

**Baffling Bets: An Open Letter to the College Sports Commission as They Navigate the New
Frontier of Sports Betting in College Athletics**

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Introduction

To Chairman Nick Saban and the Esteemed Members of the College Sports Commission,

The world of college sports now stands at a precipice. The explosion in the popularity of legalized sports betting, a recreational activity that was once a peripheral concern to the National College Athletic Association (NCAA), is now an issue directly intersecting with the lives of players, coaches, and team staff on a daily basis.¹ The infatuation with gambling in college sports now presents an urgent and complex challenge to the integrity of the game itself.² Recent events, including significant gambling-related discipline and federal investigations into college athletic programs,³ highlight that this epidemic is no longer a hypothetical “accident waiting to happen,” but rather an active and evolving crisis.⁴ Further compounding these growing problems is the fact that the NCAA itself has now passed a significant shift in their well-established sports gambling prohibitions for those who fall under their authority⁵ by allowing college athletes to bet on professional sports.⁶

This paper will serve as an open letter, offering a comprehensive analysis of the current collegiate athletic betting landscape. It aims to review a number of multifaceted problems now faced by the NCAA and College Sports Commission (CSC): the vulnerabilities within current

¹ Meghan Durham Wright, “NCAA pursues additional sports betting violations”, NCAA, Sep. 11, 2025, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/9/11/media-center-ncaa-pursues-additional-sports-betting-violations.aspx>.

² SportSE Media, “Sports Betting on College Campuses | A Storm Is Brewing”, SportsEpreneur, Oct. 27, 2024, <https://sportsepreneur.com/sports-betting-on-college-campuses-storm-is-brewing/>.

³ David Purdum, “NCAA: 13 players from 6 schools involved in gambling schemes”, ESPN, Sep. 11, 2025, https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/46225197/ncaa-13-players-6-schools-involved-gambling-schemes.

⁴ David Purdum, “Records show gambling 'syndicate' targeted NCAA basketball”, ESPN, Oct. 17, 2025, https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/46607545/records-gambling-syndicate-ncaa-basketball-suspicious-bets.

⁵ Doug Feinberg, “NCAA moves closer to allowing college athletes to bet on pro sports”, KCRA, Oct. 8, 2025, <https://www.kcra.com/article/ncaa-athletes-betting-professional-sports-rule-change/68910935>.

⁶ Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

oversight structures, the well-documented rise in problematic gambling behaviors amongst student athletes,⁷ the ethical considerations of potential betting-derived revenue streams, and the broader implications that may follow for college athletic programs, such as facility financing and even name, image, and likeness (NIL) considerations. I will review the most pressing case studies, examine potential models for future governance, and propose actionable recommendations for a way forward for the NCAA and CSC. This paper's goal is to assist the CSC in forming a robust regulatory structure to fortify integrity, protect players, and responsibly navigate the ever-growing presence of sports betting in modern athletics.⁸

I. The Unfolding Reality: The Increasingly Entrenched Presence of Sports Betting in College Athletics

a. Historical Overview and the Post-PASPA Transformation

For decades, the NCAA has maintained a strong and unwavering opposition to sports betting.⁹ They adopted a view of sports gambling as an existential threat to the integrity of amateur competition in American universities.¹⁰ Historically, this NCAA stance has been grounded in the very bylaws of the association,¹¹ creating a bold line of demarcation member institutions were forbidden from crossing. However, the NCAA's prohibition was also powerfully supplemented by

⁷ Andrew Rhoades, "A growing problem: Rise in gambling addiction threatens bettors, athletes", Healio, Mar. 20, 2025, <https://www.healio.com/news/primary-care/20250320/a-growing-problem-rise-in-gambling-addiction-threatens-bettors-athletes>.

⁸ Paul Solman, "The growing concerns around the boom in sport betting", PBS, Feb. 7, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/study-reveals-financial-impact-of-the-sports-betting-boom>.

⁹ Cliff Brunt, "NCAA bans basketball players for betting on their own games", PBS, Sep. 10, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/ncaa-bans-basketball-players-for-betting-on-their-own-games>.

¹⁰ Ryan Hillermeier, "A Ticking Time Bomb- The NCAA and Sports Gambling", Seton Hall University, 2023, https://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2440&context=student_scholarship.

