Sports Wagering – Dr. Mark Hamilton, Professor of Philosophy and NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, Ashland University.

We live in an age when gambling has become commonplace, even epidemic. Everyone gambles; even the state sanctions it and practices it. There was a time when gambling was considered quite immoral for it violated the work ethic as an attempt to get what one does not deserve nor worked for. We have become conditioned to accept it as a moral activity. 1992 *The Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act* made it sports wagering illegal except for a few states.

Ethical Problems with Sports Gambling:

1. Profiting through gambling, especially as a professional gambler defies the concept of justice as just dessert because one is not "earning a living". It is getting something for nothing or for no real effort. Thus it defies any real work ethic. Justice as just dessert which is based on a concept of work and getting what one deserves as a result of work. Gambling as a livelihood can certainly be an attempt to shortcut this.
2. Sports gambling threatens the fairness of our sporting contests. We want our contests to be without cheating and to be played fairly. This is threatened by gambling on the contest. Gambling scandals several times have done major harm to our sports. Point shaving and throwing games can make games unfair.
3. Sports wagering corrupts the integrity of the game. It does so by lessening the values of the internal skills of sport and devaluing winning. Internal goods are the skills that are learned and demonstrated in sports. Great catches, unbelievable plays and circus-like moves create great beauty and pleasure in our sports. Gambling diminishes the interest and value of these internal goods. Interests can be focused on very absurd aspects of sport instead. Look at all the absurd bets on the Super Bowl such as who will win the flip of the coin or what color the gator aid will be. The goal is shifted from winning the game to making the most money. A different or new end is sought.
4. It puts sport into contact with a corrupt industry, "The Mob". The best historical example of this is in boxing.
5. It has a rush effect which makes it psychologically addictive. Pete Rose needed this continuing rush after his playing days were over. The addiction destroyed OSU qb Art Schlichter. This can waste homes, break up families and serve no valued end for society. My friend Mike B., a really good guy, committed suicide due to his gambling debts and addiction. We cannot underestimate the addictive nature of wagering, including sports wagering.

Collegiate Wagering Scandals (these are only the most significant ones from college sports).

1. The first big one was in 1951 when 7 college basketball programs are caught up in point-fixing schemes in New York City. CCNY, Manhattan, Long Island, and Bradley were among those involved. 35 players were accused of fixing games. At least 86 games were fixed between 1947-1951. 20 college players were indicted and convicted. They were all banned from the NBA for life.

2. 1952 Kentucky has its basketball season suspended for the 52-53 season after a point shaving scandal. Wildcats had won the NCAA title in '51 and were the first team to receive the death penalty for the following year.

3. 1981 Rick Kuhn, former player for Boston College and 4 others are found guilty of conspiring to shave points to fix basketball games in the 78-79 season. Kuhn was sentenced to 10 years later reduced to 28 months. Kuhn had hooked up with mob figure Henry Hill to fix 9 games and convinced Jim Sweeney and Ernie Cobb to join the fun. They shaved points in 9 games and made about $10,000 for their efforts. Sweeney and Cobb were not charged.

4. 1982 Art Schlichter was suspended his rookie year in the NFL coming out of Ohio State because he had allegedly accumulated over $400,000 in gambling debts.

5. 1985 Tulane ends its basketball in the wake of point-shaving allegations. The school resumes basketball for the 1989-1990 season. 5 players were accused of point shaving in 2 games. Among the players busted was John "Hot Rod" Williams (was accused of receiving $8,550 in cash payments) who was indicted on 5 criminal counts, but after a mistrial the charges were dropped.

6. 1991 Many allegations of players at UNLV associating with known gamblers forces UNLV's coach of 9 years Jerry Tarkanian to step down after the 91-92 season. UNLV had won the 1990 championship and were in the final four in '91.

7. In 1996 13 Boston College football players are suspended for betting on college and pro football and baseball. Two bet against their team in a loss to Syracuse. After losing 45-17 Coach Dan Henning heard some players might have bet against their own team. He informed the proper officials and 13 players were suspended for the rest of the season and 6 permanently. Henning resigned at the end of the season.

8. 1997 Former Arizona State basketball players Stevin Smith and Isaac Burton plead guilty to charges of conspiracy to commit sports bribery in a point shaving scheme that fixed 4 Sun Devils games.

9. 1998 Northwestern football player Brian Ballarini pleads guilty to gambling charges and admits he had run betting operations at Northwestern and the University of Colorado. NW basketball players Dion Lee and Dewey Williams admit they tried to fix games by shaving points in 1995. Both spent a brief time in prison.

