



2018 Winter Newsletter



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING

MAJOR CONTRIBUTOR: Potawatomi Hotel & Casino

TWENTIETH ANNUAL WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON PROBLEM GAMBLING STATEWIDE CONFERENCE

“Follow the Yellow Brick Road...Celebrating 20 Years of Awareness, Education and Prevention One Brick at a Time”

- Our Twentieth Annual Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Statewide Conference will be held on March 14-15, 2019 with a pre-conference on March 13 at Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, Wisconsin, and will bring together national and state experts in the compulsive gambling addiction field. Blue Harbor has a limited number of rooms available on a first-come/first-served basis. Please call 866-701-BLUE for reservations, which should be made prior to Wednesday, February 20th, 2019 to be eligible for the conference rate of \$105.00 plus tax per night.
- Our Annual Conference offers up to 20.25 CEUs. Ethics and Clinical Supervision CEUs are also available.
- Exhibit space is available for the 2019 Conference.
- This year we will NOT be mailing out the conference brochures. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please call or email. We will also have the conference brochure available on our website.

**Online Registration and payments are
available.**

**See our website for details.
www.wi-problemgamblers.org**

Mark Your Calendars!

*The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling &
Drug Free Communities of Fond du Lac County present:*

3rd Annual “Start the Conversation” 5K Run/Walk

Let's start the conversation about addiction!

Saturday April 13th, 2019 at Lakeside Park, Fond du Lac, WI

Visit our website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org
for more information, brochures, online registration, etc.



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IS FANTASY SPORTS GAMBLING?

The "Against" Argument

In the eyes of the Federal law, Fantasy Sports does not qualify as betting. That is the reason that it is permitted to legally exist in the U.S.

Below you may find the main arguments against the idea that it constitutes gambling:

It requires skill rather than luck

The Unlawful Internet Gambling and Enforcement Act of 2006 deemed that simulated games had "an outcome that is determined predominantly by statistical results of sporting events". One of the key reasons why Sports Betting is outlawed on a federal level is that it is considered to be a mindless game of luck.

By contrast, Fantasy games are said to put players in an actively strategic position. They must create their team and manage it, as well as predict the outcome of each performance. The CEOs of sites like FanDuel and DraftKings maintain that there is a clear correlation between expertise and results. In regular betting however, a new player can out-perform a regular gambler due to luck.

Anti-gambling Sports Leagues are aligned with Fantasy Games

Another popularly used argument to strengthen the idea that this pass time does not constitute betting is that the leagues support this activity. The National Football League and another top league are explicitly against gambling and yet they encourage Fantasy leagues.

The American League expressed concerned that real wagering would lead to point fixing scandals, however this kind of concern is not applicable to fantasy sports. Due to this, leagues actively participate in marketing it to their consumers.

FanDuel has also been featured and commended in mainstream press publications like Sports Illustrated. This shows that Fantasy games are established and tolerated within an overwhelmingly anti-betting industry.

It can be played for free

One of the main difference between regular sports betting and fantasy sports is that real money is not integral to the latter. Indeed, many platforms don't include the opportunity to bet real money.

The "For" Argument

Despite the legal status of Fantasy games, many argue that it is in fact a gambling activity without the name. Here are some of the reasons why the argument that Fantasy is not gambling isn't completely air tight.

Bets on Poker and Casino are strategic too

Whilst it has been acknowledged that Poker betting as well as some Casino games are strategic they are still far more restricted than Fantasy Sports. Although Poker and Casino betting are legal on a federal level, only 3 states have legalized online platforms (Nevada, New Jersey and Delaware).

Most importantly, despite the fact that Poker is highly strategic and can also be played for free, it is categorized as a betting activity. By contrast, the strategic aspects of the game as used to exempt Fantasy Sports from the gambling category altogether.

This distinction makes the arguments against Fantasy Sports as gambling appear arbitrary and opportunistic. There is a strong case to indicate that although this simulation should not be categorized like Sports betting, it

should also not be in a different legal loophole to other forms of betting. The problem is that it is always defined in relation to sports betting exclusively.

Its easier for Sports Leagues to capitalize

The idea that Sports Leagues oppose betting and condone fantasy games for moral reason can easily be dispelled. There is a clear commercial advantage to Fantasy Sports for any American League. Whilst it would be unethical to align themselves with real betting platforms, leagues make millions from partnerships with Fantasy platforms.

Since these platforms do not promote wagers on real games, Leagues can create profitable partnerships without any inappropriate bias. This roves that it is in their interest to continue defining Fantasy Sports outside gambling whilst maintaining their explicit fear of betting.

The Definition of Gambling

Even though the Federal government has created exemptions for predictions which are not based on a single outcome this contradicts many definitions of betting. As the CEO of William Hill US said "you risk money something of an uncertain outcome, and to me that sounds like gambling". Although the definition may be complex and contentious within US legislation, this basic definition still resonates with most people.