¹¹ "Sports Betting", NCAA, <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2016/4/29/sports-wagering.aspx#:~:text=What's%20the%20NCAA%20rule%20about,amateur%20or%20professional%20athletics%20competition>.

federal law,¹² including the groundbreaking Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act (PASPA) of 1992.¹³ Congress enacted PASPA with strong backing from both the NCAA and professional sports leagues, essentially creating a broad prohibition on sports betting across the country.¹⁴ However, PASPA also notably included grandfathered exceptions for sports lotteries (in Oregon, Delaware, and Montana) and licensed sports pools (in Nevada).¹⁵ For nearly twenty-five years after its enactment, PASPA stood tall as a formidable legal firewall largely insulating the college sports universe from the massive (and often illicit) gambling industry.¹⁶ The Act had one clear objective: to curb state-sponsored efforts to expand sports gambling.¹⁷ Congress feared that such expansion would undermine public confidence in the integrity of sports contests.¹⁸

However, the cultural and legal landscape of sports betting in the U.S. soon took on a rapid and lasting shift.¹⁹ In May 2018, the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Murphy v. NCAA* struck down PASPA as an unconstitutional violation of the Tenth Amendment,²⁰ reasoning that PASPA's widespread prohibition against state-authorized sports betting improperly

¹² "NCAA supports federal sports wagering regulation", NCAA, May 17, 2018, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2018/5/17/ncaa-supports-federal-sports-wagering-regulation.aspx>.

¹³ Sen. Dennis DeConcini, "S.474 - Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act", Congress, Oct. 28, 1992, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/102nd-congress/senate-bill/474>.

¹⁴ Jill R. Dorson, "What Is PASPA, The Federal Ban on Sports Betting?", SportsHandle, Jul. 1, 2020, <https://sportshandle.com/what-is-paspa-sports-betting-ban-professional-amateur-sports/>.

¹⁵ I. Nelson Rose, "States Grandfathered-in Under PASPA", Gambling and the Law, Jun. 9, 2018, <https://www.gamblingandthelaw.com/states-grandfathered-in-under-paspa/>.

¹⁶ Ryan M. Rodenberg, "Legal and Corruption Issues in Sports Gambling", Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport, 2013, <https://journals.indianapolis.iu.edu/index.php/jlas/article/view/22190/21337>.

¹⁷ Eric Meer, "THE PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR SPORTS PROTECTION ACT (PASPA): A BAD BET FOR THE STATES", UNLV Law, Jan. 10, 2012, <https://scholars.law.unlv.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1026;context=glj>.

¹⁸ Jon H. Oram, "U.S. Supreme Court Strikes Down PASPA, Opening the Door to State-Authorized Sports Gambling", Proskauer, May 17, 2018, <https://www.proskauer.com/alert/us-supreme-court-strikes-down-paspa-opening-the-door-to-state-authorized-sports-gambling>.

¹⁹ "Murphy v. NCAA: The Fall of PASPA and the Rise of Sports Gambling", NYU Law Journal of Intellectual Property and Entertainment Law, Jan. 2, 2019, <https://jipel.law.nyu.edu/murphy-v-ncaa-the-fall-of-paspa-and-the-rise-of-sports-gambling/>.

²⁰ Melinda Roth, "Don't Bet on It: Sports Betting and Consequential Detrimental Impact", Cardozo Arts and Entertainment Law Journal, Vol. 43:3, Jul. 14, 2025, https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=5123102.

“commandeered” the states’ legislative processes and forced them to integrate a federal regulatory framework.²¹ While the ruling did not legalize sports betting nationwide, it returned the discretionary authority to do so back to individual states.²² The repeal of PASPA under this decision quickly opened the floodgates, unleashing a downpour of state legislative activity across the country.²³ In the following years, a massive (and growing) wave of state-by-state sports betting legalization has brought the industry out of the shadows and directly onto the doorstep of college campuses across the U.S., embedding it into the mainstream of American sports culture.²⁴

The new reality for sports gambling has created a confusing, complex, and oftentimes contradictory patchwork of laws.²⁵ As of late 2025, more than 75% of U.S. states have legalized some form of sports betting, though specific regulations vary dramatically.²⁶ Some states, such as New Jersey, have embraced gambling on college sports, including matches involving in-state schools,²⁷ while other states, like New York, permit wagers on college games in general but

²¹ Christopher Bret Alexander, “A Slam Dunk for States’ Rights: The Impact on Constitutional Federalism And Federal Following The Supreme Court In Murphy V. NCAA”, 27 Jeffrey S. Moorad Sports L.J. 25, Mar. 22, 2020, <https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1385&context=mslj>.

²² Ethan Mordekhai, “The Aftermath of Murphy v. NCAA: State and Congressional Reactions To Leaving Sports Gambling Regulation To The States”, Cardozo Arts and Entertainment Law Journal, Oct. 17, 2023, <https://cardozoaelj.com/2023/10/17/the-aftermath-of-murphy-v-ncaa-state-and-congressional-reactions-to-leaving-sports-gambling-regulation-to-the-states/>.

²³ Becky Harris, “The growth of legalized gambling post PASPA repeal”, Human Kinetics, <https://us.humankinetics.com/blogs/excerpt/the-growth-of-legalized-gambling-post-paspa-repeal?srsltid=AfmBOooyFMvYuT4ZUtTWXGFVM3zfp38TW0D83v3THrov9GzTyYjVngbJ>.

