

Section 17

Minors: a Steam login is not an age check

Investigated by: Agent Mary

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Context & source limits

No minor's data appears anywhere in this dossier and none was collected: the authors did not register on, deposit at, or complete a login to any platform named. Anyone building on this section should keep evidence involving a child private and redact identifying details from public exhibits. COPPA is cited here as a children's privacy law with its own scope conditions — audience, actual knowledge, personal data collected — and not as a general gambling-age rule; the 2026 New York complaint is an allegation by a state authority, not a finding.

"Sign in with Steam" proves an account exists. **It proves nothing about age** — and on these sites it is the only gate between a child and a deposit. Read it with [Section 3.1](#): inside the Steam client the warning a browser would show never fires, so the child never sees one.

What Steam OpenID provides **Account identity**

A verified SteamID used to log in or link an account.

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What the operator must establish **Eligibility to participate**

Age, jurisdiction and any required identity checks.

Technical basis: [Steamworks OpenID documentation ↗ archived 2026-09-21 ↗](#). The documented identity assertion is not a certification that the user may legally gamble.

COPPA / children under 13

Identify the operator and the data.

COPPA applies to covered child-directed services and services with actual knowledge that they collect personal information from children under 13. It is a children's privacy law, not a universal gambling-age rule. Establish the audience, personal data collected, knowledge and parental-consent process.

[FTC: COPPA requirements ↗ archived 2026-09-21 ↗](#)

The evidence to preserve

Record the journey from login to deposit.

Preserve the site's age gate, registration wording, eligibility terms, payment flow and complaint history. Assess each operator separately. Keep any evidence involving a child private and redact identifying details from public exhibits.

A related public enforcement record is the [2026 New York complaint announcement archived 2026-09-01 ↗](#), which alleges harm to young users from paid loot boxes. It is not a COPPA finding.

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