

## Countermeasures Against Online Soccer Gambling Crimes By Surabaya Police

**Dawan Anggara Pratama Naibaho, Chairul Muriman Setyabudi, Surya Nita**

Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia

E-mail: [dawannaibaho99@gmail.com](mailto:dawannaibaho99@gmail.com)

\*Correspondence: [dawannaibaho99@gmail.com](mailto:dawannaibaho99@gmail.com)

---

### KEYWORDS

digitalization, electronic  
certification, electronic  
signature, electronic  
transactions law,  
information.

---

### ABSTRACT

Gambling poses a significant threat to societal norms and can impede national progress on both material and spiritual fronts. Consequently, a rational approach is imperative in addressing this issue, which includes robust law enforcement policies and the prosecution of offenders. This research delves into the Surabaya City Police's efforts to combat online soccer gambling and seeks to analyze the modus operandi of suspects involved in such activities, as well as the challenges and obstacles encountered by the Cyber Unit III of the Surabaya City Police Criminal Investigation Unit. Employing a qualitative descriptive exploratory methodology, this study utilizes primary and secondary data gathered through observation, interviews, and document analysis. The findings of this research are anticipated to serve as a valuable resource for understanding the complexities of combating online gambling and to inform strategies for enhancing police effectiveness in responding to public reports of this illicit activity.

Attribution- ShareAlike 4.0 International (CC BY-SA 4.0)



---

### Introduction

The police are one of the main pillars in maintaining public security and order in Indonesia. It has a very important role in maintaining stability, protecting the rights of citizens, and enforcing the rule of law. On the other hand, the Police also play a role in realizing a society that has awareness of the applicable law. Based on information from the Public Relations Division of the National Police (2022) in the implementation of the duties and functions of the Police, the authority of the Indonesian Police is contained in Law No. 2 of 2002 concerning the National Police of the Republic of Indonesia. In Article 13 of Law Number 2 of 2002 concerning the Indonesian National Police (Polri) published in Statute Book Number 2 of 2002 which states that the main duties of the Indonesian National Police (Polri) are to maintain public security and order, enforce the law, and provide protection, protection and services to the community.

The internet has had a huge impact in various aspects of human life, from education, business, to entertainment, even in the realm of government. Almost all walks of life and every sector of life have adopted the internet as an integral part of their daily lives. While it provides significant benefits, internet use also has negative consequences. The internet

is often used by criminals to carry out various actions that disrupt the social order. One form of crime that often occurs in cyberspace is cybercrime. Cybercrime continues to evolve in both methods and forms. Cybercrime is a criminal act that uses computer technology, especially the internet, as its main tool. This crime exploits the advancement of computer technology to commit criminal acts (Marita, 2015).

The determination of criminal acts is a criminal policy, which according to Sudarto, is a rational step from the community to overcome crime (Sudarto & Pidana, 1981). In this criminal policy, it includes criminal law policy, which is also known as a crime prevention policy with criminal law (penal policy), because in addition to using criminal law, crime prevention can also be carried out through other means (non-criminal law). The social control function of criminal law is used to overcome crimes related to the use of potentially criminal information technology, with the aim of providing protection to the community from the dangers of crime (Supanto, 2016).

The phenomenon of online gambling that has become increasingly popular lately has also not escaped the attention of online gambling service providers, they are active in promoting their services through various channels, including social media, websites, and by using influencers. Even though many online gambling sites have been blocked, they are still looking for ways to promote their services, including by defacement on vulnerable sites and using Black Hat SEO techniques (Na'im, 2023).

In addition to causing addiction problems and other social impacts, playing online gambling also poses a threat to the security of personal data. The personal data of online gambling users is a vulnerable target for trading. This is because online gambling applications are often illegal and are not available on official platforms such as the Play Store or App Store. Some online gambling services are only available through websites in the absence of an official app. Additionally, privacy policies on online gambling services are often not transparent, leaving the potential for misuse of user data. It is possible that online gambling service providers can trade user data with other platforms to expand their reach.