10. 2003 U. of Washington football coach Rick Neuheisel was fired for participating in March Madness pools. Although he had clearly done so the NCAA found that a Washington compliance person had said participating in off-campus pools was ok. Neuheisel sued the university for wrongful termination and won a 4.5 million dollar settlement.

11. 2005 Toledo University had three football and three basketball players indicted along with 2 high-rolling gamblers for shaving points.

12. 2009-2010 Brandon Johnson, the all-time leader in points and assists for Univ. of San Diego was sentenced to 6 mo. in prison for point shaving.

13. Investigation into UTEP in Jan. 2014 into point shaving rumors. 3 players were dismissed from the basketball team for sports wagering and awhile later Michael Karpus of W.Texas Univesity pled guilty for taking bets from these players.

This is obviously not an exhaustive list but puts into play how common sports wagering scandals have been in collegiate sports and how likely they will continue to be.

The NCAA Rules of prohibition are strong and explicit (See Accompanying Sheet).

Mark J. Hamilton

10.2 Knowledge of Use of Banned Drugs.

A member institution's athletics department staff members or others employed by the intercollegiate athletics program who have knowledge of a student-athlete's use at any time of a substance on the list of banned drugs, as set forth in Bylaw 31.2.3.1, shall follow institutional procedures dealing with drug abuse or shall be subject to disciplinary or corrective action as set forth in Bylaw 19.5.2.2.

10.3 Sports Wagering Activities. [#]

The following individuals shall not knowingly participate in sports wagering activities or provide information to individuals involved in or associated with any type of sports wagering activities concerning intercollegiate, amateur or professional athletics competition: *(Adopted: 1/8/07 effective 8/1/07)*

(a) Staff members of an institution's athletics department;

(b) Nonathletics department staff members who have responsibilities within or over the athletics department (e.g., chancellor or president, faculty athletics representative, individual to whom athletics reports);

(c) Staff members of a conference office; and

(d) Student-athletes.

10.3.1 Scope of Application. [#] The prohibition against sports wagering applies to any institutional practice or any competition (intercollegiate, amateur or professional) in a sport in which the Association conducts championship competition, in bowl subdivision football and in emerging sports for women. *(Adopted: 1/8/07 effective 8/1/07, Revised: 3/3/10)*

10.3.1.1 Exception. [#] The provisions of Bylaw 10.3 are not applicable to traditional wagers between institutions (e.g., traditional rivalry) or in conjunction with particular contests (e.g., bowl games). Items wagered must be representative of the involved institutions or the states in which they are located. *(Adopted: 1/8/07 effective 8/1/07)*

10.4 Disciplinary Action. [#]

Prospective or enrolled student-athletes found in violation of the provisions of this regulation shall be ineligible for further intercollegiate competition, subject to appeal to the Committee on Student-Athlete Reinstatement for restoration of eligibility. Institutional staff members found in violation of the provisions of this regulation shall be subject to disciplinary or corrective action as set forth in Bylaw 19.5.2.2 of the NCAA enforcement procedures, whether such violations occurred at the certifying institution or during the individual's previous employment at another member institution. *(Revised: 1/10/90, 1/8/01, 1/8/07 effective 8/1/07)*

Test Your Knowledge
College Gambling
Thinking About Changing your Gambling Behavior?
Tools for Peer Educators and Resident Advisors
College Athletes and Gambling
Fraternities and Sororities
Myth Buster: The Truth About Gambling

College Athletes and Gambling

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) has identified gambling by athletes as a major threat to the integrity of intercollegiate athletics and responded with the development of a comprehensive education program for student athletes at NCAA member schools.

Highly publicized betting scandals among student-athletes have shaped public perceptions of college gambling. Although these scandals are rare in the greater context of collegiate sports, past research indicates that both student athletes and students who are sports fans do gamble more than others students. These findings are consistent with previous research on college athletes. However, more recent studies found that NCAA athletes are gambling less and have fewer gambling-related problems, suggesting that prevention efforts have been effective.

NCAA and College Sports Gambling

After a series of incidents that involved college athletes and illegal sports wagering, the NCAA determined there was an increased need to further educate students about the strict rules surrounding college sports gambling.

NCAA Official Position/Statement

The NCAA has identified gambling by athletes as a major threat to the integrity of intercollegiate athletics and has responded with the development of a comprehensive education program called **Don't Bet on It**. In addition, research indicates that both student athletes and students who are sports fans gamble more often than other students, indicating that these subgroups are appropriate targets for prevention efforts.