²⁴ Patrick Everson, “Regulated sports betting industry booming five years after PASPA’s repeal”, FOX Sports, May 19, 2023, <https://www.foxsports.com/stories/other/regulated-sports-betting-industry-booming-five-years-after-paspas-repeal>.

²⁵ Andrea Ercolino, “Regulatory Inconsistencies Regarding Sports Gambling”, The Hofstra Journal of International and Business Law, Nov. 11, 2024, <https://www.hofstrajbl.org/2024/11/regulatory-inconsistencies-regarding-sports-gambling/>.

²⁶ Matthew Walters, “Sports Betting States: Latest US Legislation & Bill Tracker”, Legal Sports Report, Jul. 23, 2025, <https://www.legalsportsreport.com/sports-betting-states/>.

²⁷ “Which States Allow Bets On College Sports?”, Business of College Sports, Apr. 16, 2025, <https://businessofcollegesports.com/other/which-states-allow-bets-on-college-sports/#:~:text=For%20example%2C%20New%20Jersey%2C%20New,the%20games%20are%20played%20elsewhere.>

prohibit any bets placed on home-state collegiate teams.²⁸ Still, other states have adopted even more nuanced restrictions, allowing for certain types of bets while banning other wagers²⁹ (most notably individual player proposition bets, or “prop” bets), which are seen as particularly vulnerable to manipulation and integrity violations.³⁰ This fragmented regulatory landscape has rendered what was once a simple NCAA prohibition into an increasingly difficult patchwork of rules to track and enforce.³¹ In an era of conference and College Football Playoff (CFP) expansion,³² the same staff, coaches, and student-athletes who may travel across multiple states for competition are now being faced with an absolutely dizzying array of legal and accessible sports gambling markets.³³ The near-constant advertising from sportsbooks such as FanDuel and DraftKings during in-game broadcasts,³⁴ coupled with the seamless integration of betting odds into sports media coverage,³⁵ is evidence that sports wagering is becoming normalized to an unprecedented degree.³⁶ This reality creates a formidable new challenge for the NCAA, an

²⁸ Jack Andrews, “College Betting Rules By State”, Unabated, Mar. 14, 2025, <https://unabated.com/articles/college-betting-rules-by-state>.

²⁹ Brant James, “Can I Bet On In-State College Sports Where I Live? A Look At Rules, Options for Football This Fall”, Gaming Today, Mar. 14, 2024, <https://www.gamingtoday.com/news/how-college-sports-betting-laws-vary-across-states/>.

³⁰ Brant James, “Players Unions’ Betting Stances Evolve”, In Game, Aug. 25, 2025, <https://www.ingame.com/players-unions-betting-prop-bets/>.

³¹ Yanaisi Gordon, “BETTING ON PRIVACY: SAFEGUARDING DATA IN THE ERA OF ONLINE GAMBLING”, UNLV Gaming Law Journal, 2025, <https://scholars.law.unlv.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1238&context=glj>.

³² Ralph D. Russo, “College Football Playoff expansion discussions on deadline: Where will the debate go next?”, The Athletic, Oct. 8, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6698287/2025/10/08/college-football-playoff-expansion-format-debate/>.

³³ Chris Pinson, “College Football Playoff expansion discussions on deadline: Where will the debate go next?”, Yahoo Sports, Oct. 8, 2025, <https://sports.yahoo.com/article/ncaa-idiocy-athletes-coaches-could-231024661.html>.

³⁴ Joe Hernandez, “Sports betting ads are everywhere. Some worry gamblers will pay a steep price”, Jun. 18, 2022, <https://www.npr.org/2022/06/18/1104952410/sports-betting-ads-sports-gambling>.

³⁵ “How betting odds drive fan engagement – across all channels”, SportRadar, <https://sportradar.com/content-hub/blog/how-betting-odds-drive-fan-engagement-across-all-channels/>.

³⁶ “Sports betting 2025: Has gambling become too normalized in American society?”, Cleveland.com, Jul. 29, 2025, <https://www.cleveland.com/letters/2025/07/sports-betting-2025-has-gambling-become-too-normalized-in-american-society.html>.

organization that leans heavily on historical precedent and has long been dedicated to keeping gambling at an arm's length.³⁷

b. Remnants of the Past: A Brief Legacy of Gambling Scandals in College Sports

While the post-PASPA era is representative of a new model, the threat gambling has posed to the integrity of college athletics (and sports more broadly) is far from a new phenomenon.³⁸ A look back through history outlines a series of cautionary tales that highlight the near-constant vulnerability of professional sports to gambling's corrupting influence.³⁹ One must understand these past failures in order to fully appreciate the vast magnitude of the crisis at hand.⁴⁰

The most infamous collegiate sports gambling case was the 1950–51 point-shaving scandal involving the City College of New York (CCNY) basketball team.⁴¹ The CCNY Beavers had attained the unthinkable in 1950, as they won both the NCAA Tournament and National Invitation Tournament (NIT) in a single season, a feat that has never been (and likely will never be) replicated.⁴² The darlings of the college basketball world, CCNY was a gritty team from a public

³⁷ Mika Ono, "Study Reveals Surge in Gambling Addiction Following Legalization of Sports Betting", UC San Diego Today, Feb. 17, 2025, <https://today.ucsd.edu/story/study-reveals-surge-in-gambling-addiction-following-legalization-of-sports-betting>.