Online gambling crimes can also cause losses to the state in terms of reduced tax revenues and constraints in the supervision of gambling activities. Online gambling sites often operate outside of a country's jurisdiction, so they tend to avoid paying taxes or contributions that they would otherwise give to local governments. Online gambling practices can also lead to a loss of revenue for the country because it does not require physical infrastructure such as casinos or traditional gambling halls, making it difficult to monitor. Another loss to the state occurs when the money used for online gambling often comes from income that should be used for the family's living and economic needs (Rumbay et al., 2023). Based on the Criminal Code currently in force in Indonesia, gambling is considered a gaming activity that aims to earn profits solely through the player's luck factor. This activity involves betting in the game (Pusiknas Bareskrim Polri, 2023).

The government continuously provides appeals related to security and ethics in the digital environment through various means, such as digital literacy, seminars, and other efforts. Even the Financial Services Authority has blocked 3,236 bank accounts related to online gambling activities, with a total balance of Rp 138 billion. Although this step is considered concrete and important, this amount is still much smaller than the estimated losses due to gambling which will reach a minimum of Rp 200 trillion in 2023 (Mapuasari, 2024). Every month, the National Police handles many gambling cases, with the highest number reported in March 2023, reaching 1,063 people. Between June and

September 2023, there was an increase in the number of reported cases. This information comes from the EMP Pusiknas Bareskrim Polri (2023).

Data from the National Police's Criminal Investigation Unit shows that the National Police cracked down on 2,530 gambling cases during the nine months of 2023. The case covers several categories including lottery gambling, online gambling, card gambling, cockfighting, and roulette. The data shows that East Java is the region with the highest number of reported gambling cases. Starting from the beginning of the year until September 2023, the East Java Police succeeded in cracking down on 795 reported gambling cases (Pusiknas Bareskrim Polri, 2023). The East Java Regional Police uncovered as many as 327 gambling cases during the period from January to August 2022 and named 500 people as suspects (Arfani, 2022). One of the incidents that occurred was the arrest of an online gambling syndicate by the Surabaya Police in August 2023. The Head of Criminal Investigation of the Surabaya Police, AKBP Mirzal Maulana, confirmed the arrest of eight individuals, including a gambling coordinator in the East Java region and a so-called big boss.

The city of Surabaya as the capital of East Java province has a strategic location on a national scale as a service center for Eastern Indonesia activities, and on a regional scale as a city of trade and services at national and international transportation nodes (land, air and sea) so as to provide opportunities for the city of Surabaya to increase its role as a National Activity Center (PKN). The location of the city of Surabaya is very strategic, connecting the city of Surabaya with the surrounding cities, namely the city/regency in the Kertosusilo Gate, so it strongly supports the acceleration of development in the city of Surabaya. Likewise, the growth of the city of Surabaya also affects the development of the surrounding cities/districts, sectorally and financially (Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah (RPJMD), 2016).

Online soccer gambling also has implications in terms of social economy. Gambling is often considered one way for individuals in economically disadvantaged societies to seek opportunities to increase their income, albeit with high risks. In economically vulnerable societies, gambling can be a way to overcome economic pressures or as a means to seek instant fortune (Cassidy, 2020). It is also related to the concept of "moral economy" where certain practices, even though considered illegal or immoral by the state, are still accepted by society because they meet certain needs (Scott, 1977).

This research was conducted to answer the need for a deeper understanding of the performance of police institutions in facing modern challenges that arise along with the increasing complexity of urban people's lives. With the high crime rate and diversity of social problems in big cities such as Surabaya, it is important to evaluate the extent to which police policies and operations can effectively address these issues. This research also aims to identify areas that still need to be improved and provide strategic recommendations that can improve the quality of public services and security in the work area of the Surabaya Police.

