



## **Responsible Gaming Principles for Sports Wagering Legislation**

A growing number of states have legalized sports gambling, following the May, 2018 Supreme Court ruling allowed for individual states to determine the legality of sports gambling. Based on conversations with state leaders, there is interest in legalizing sports wagering in Ohio.

PGNO's Responsible Gaming Principles for Sports Gambling Legislation provide a basis for new regulations and legislation that may be enacted to allow sports wagering. The principles will help protect individuals, operators, and regulators by assisting the creation of reasonable efforts to mitigate harm and maximize effective resources for those impacted.

PGNO is neutral regarding legalized gambling and gambling expansion, however, we do advocate for appropriate consumer protections. As we've learned from our state gambling surveys, increased access to gambling results in increased rates of problem gambling. Sports gambling will expose a new audience to gambling, which will result in an increased demand for prevention and treatment services.

The Ohio Gambling Survey, released by Ohio for Responsible Gambling, found that younger adults, ages 18-44, were more likely to be at-risk for problem gambling. Additionally, the survey found the two activities most likely to be associated with at-risk/problem gambling were gambling in a casino/racino and sports gambling (online and fantasy football, sports bookie, horse racing).

Ohio has a history of collaboration when it comes to this issue. The gambling treatment field began in our state. Ohio has developed award-winning campaigns, drawn on national and international expertise and tracked statewide and community-specific data regarding gambling – including sports wagering.

The behavioral health field and the Problem Gambling Network of Ohio have begun the process of working with state legislators to identify the kinds of regulations and consumer protections that could be put in place to address this evolution of sports wagering.

## Legislators and regulators should:

- Set and enforce the minimum legal age to wager on sports at 21. Operators have an affirmative obligation to put in place technical and operational measures to prevent access by those who are underage.
- Limit sports wagering in Ohio to professional, U.S. sports. Collegiate and other amateur athletes could be more easily compromised than professional athletes. Additionally, by limiting to professional sports, regulators will be more equipped to ensure game integrity.
- Ensure that any expansion of sports wagering includes a minimum of 2% of tax revenue be dedicated to prevent, treat & research gambling addiction.
- Require sports wagering operators to implement responsible gaming programs which include comprehensive employee training, self-exclusion, ability to set limits on time and money spent, specific requirements for the inclusion of help/prevention messages in external marketing.
- Designate a regulatory agency with the specific mandate to minimize gambling-related harm. The regulator should consider the precautionary principle – there is a social responsibility to protect the public from exposure to harm, when scientific investigation has found a plausible risk – when considering new and expanded gambling legislation, regulations, policy or programs.
- Have clear marketing guidelines to prevent targeting vulnerable populations, including: youth, the elderly, and minorities.
- Include the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline and/or other statewide resources on all communications from the operators.
- Set licensing fees and tax rate at levels comparable to other states in order to ensure adequate resources for regulation and gambling support services.

As with other forms of gambling, there is a significant portion of the population who experience negative consequences as a result of sports wagering. It is incumbent upon our governmental bodies to help both operators and their customers by requiring reasonable regulations that will ensure the health and safety of our citizens. PGNO believes that the minimum standards indicated above, paired with efforts to combat illegal operations, and collaboration from regulators, operators, and prevention and treatment professionals will mitigate harm caused by sports wagering.