³⁸ Neil H. Huffey, "College Sports Wagering: A Case Study about Gambling on College Athletics and the Motivations and Consequences Surrounding Legislation Wanting to Ban Wagering on College Sports", UNLV Theses, Dissertations, Professional Papers, and Capstones, 2001, <https://oasis.library.unlv.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1436&context=thesesdissertations>.

³⁹ "Black Sox, Ohtani's interpreter and more: A look at prominent sports betting scandals", The Business Journal, Jul. 29, 2025, <https://thebusinessjournal.com/black-sox-ohtanis-interpreter-and-more-a-look-at-prominent-sports-betting-scandals/>.

⁴⁰ Rick Benson, "Caught in the Act: High-Profile Gambling Scandals in Sports", Algamus, <https://www.algamus.org/blog/high-profile-gambling-scandals-in-sports>.

⁴¹ Jonathan Chang, "'From Heroes To Villains': CCNY Basketball's Dramatic Fall From Glory", WBUR, Apr. 3, 2020, <https://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2020/04/03/city-college-of-new-york-basketball-scandal>; Michael McCarthy, "The History of Hoops Betting Scandals", Front Office Sports, Oct. 23, 2025, <https://frontofficesports.com/the-history-of-hoops-betting-scandals/>.

⁴² Marvin Kalb, "The College Basketball Victory That Seemed Too Good to Be True—and Was", The Atlantic, Apr. 25, 2013, <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2013/04/the-college-basketball-victory-that-seemed-too-good-to-be-true-and-was/275263/>.

commuter school in Harlem who reached the pinnacle of the sport.⁴³ However, the following season, the entire structure of collegiate basketball came crashing down⁴⁴ after an investigation by New York District Attorney Frank Hogan uncovered a massive, multi-team point-shaving controversy.⁴⁵ Star CCNY players (as well as athletes from six other prominent universities, including Long Island University, New York University, and the University of Kentucky) had been systematically paid by both mobsters and professional gamblers as part of a conspiracy to manipulate the outcomes of games.⁴⁶ The plan did not require the players to necessarily lose games outright—they just needed to win by fewer points than was dictated by the established betting spread.⁴⁷ The scandal ultimately resulted in the arrest of thirty-two players, completely eviscerating all of the programs involved.⁴⁸ Despite CCNY being a national powerhouse just the year prior, they were barred from playing at Madison Square Garden and were relegated to Division III—effectively a death sentence preventing CCNY from ever again reaching national prominence.⁴⁹ The scandal shattered the public’s trust in the purity of college athletics and led to a generation of distrust for those involved in athletics at the time.⁵⁰

⁴³ Joe Goldstein, “Explosion: 1951 scandals threaten college hoops”, ESPN Classic, Nov. 19, 2003, http://www.espn.com/classic/s/basketball_scandals_explosion.html.

⁴⁴ Rustin Dodd, “The forgotten hoops legacy of CCNY, the New York kids who won (and lost) it all”, The Athletic, Mar. 16, 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/1650465/2020/03/16/the-forgotten-hoops-legacy-of-ccny-the-new-york-kids-who-won-and-lost-it-all/>.

⁴⁵ Alar Lipping, “Basketball point-shaving scandal”, EBSCO, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/sports-and-leisure/basketball-point-shaving-scandal>.

⁴⁶ Richard Goldstein, “Floyd Layne, 95, Basketball Player Tarnished by Gambling Scandal, Dies”, The New York Times, Jul. 31, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/31/sports/basketball/floyd-layne-dead.html>.

⁴⁷ Jonathan Chang, “‘From Heroes To Villains’: CCNY Basketball’s Dramatic Fall From Glory”, WBUR, Apr. 3, 2020, <https://www.wbur.org/onlyagame/2020/04/03/city-college-of-new-york-basketball-scandal>.

⁴⁸ Joe Goldstein, “Explosion: 1951 scandals threaten college hoops”, ESPN Classic, Nov. 19, 2003, http://www.espn.com/classic/s/basketball_scandals_explosion.html.

⁴⁹ Alar Lipping, “Basketball point-shaving scandal”, EBSCO, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/sports-and-leisure/basketball-point-shaving-scandal>.

⁵⁰ Ira Berkow, “FINAL FOUR: A LOOK BACK; Scandal, the Unwanted Scar of Triumph”, The New York Times, Mar. 29, 1996, <https://www.nytimes.com/1996/03/29/sports/final-four-a-look-back-scandal-the-unwanted-scar-of-triumph.html>.

