

College Athletes and Gambling

The NCAA opposes all forms of legal and illegal sports wagering. Sports wagering has the potential to undermine the integrity of sports contests and jeopardizes the welfare of student-athletes and the intercollegiate athletics community.

Things to keep in mind.

Seventy-two percent of student athletes have gambled at least once since entering college; forty-five percent of male athletes gamble on sports.

One in 20 male student athletes admitted providing inside information for gambling purposes, bet on a game in which they participated, or accepted money for performing poorly in a game.

Student athletes who gambled on sports with bookies gamble an average of \$225 per month.

Source: Cross & Vollano, 1999

NCAA Gambling Rules for Student Athletes

Student-athletes shall not knowingly:

- Provide information to individuals involved in organized **gambling** activities concerning intercollegiate athletics competition;
- Solicit a bet on any intercollegiate team;
- Accept a bet on any team representing the institution;
- Solicit or accept a bet on any intercollegiate competition for any item (e.g., cash, shirt, dinner) that has tangible value; or
- Participate in any **gambling** activity that involves intercollegiate athletics or professional athletics, through a bookmaker, a parlay card or any other method employed by organized **gambling**.

Signs of a Problem Sports Gambler

Excessive phone bills to 900-number services or excessive use of Internet. Obsession with point spreads. Unusual interest in obscure games. Association with other sports bettors. Shifting allegiances for/against same team on different days. Frequently hitting up friends or family for loans. Defensive when questioned about gambling behavior. Debts, unpaid bills, financial troubles. After losing, eager to bet again to get even or ahead.

Dangers of student athlete betting include:

athletic and academic failure, crime, relationship problems, alcohol and substance abuse, debt, and suicide.

WHERE CAN YOU GO FOR HELP?

Call the toll-free Indiana Problem Gambling Referral Line at 1-800-994-8448.