

The NCAA will begin advocating in state legislatures for updated sports betting laws that protect student-athletes from harassment and protect the integrity of college games

The NCAA is advocating for updating existing state sports betting laws and regulations to protect student-athletes from harassment or coercion, address the negative impacts of problem gambling and protect the integrity of NCAA competition. In the past five years, 38 states have passed 38 different laws legalizing sports betting, and while some contain robust protection and integrity provisions, many do not. It's incumbent on lawmakers to act to protect this highly vulnerable population from the dangers of sports betting.

The NCAA surveyed student-athletes, engaged with key stakeholders and reviewed laws and regulations from across the country to identify model legislative provisions that states should pass. The provisions are intended to protect student-athletes, coaches, game officials and college sports personnel from harassment and problem gambling and to bolster integrity protections.

With several states still considering legalizing sports betting, the NCAA plans to work with lawmakers to include the provisions outlined below in pending legislation. All the provisions the NCAA is advocating for are currently in place in at least one state but not all, creating an uneven playing field and leaving student-athletes vulnerable. The provisions in any model bill should include the following:

Protecting student-athletes, officials and teams from harassment and coercion

1. Mandatory harassment reporting and penalties:

- a. **Mandatory reporting hotlines for gaming commissions or their designees.**
- b. **Power for gambling authorities** to place those suspected of harassment, coercion or integrity concerns on temporary restrictions while law enforcement is investigating.
- c. **Mandatory anti-harassment measures from the gambling industry:** Require gaming commissions or operators to develop and implement a system to monitor for harassment or coercive behavior and mandate that state gambling authorities refer such behavior to law enforcement or other established gambling enforcement units.
- d. **Mandatory bettor and gambling personnel education.**

Protecting competition integrity

2. **Prohibited bettors list:** Require states to develop a list of categories of individuals and entities who cannot place a wager on college athletics.
3. **A seat at the table for college sports experts:** Allow sport governing bodies, conferences and schools to approve or petition gambling operators or commissions about high-risk college sports betting markets such as player prop bets that are especially vulnerable to integrity issues, harassment and/or coercion, ideally before the market is offered.

4. **Prohibit individuals younger than 21 from wagering on sports.**
5. **Marketing and advertising standards:** Require any sports wagering advertisement also include information about the harassment hotline, problem gambling and/or prohibitions on harassing behavior in sports wagering.
6. **Provide additional funding to support at-risk higher education student population** and provide additional focus on investigating access to unregulated sports betting markets that target college campuses across the country.