A mere two decades later, organized crime again returned to college sports during the 1978–79 Boston College (BC) point-shaving scandal⁵¹—a scheme immortalized in the movie *Goodfellas*.⁵² Mobster Henry Hill and several of his Lucchese crime family associates recruited key members of the BC basketball team in order to deliberately throw games.⁵³ The athletes, who included BC’s leading scorer in Rick Kuhn, were similarly paid thousands of dollars per game to ensure their team’s performance fell short of that night’s point spread.⁵⁴ The plot, which was eventually revealed as part of an unrelated investigation into a Lufthansa heist, and the subsequent testimony of Henry Hill ultimately led to multiple convictions, including a ten-year prison sentence for Kuhn and several of his teammates.⁵⁵ As a second high-profile college sports gambling scandal involving the mob, this case represented a loud reminder that even in a more modern era with newer technology and oversight mechanisms, student-athletes could still be targeted and compromised by sophisticated criminal organizations.⁵⁶

The foundation of college athletics was once again shaken during the 1985 Tulane University basketball scandal, a case involving both point-shaving and impermissible payments to players by coaches and alumni, a clear violation of NCAA amateurism rules.⁵⁷ Tulane’s star player,

⁵¹ David Purdum, “The worst fix ever”, ESPN, Oct. 3, 2014, https://www.espn.com/espn/chalk/story/_/id/11633538/betting-chronicling-worst-fix-ever-1978-79-bc-point-shaving-scandal.

⁵² Bob Hohler, “When ‘Goodfellas’ collided with BC basketball”, Boston Globe, Mar. 16, 2014, <https://www.bostonglobe.com/sports/2014/03/15/and-goodfellas-sports-scandal-and-its-lingering-toll/nvIXKiXCYSgPqBUtg9BRN/story.html>.

⁵³ Sheena Garitta, “Mobster’s Arrest Reveals Point Shaving by Boston College Basketball Players”, EBSCO, 2022, <https://www.ebsco.com/research-starters/sports-and-leisure/mobsters-arrest-reveals-point-shaving-boston-college>.

⁵⁴ Jack McCluskey, “30 For 30’ tackles BC point-shaving scandal”, ESPN, Oct. 7, 2014, https://www.espn.com/blog/boston/colleges/post/_/id/5698/30-for-30-tackles-bc-point-shaving-scandal.

⁵⁵ Iván Román, “How the 1978 Lufthansa Heist Led to a Trail of Dead Bodies”, History.com, May 28, 2025, <https://www.history.com/articles/1978-lufthansa-heist-jfk-henry-hill-goodfellas>.

⁵⁶ Paul Rubin, “Clean Shave”, Phoenix Magazine, Mar. 1, 2015, <https://www.phoenixmag.com/2015/03/01/clean-shave/>.

⁵⁷ Mike Littwin, “THE TULANE SCANDAL : New Orleans has had more than its share of scandals. But when word got out that five Tulane players had taken money to shave points, the city was stunned. As the circumstances unfolded it became apparent that something had to be done. And it was as Tulane dropped basketball.”, Los Angeles Times,

John “Hot Rod” Williams, and multiple teammates were indicted on charges of conspiring with student bookmakers to fix several of their games.⁵⁸ The following investigation unveiled a culture of corruption permeating deep within the program and led University President Eamon Kelly to make an unprecedented and drastic decision: to completely shut down Tulane’s men’s basketball program for four years, claiming it was “an embarrassment to the university.”⁵⁹ While the program was eventually reinstated, it took years to recover from its gambling-based hiatus.⁶⁰

A final prominent sports gambling case of the late twentieth century was that of Stevin “Hedake” Smith, a former top-three recruit and McDonalds All-American.⁶¹ Smith was a star basketball player at Arizona State University in the early 1990s, setting multiple school records and leaving as the all-time leading scorer of the program.⁶² However, in 1994, Smith and teammate Isaac Burton became involved in a point-shaving scandal—one that unfortunately followed Smith into his NBA career.⁶³ After just a short stint in the league, Smith decided to leave the NBA behind in favor of playing in Europe, hoping that he could make enough money to pay off his debts.⁶⁴ But

Apr. 29, 1985, <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1985-04-29-sp-12995-story.html>; Michael McCarthy, “The History of Hoops Betting Scandals”, Front Office Sports, Oct. 23, 2025, <https://frontofficesports.com/the-history-of-hoops-betting-scandals/>.

⁵⁸ Gary Rotstein, “The Most Notorious Sports Betting Scandals Of All Time”, SportsHandle, Mar. 14, 2025, <https://sportshandle.com/sports-betting-scandals-history/>; Michael McCarthy, “The History of Hoops Betting Scandals”, Front Office Sports, Oct. 23, 2025, <https://frontofficesports.com/the-history-of-hoops-betting-scandals/>.