In addition, the mechanism in dealing with online soccer gambling by the police is not known for sure, whether it has been effective in handling online gambling cases that are increasingly spreading in the community. So the researcher tries to examine in terms of aspects, the development of modus operandi, legal and policy countermeasures, and what factors affect the process of dealing with online soccer gambling by the Police, especially the Surabaya Police. Therefore, the author compiled a study entitled "Efforts to Counter the Crime of Online Football Gambling by the Police (Case Study of the

Jurisdiction of the Surabaya Police)".

Based on the background presented, this research was conducted to understand how the phenomenon of online soccer gambling occurred in the jurisdiction of the Surabaya Police, as well as efforts to counter online gambling crimes, especially in the case of online soccer gambling that occurred in the jurisdiction of the Surabaya Police.

The research gap identified in this study lies in the limited exploration of the specific mechanisms and strategies employed by local law enforcement, particularly the Surabaya Police, in addressing online soccer gambling. While previous studies have broadly examined cybercrime and online gambling at the national level, there is a noticeable lack of focused research on the operational and preventive measures implemented at the municipal level. This gap leaves a crucial aspect of crime prevention unexplored, especially considering the unique socio-economic and technological landscape of Surabaya, which serves as a hub for regional activities and digital transactions. Addressing this gap is vital to understanding how local police forces adapt to rapidly evolving cyber threats and implement policies that align with the local context.

The urgency of this research stems from the escalating prevalence of online soccer gambling in Surabaya, contributing to social instability, economic hardship, and the erosion of public trust in law enforcement's ability to combat cybercrime effectively. The financial and psychological toll of online gambling on individuals and families continues to rise, posing a significant threat to societal welfare and national development. The swift digitalization of gambling platforms, coupled with technological innovations that circumvent existing regulations, necessitates immediate and strategic intervention. The Surabaya Police's efforts to address these issues must be evaluated to enhance their effectiveness and develop comprehensive countermeasures that prevent further societal harm and economic losses.

The novelty of this research lies in its specific focus on the Surabaya Police's dual approach to combating online soccer gambling through preventive and repressive measures, drawing insights from case studies and real-time interventions. This study bridges the gap between theoretical frameworks of cybercrime prevention and their practical application in urban environments. By analyzing both technological and human factors contributing to the proliferation of online gambling, this research highlights innovative practices, such as the integration of social media campaigns and community-based interventions, which are underexplored in existing literature. The study's unique contribution also lies in examining the intersection of law enforcement policies with the socio-economic dynamics of Surabaya, offering a localized perspective that can inform broader national strategies.

The primary objective of this research is to analyze the effectiveness of the Surabaya Police in combating online soccer gambling through preventive and repressive measures, identifying key challenges, and proposing strategic improvements. This study aims to contribute to the academic discourse on cybercrime prevention, providing valuable insights into the role of local law enforcement in addressing digital crimes. Practically, the research seeks to benefit policymakers, law enforcement agencies, and community leaders by offering actionable recommendations to strengthen cybercrime countermeasures and improve public awareness. Ultimately, this study aspires to enhance collaborative efforts between the police and the community, fostering a safer and more resilient digital environment in Surabaya and beyond.

## **Research Methods**

According to Soekanto and Mamudji (2019) the legal research normative, usually named doctrinal legal research is a type of inquiry conducted to examine one or more written laws or various legal texts. The conceptual approach stems from the perspectives and doctrines that have developed within the field of law. Understanding these perspectives and doctrines provides a foundation for researchers to build legal arguments in addressing the legal issues being investigated (Marzuki, 2017). The Statue Approach involves examining all laws and regulations related to the legal issue at hand. The result of this examination is an argument that can be used to resolve the legal issue being studied (Creswell & Creswell, 2017).

This research is conducted by examining legal materials through library research or secondary data, which consists of primary legal materials, secondary legal materials, and non-legal materials. Primary legal sources include Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions, Law No. 19 of 2016 amending Law No. 11 of 2008 on Electronic Information and Transactions ("ITE Law"), Government Regulation No. 71 of 2019, on the Implementation of Electronic Systems and Transactions ("GR 71/2019"), and Regulation of the Minister of Communication and Informatics Number 11 of 2018 on the Implementation of Electronic Certification ("Ministry Regulation 11/2018").

