals should be red flags to anyone anxious for a ticket. Illegal ticket sellers know excitement about the event too often gets in the way of common sense and smart buying.
- **Score tickets 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. Check business ratings free at [ask.bbb.org](http://ask.bbb.org)
- **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.
- **Use a credit card if possible.** Using a credit card allows you to dispute the charge before you pay.
- **Blow the whistle on scammers.** If you’ve been cheated report the scam to authorities and the BBB Scam Tracker at [www.bbb.org/scamtracker/Chicago](http://www.bbb.org/scamtracker/Chicago) to warn others.

Ticket Buyers and all consumers can search the BBB database of accredited businesses at no charge at “Ask BBB” <http://ask.bbb.org/>. A full database of all businesses and ratings can also be found on the main webpage at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) - also like us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bbb), follow us on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/bbb) and add us on [Pinterest](https://www.pinterest.com/bbb).

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