Conclusion

Despite the controversy, Fantasy Sports leagues are currently completely legal in the US. Considered as a game of skill, playable both for free and for money, and having earned the backing of major sports leagues which are opposed to sports betting, fantasy sports are legal and open to players from the USA.

Article from WWW.BETOCLOCK.COM



Share your gambling recovery story on the WCPG website. Contact Cheri at Cheri@wi-problemgamblers.org

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

All of us at the WCPG hope you had a wonderful holiday season and wish you a Happy New Year.

We look forward to 2019 as we continue to provide services to people who are affected by gambling disorders. Please mark your calendar for March 14-15, 2019 as we host our 20th annual conference at the Blue Harbor Resort in Sheboygan, WI. Celebrate with us on 20 great conferences.

Having been a part of the WCPG for the past 21 plus years, it is exciting to look back and see how far we have come and also look forward to what the future will be as we continue to provide resources, education and awareness on gambling disorders.

Wishing you the best in 2019!

Rose Blozinski

WCPG Executive Director

March is Problem Gambling Awareness Month! The purpose of this event is to raise awareness about problem gambling and promote the availability of treatment.

Why is Problem Gambling Awareness Month Important?

Most adults gamble, and therefore would benefit from programs to prevent gambling addiction. March has become one of the biggest gambling occasions because of the popularity of the NCAA "March Madness" Basketball Tournament. Between six and nine million people meet criteria for gambling problems, yet only a fraction seek help. We believe many who suffer in silence do so because they don't know they developed a problem, what gambling addiction is, or where to get help.



PROBLEM GAMBLING
AWARENESS MONTH
→ HAVE THE CONVERSATION

Have the Conversation about Problem Gambling

Problem Gambling is a public health issue affecting all aspects of physical, social, and mental health. It can affect families, work performance and general well-being. It is important to know the signs of a gambling problem, that treatment is available, and that it works. Use this document to learn about problem gambling, how to recognize the signs of gambling addiction and where to go for help. March is a great time to Have the Conversation about Problem Gambling.

What is gambling? What is problem gambling?

- Gambling is defined as risking something of value on an unknown outcome that depends on chance or skill.
- Gambling becomes a problem when it affects any major area of life.
- Problem gambling is characterized by the inability to resist the impulse to gamble, even when there are negative consequences.
- Loss of control is at the heart of problem gambling.
- The DSM-5 classifies gambling disorder as a behavioral addiction. It is similar to substance-related disorders in many ways.

What resources are available?

- Call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline (1-800-GAMBLE-5)
- Gamblers Anonymous – www.gamblersanonymous.org
- Gam-Anon – www.gamanon.org

How do I have the conversation with a loved one?

Talking with someone you know about a potential gambling problem can be difficult. Remember, you can't stop the person from playing; only he or she can make the decision to stop. Choose the right moment, speak in a caring and understanding tone and hear what he or she is saying. To start the conversation:

- Tell him you care about him and you're concerned about how he is acting.
- Tell her exactly what she has done that concerns you.
- Tell him how his behavior is affecting other people. Be specific.
- Be clear about what you expect from her ("I want you to talk to someone about your gambling.") and what she can expect from you ("I won't cover for you anymore.").
- After you've told him what you've seen and how you feel, allow him to respond. Listen with a non-judgemental attitude.
- Let her know you are willing to help, but don't try to counsel her yourself.
- Give her information, not advice.
- Encourage him to call the toll-free helpline (1-800-GAMBLE-5). For more information about Problem Gambling Awareness Month visit: www.npgam.org

For help, call: 1-800-GAMBLE-5

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email...
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on Problem Gambling
1-800-Gamble-5
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View this newsletter on the web at:
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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT: The WCPG is currently accepting volunteers. Anyone interested in donating their time and skills to the organization by helping with administrative projects is encouraged to contact us at (920)437-8888.

RESOURCE LIBRARY: The WCPG has both books and videos in our lending library. Materials can be loaned out on a two week basis. These materials can also be mailed to you. For more information, call us at (920) 437-8888 or e-mail at: conference@wi-problemgamblers.org

The Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, Inc. provides resources, public awareness and education on gambling disorders while maintaining strict neutrality on the issue of legalized gambling.

- Our goals are to:**
- Promote public education and awareness of gambling disorders.
 - Maintain a toll-free statewide Helpline where people with gambling disorders and their families can call for immediate and continuing assistance in dealing with the addiction.
 - Advocate quality assistance for all individuals affected by gambling disorders.
 - Identify "high risk" individuals and groups with gambling disorders and provide prevention activities and information.
 - Provide expert training to professional counselors in the treatment of gambling disorders.
 - Compile and maintain a database of statistical information concerning gambling disorders in Wisconsin.