⁵⁹ Lenny Vanglider, “A sad anniversary: 25 years since Tulane basketball’s point shaving scandal”, Crescent City Sports, Mar. 26, 2010, <https://crescentcitysports.com/a-sad-anniversary-25-years-since-tulane-basketballs-point-shaving-scandal/>.

⁶⁰ “Tulane reinstated its men’s basketball program after...”, Los Angeles Times, Apr. 22, 1988, <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1988-04-22-sp-2105-story.html>.

⁶¹ Albert J. Figone, “Cheating the Spread: Gamblers, Point Shavers, and Game Fixers in College Football and Basketball”, Dokumen.Pub, 2012, <https://dokumen.pub/cheating-the-spread-gamblers-point-shavers-and-game-fixers-in-college-football-and-basketball-1nbsped-9780252094453-9780252037283.html>.

⁶² Will Carter, “Former Arizona State Star Stevin “Hedake” Smith Warns Trojan Student-Athletes About the Dangers of Gambling”, Little Rock Trojans, Sep. 30, 2025, <https://lrtojans.com/news/2025/9/30/academics-former-arizona-state-star-stevin-hedake-smith-warns-trojan-student-athletes-about-the-dangers-of-gambling.aspx>.

⁶³ <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1997-dec-06-sp-61336-story.html>

⁶⁴ Will Carter, “Former Arizona State Star Stevin “Hedake” Smith Warns Trojan Student-Athletes About the Dangers of Gambling”, Little Rock Trojans, Sep. 30, 2025, <https://lrtojans.com/news/2025/9/30/academics-former-arizona-state-star-stevin-hedake-smith-warns-trojan-student-athletes-about-the-dangers-of-gambling.aspx>.

after just two years of overseas play, the scandal caught up to him, and in 1997, Smith and Burton pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges.⁶⁵ Smith was ultimately sentenced to a year and a day in prison for his part in the scheme.⁶⁶

All of these historical scandals share common elements: the targeting of unpaid or under-compensated student-athletes, the exploitation of point spreads, and the involvement of sophisticated criminal actors. Each case further demonstrates the integrity of college sports is not something just recently under attack⁶⁷—it has always been fragile.⁶⁸ However, the crucial difference today is one of both accessibility and scale. Conspiracies once requiring clandestine meetings with bookies and mobsters can now be initiated with a simple direct message on social media.⁶⁹ In addition, the digital accessibility and relentless promotion of the legal betting market have created an environment of risk and temptation dwarfing anything seen in previous eras.⁷⁰ These lessons from the past are now more urgent and relevant than ever.⁷¹

c. A Potential Turning Point for NCAA Policy

In the face of this new frontier, the traditional hardline stance of the NCAA has begun to crack and show signs of strain, pushing leaders towards a critical review of the institution's long-

⁶⁵ “Point-Shaving Scandal Hits Arizona State”, Los Angeles Times, Dec. 6, 1997, <https://www.nytimes.com/1997/12/06/sports/college-basketball-2-admit-shaving-points-at-arizona-state-in-94.html>.

⁶⁶ Brady Langmann, “NCAA Gambling Scandal Widens With ‘Overlapping’ Cases”, Esquire, Oct. 14, 2021, <https://www.esquire.com/entertainment/tv/a37895655/arizona-state-point-shaving-netflix-bad-sport-documentary-true-story/>.

⁶⁷ Pat Forde, “NCAA Gambling Scandal Widens With ‘Overlapping’ Cases”, SI, Sep. 11, 2025, <https://www.si.com/college-basketball/ncaa-gambling-scandal-widens-with-overlapping-cases>.

⁶⁸ Jack Klingler, “Legalized Sports Gambling and the NCAA’s Struggle to Maintain Game Integrity”, Sports Litigation Alert, Jun. 13, 2025, <https://sportslitigationalert.com/legalized-sports-gambling-and-the-ncaas-struggle-to-maintain-game-integrity/>.

⁶⁹ James J. Jacobs, “The Rise and Fall of Organized Crime in the United States”, University of Chicago Press Journals, 2020, <https://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/10.1086/706895>.

⁷⁰ Barrie Gunter, “Gambling Advertising: Nature, Effects and Regulation”, Emerald Insight, 2019, <https://www.emerald.com/books/book-pdf/9242441/9781787699243.pdf>.

⁷¹ Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

held principles.⁷² In the spring of 2025, numerous media outlets reported that the NCAA’s Division I Board of Directors was seriously considering a massive policy shift:⁷³ lifting the blanket ban on athletes, coaches, and staff gambling on professional sports currently codified under NCAA Bylaw 10.3.⁷⁴ This proposal, which was forwarded to the Division I Council for consideration and subsequently approved (including votes at the Division II and III levels to now allow gambling on professional sports within college athletics)⁷⁵ despite delays,⁷⁶ represents an implicit acknowledgement that the post-PASPA universe has made the NCAA rules of old completely unsustainable.⁷⁷

The rationale underlying this NCAA policy change⁷⁸ is both multifaceted and practical. Proponents within the collegiate administration claim such an adjustment is a necessary adaptation

⁷² “NCAA launches Draw the Line to address sports betting”, NCAA, Mar. 19, 2024, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2024/3/19/media-center-ncaa-launches-draw-the-line-to-address-sports-betting.aspx>.

