**Don’t Let Fraudsters Steal Your Money**

The moment we’ve all been waiting for — professional baseball is back! Unfortunately, scammers are ready to take advantage of this excitement.

According to the [Aspen Institute](https://fraudtaskforce.aspeninstitute.org/time-is-now) and American Bankers Association (ABA), and others, 57,000 Americans are scammed daily, enough to fill a baseball stadium, and they are robbed of enough money to build one with $430 million being stolen every day. Some might say defense is the best kind of offense, so bankers shared the following tips to help fans knock it out of the park when safeguarding their money.

**Counterfeit sports merchandising on the rise**

Be on the lookout for fraudulent online vendors selling fake sports items at an incredibly low price. These fake vendors will take your money without delivering the promised good or by delivering counterfeit memorabilia. Operation Team Player, a joint initiative between Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), and major sports leagues has seized more than $455 million in counterfeit sports merchandise and apparel since 2013.

**Beware of third-party ticket sales**

Scammers may try to send you to a third-party ticketing site or a social media marketplace to take your money in exchange for fake tickets. Even if it seems like a great deal, these sites are rarely able to help you get your money back in case of a scam. It’s always safer to go through verified sites to protect your purchase and financial information.

**Watch out for fake gaming sites**

Fraudulent sites may advertise betting on sports to earn huge payouts or exclusive prizes, with the ultimate goal of stealing your card number or bank details. Always verify the legitimacy of a site to keep your financial information safe. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Have fun watching your favorite teams compete this season without any foul play from scammers. If you’re careful, you can strike out any scammers’ attempts to defraud you, so stay vigilant and play ball!

**About the Iowa Bankers Association**

The Iowa Bankers Association represents Iowa banks and savings institutions. Iowa bankers are committed to the values of honesty, hard work and community service, and have been a trusted resource for Iowans for more than 135 years. Iowa banks offer FDIC insurance and lend nearly $88 billion to help individuals, business owners and agriculture. Nearly 40,000 Iowans work at an Iowa bank, and bank employees volunteer more than 300,000 hours to support local communities each year. To learn more, visit [www.iowabankers.com](http://www.iowabankers.com/).