Secondary legal sources are derived from various research findings published in journals. Tertiary legal sources come from other references, such as dictionaries, electronic media, and others. The statutory approach involves analyzing relevant laws related to the formulated issues. This approach examines the coherence between laws or between laws and the constitution to derive legal arguments that address the legal issues.

## **Results and Discussions**

### **Research Results**

The phenomenon of online soccer gambling in Surabaya has grown rapidly, no longer limited to the upper middle class, but also penetrates the lower middle class. This research reveals that the accessibility of digital technology, aggressive promotion of online gambling platforms, and a variety of interesting game options are the main driving factors for increasing public participation in online gambling. This phenomenon not only impacts individuals but also carries significant social and economic consequences. For example, many people reduce work productivity due to their reliance on the instant income expected from gambling activities.

The perpetrators not only use personal devices such as mobile phones to access gambling sites but also take advantage of sophisticated modes such as money changers to disguise the origin of the funds generated from this illegal activity. The study also identified that the Surabaya Police have adopted various approaches to address this problem, including preventive measures such as educational campaigns through social media, direct counseling to the community, and collaboration with community leaders and influencers.

On the other hand, repressive measures are carried out by arresting the perpetrators, confiscating evidence such as electronic devices and cash, and blocking online gambling sites. Nevertheless, the study found that major challenges remain, such as easy access to illegal sites through technology such as VPNs and weak legal regulations to detect and crack down on perpetrators at the cross-border level.

## Discussion

The phenomenon of online soccer gambling that occurs in Surabaya can be analyzed through various social and technological theories. One of them is Social Technology Theory, which explains how technological developments create new opportunities for illegal activities such as online gambling. The increasingly easy and widespread accessibility of technology allows actors to take advantage of the digital gap to carry out these activities. The negative impacts felt by society, such as addiction, tension in the family, and a decrease in economic productivity, reflect how much influence technology has on people's social behavior. On the other hand, the modus operandi of perpetrators, such as the use of money changers and personal devices to disguise their gambling activities, is relevant to the Rational Choice Theory. In this theory, criminals tend to take advantage of available resources to maximize profits while minimizing risks, including the risk of detection by law enforcement.

The preventive approach taken by the Surabaya Police, such as public education campaigns and direct counseling to the community, reflects the principles of Crime Prevention Theory. This theory emphasizes the importance of reducing motivation and opportunities for perpetrators to commit crimes. Public education aims to increase public awareness about the negative impacts of online gambling, both in terms of legal, social, and economic. These measures are expected to create psychological and moral barriers for the public not to engage in such activities. In addition, repressive measures such as the arrest of perpetrators, confiscation of evidence, and blocking of online gambling sites show the implementation of Routine Activity Theory, which focuses on reducing elements that support criminal activities, such as access to crime facilities and opportunities.

The challenges faced in eradicating online gambling in Surabaya, such as user anonymity and the use of advanced technology by perpetrators, are closely related to the Digital Divide Theory. This theory suggests that technological developments often exceed the capacity of legal regulation, thus creating loopholes that can be exploited by criminals. To overcome this problem, this study recommends the application of technology-based solutions such as anomaly detection, blockchain analysis, and big data analysis. This approach allows for early detection of suspicious patterns of activity related to online gambling. In addition, strengthening international legal regulations and increasing people's digital literacy are important steps in overcoming this phenomenon in a sustainable manner.

In addition, cross-sectoral collaboration between governments, internet service providers, and local communities is urgently needed to create a comprehensive and effective approach. Bahri's theory (2020) also emphasizes the importance of cooperation in minimizing the social impact of online gambling through strict regulation, technological supervision, and continuous public education. With this combination of approaches, it is hoped that the negative impact of online gambling on individuals and society can be minimized. These measures are also expected to create a healthier and more productive social ecosystem, where illegal activities such as online gambling are no longer a threat to the social and economic stability of the community.