⁷³ Zach Lutz, “NCAA may allow college student-athletes to bet on pro sports”, Birches Health, May 13, 2025, <https://bircheshealth.com/resources/ncaa-betting-on-pro-sports>.

⁷⁴ “NCAA Bylaw 10.3 - Sports Wagering Activities”, The University of Tulsa Athletics Compliance, <https://s3.us-east-2.amazonaws.com/sidearm.nextgen.sites/tulsaHurricane.com/documents/2015/6/4/SportsWageringBrochure.pdf?timestamp=20150604111211>.

⁷⁵ Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

⁷⁶ Seth Emerson, “NCAA delays implementation of rule allowing college athletes to bet on pro sports”, The Athletic, Oct. 28, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6757283/2025/10/28/greg-sankey-ncaa-college-athletes-sports-betting/>; David Steele, “NCAA Delays Start Date For College Athlete Betting”, Law360, Oct. 29, 2025, https://www.law360.com/sports-and-betting/articles/2405160?nl_pk=6c1a2eee-e94e-483b-8606-3e00a1b009a6&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sports-and-betting&utm_content=2025-10-30&read_main=1&nlsidx=0&nlaidx=1; Margaret Fleming, “SEC’s Sankey Blasts NCAA Plan to Allow Pro Sports Betting”, Front Office Sports, Oct 28, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/sec-sankey-ncaa-pro-sports-betting/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FOS%20AM%20Oct%2029%202025&utm_content=FOS%20AM%20Oct%2029%202025+Version+B+CID_1ea159d54d3d860d5e21148b9ceca956&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=SECs%20Sankey%20Blasts%20NCAA%20Plan%20to%20Allow%20Pro%20Sports%20Betting.

⁷⁷ Alexis George, “Is “Don’t Bet On It” Dead? How the NCAA is Responding to Legalized Sports Wagering After PASPA Declared Unconstitutional by the Supreme Court”, Richmond Journal of Law and Technology, Oct. 16, 2018, <https://jolt.richmond.edu/2018/10/16/is-dont-bet-on-it-dead-how-the-ncaa-is-responding-to-legalized-sports-wagering-after-paspa-declared-unconstitutional-by-the-supreme-court/>.

⁷⁸ Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

recognizing the widespread availability of legal sports betting.⁷⁹ They believe such a shift would acknowledge the immense difficulty (if not complete impossibility) of policing every single form of gambling activity by every individual under the NCAA’s purview.⁸⁰ These supporters argue the current system expends significant resources pursuing investigations and punishing even the most minor infractions, like an athlete placing a small, legal wager on a National Football League (NFL) game—sanctions doing very little to protect the integrity of the collegiate competition more broadly.⁸¹ These proponents believe by potentially relaxing the rules against gambling on professional sports, the NCAA could strategically reallocate their limited enforcement resources to focus on the most direct and dangerous threats: bets placed on collegiate sporting events, the sharing of insider information, and attempts at point-shaving or match-fixing.⁸² They believe this approach would represent a shift from a mass prohibition to a more targeted enforcement strategy, accurately reflecting the difference in NCAA risk with professional sports bets as opposed to bets on college athletics.⁸³

⁷⁹ David Purdum, “NCAA closer to letting Division I athletes bet on pro sports”, ESPN, Oct. 8, 2025, https://www.espn.com/espn/betting/story/_/id/46532269/ncaa-allows-division-athletes-bet-professional-sports.

⁸⁰ Dr. Chris Stankovich, “Betting on Trouble: Why the NCAA’s New Gambling Policy Misses the Mark”, The Sports Doc Chalk Talk, Oct. 9, 2025, <https://drstankovich.com/betting-on-trouble-why-the-ncaas-new-gambling-policy-misses-the-mark/>.

⁸¹ Matthew Wester, “Betting on Themselves: How Players Could Benefit from Legalized Sports Wagering”, Seton Hall University, 2023, https://scholarship.shu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2511&context=student_scholarship.

⁸² Christopher P. Coniff, “NCAA Takes Steps to Permit Gambling on Professional Sports While Continuing to Crack Down on College Sports Betting”, Ropes & Gray, Oct. 9, 2025, <https://www.ropesgray.com/en/insights/alerts/2025/10/ncaa-takes-steps-to-permit-gambling-on-professional-sports-while-continuing-to-crack-down>.

⁸³ “New Report Identifies Possible Implications of NCAA’s Decision Allowing College Athletes to Bet on Professional Sports”, CBS 42, Oct. 9, 2025, <https://www.cbs42.com/business/press-releases/ein-presswire/856746994/new-report-identifies-possible-implications-of-ncaas-decision-allowing-college-athletes-to-bet-on-professional-sports>.