## **Conclusion**

The phenomenon of online soccer gambling in the jurisdiction of the Surabaya Police shows a significant increase in various circles, including the lower middle class. The availability of easily accessible digital technology and aggressive promotion are the main drivers. The impact includes a decline in people's productivity, neglect of primary responsibilities, and the risk of dependence on gambling as a source of income. This activity also creates social disturbances, including family conflicts and economic pressures.

The countermeasures carried out by the Surabaya Police include preventive measures, such as public education through social media and collaborative campaigns with community leaders, as well as repressive measures in the form of arresting perpetrators and blocking online gambling sites. This effort is strengthened through collaboration with the Ministry of Communication and Informatics for cyber patrols and the use of advanced technology, such as data analysis and anomaly detection, to identify and limit online gambling activities. This holistic approach aims to reduce adverse socio-economic impacts and create a healthier digital environment.

Internal factors, such as a personal drive to earn a quick income, weak self-control, and low literacy about the negative effects of gambling, are the main triggers. Meanwhile, external factors, including ease of access to technology, social environmental influences, and economic pressures, exacerbate the spread of online soccer gambling. Countermeasures require synergy between law enforcement, public education, economic empowerment, and strengthening digital regulations and supervision.

## References

- Arfani, F. W. (2022). *Polda Jatim Ungkap 327 Kasus Judi Selama Januari-Agustus 2022*. ANTARA Kantor Berita Indonesia. <https://www.antaranews.com/berita/3059957/polda-jatim-ungkap-327-kasus-judi-selama-januari-agustus-2022>
- Cassidy, R. (2020). *Vicious games: Capitalism and gambling*. Pluto Press.
- Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, J. D. (2017). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches*. Sage publications.
- Idik Saeful Bahri, S. H. (2020). *Cyber Crime Dalam Sorotan Hukum Pidana* (Vol 159). Bahasa Rakyat.
- Mapuasari, S. A. (2024). *Judi “Online” Mengancam Bonus Demografi*. Kompas. <https://www.kompas.id/baca/opini/2024/01/02/judi-online-mengancam-bonus-demografi>
- Marita, L. S. (2015). Cyber Crime Dan Penerapan Cyber Law Dalam Pemberantasan Cyber Law Di Indonesia. *Cakrawala-Jurnal Humaniora*, 15(2).
- Marzuki, M. (2017). *Penelitian Hukum: Edisi Revisi*. Prenada Media.
- Na'im, M. R. (2023). *Ancaman terhadap Data Pribadi di Balik Judi Online*. <https://csirt.tangerangkota.go.id/berita/ancaman-terhadap-data-pribadi-di-balik-judi-online>
- Pusiknas Bareskrim Polri. (2023). *Tiap Bulan, Ratusan Orang Ditangkap karena Kasus Judi*. [https://pusiknas.polri.go.id/detail\\_artikel/tiap\\_bulan,\\_ratusan\\_orang\\_ditangkap\\_karena\\_kasus\\_judi](https://pusiknas.polri.go.id/detail_artikel/tiap_bulan,_ratusan_orang_ditangkap_karena_kasus_judi)
- Rencana Pembangunan Jangka Menengah Daerah (RPJMD). (2016). *Kota Surabaya. Surabaya: Pemerintah Kota Surabaya*.
- Rumbay, I. S., Tangkudung, F. X., & Antow, D. T. (2023). Tinjauan Yuridis Terhadap Lemahnya Penanganan Tindak Pidana Judi Online. *Lex Privatum*, 11(5).
- Scott, J. C. (1977). *The moral economy of the peasant: Rebellion and subsistence in Southeast Asia*. Yale University Press.
- Soekanto, S., & Mamudji, S. (2019). *Hukum Normatif Suatu Tinjauan Singkat. Cetakan ke 11*.
- Sudarto, H., & Pidana, H. (1981). *Penerbit: Alumni*. Bandung.
- Supanto, S. (2016). Perkembangan Kejahatan Teknologi Informasi (Cyber Crime) dan Antisipasinya dengan Penal Policy. *Yustisia*, 5(1), 92–117.