However, this shift has also sparked significant controversy⁸⁴ and raised serious concerns⁸⁵ amongst athlete welfare advocates, traditionalists, and those wary of the influence of the gambling industry.⁸⁶ Critics are warning of a “slippery slope,” arguing to allow any form of sports betting would be to blur ethical lines, create the appearance of impropriety, and normalize gambling behavior among a young and potentially vulnerable population.⁸⁷ They also are worried about the potential for the corrupt exchange of insider information having similarly negative impacts on game integrity.⁸⁸ For example, a college football player may possess unique knowledge about the health or habits of a former teammate now playing in the NFL, information carrying potentially significant value in the betting market. To allow such a college athlete to legally bet on NFL games would be to create a new and difficult-to-monitor channel for such information to be exploited, potentially to the detriment of the game’s integrity.⁸⁹

Furthermore, there are growing national conversations around the societal costs of sports betting, especially when it comes to its potential to contribute to problematic gambling behaviors

⁸⁴ Margaret Fleming, “SEC’s Sankey Blasts NCAA Plan to Allow Pro Sports Betting”, Front Office Sports, Oct 28, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/sec-sankey-ncaa-pro-sports-betting/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FOS%20AM%20Oct%2029%202025&utm_content=FOS%20AM%20Oct%2029%202025+Version+B+CID_1ea159d54d3d860d5e21148b9ceca956&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=SECs%20Sankey%20Blasts%20NCAA%20Plan%20to%20Allow%20Pro%20Sports%20Betting.

⁸⁵ Michael McCann, “NCAA’s Sports Betting Move Reflects Fairness but Comes With Risks”, Sportico, Oct. 9, 2025, <https://www.sportico.com/law/analysis/2025/ncaa-pro-sports-betting-1234873221/>.

⁸⁶ Callum Jones, “‘A target on their back’: college athletes face wave of abuse amid gambling boom”, The Guardian, Oct. 2, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/oct/02/college-athletes-abuse-online-gambling-betting>; David Steele, “NBA Betting Scandal A Wake-Up Call For Leagues, Industry”, Law360, Oct. 24, 2025, https://www.law360.com/sports-and-betting/articles/2403624?nl_pk=6c1a2eee-e94e-483b-8606-3e00a1b009a6&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sports-and-betting&utm_content=2025-10-27&read_main=1&nlsidx=0&nlaidx=0.

⁸⁷ Danielle Boland, “New NCAA survey reveals troubling trends, but has flaws”, Birches Health, Jan. 21, 2025, <https://bircheshealth.com/resources/ncaa-survey-trends>.

⁸⁸ Phil Suddick, “Tackling sports corruption with technology”, Clue Software, Jun. 27, 2022, <https://www.cluesoftware.com/2022/06/27/tackling-sports-corruption-with-technology/>.

⁸⁹ Reginalda Obara, “Ensuring That Integrity Is at the Core of Sports: Prevention of Corruption in Sport and Manipulation of Competitions”, Sport Integrity Journal: Financial Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Sport, Dec. 2024, <https://siga-sport.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/SIJ-7-Anti-Corruption-in-Sport-Dec-2024.pdf>.

in young men, a key demographic shared by college athletics and sports wagering.⁹⁰ Critics are still questioning whether the NCAA, an organization holding itself out as being dedicated to student-athlete well-being, should be loosening their rules at a time when such risks are becoming more prevalent.⁹¹ One sign the NCAA may already be grappling with these complex welfare issues comes in the form of news that the NCAA is reportedly considering “safe harbor” provisions protecting players from losing their college eligibility if they were to voluntarily come forward to seek help for personal gambling issues.⁹² Such a two-pronged approach, which contemplates both a reduction in restrictions and the formation of support systems, underscores the critical and uncertain inflection point where the NCAA and college sports now find themselves.⁹³ The outcome of this debate over NCAA Bylaw 10.3 is all but certain to shape the relationship between college athletics and gambling for years to come.⁹⁴

II. Flashing Red Lights: High-Profile Cases, Systemic Failures, and Emerging Threats

a. *The Cascade of Student-Athlete Gambling Violations*

⁹⁰ “UM Researchers Warn of Problem Gambling Risk Among College Students”, University of Mississippi, Sept. 2025, <https://olemiss.edu/news/2025/09/um-researchers-warn-of-problem-gambling-risk-among-college-students/index.html>.

⁹¹ Matt Rybaltowski, “Barkley rips proposed NCAA rule to allow college athletes to bet on pro sports”, International Gaming Business, Oct. 17, 2025, <https://igamingbusiness.com/sports-betting/barkley-ncaa-betting-proposed-rule-change/#:~:text=on%20pro%20sports-.Barkley%20rips%20proposed%20NCAA%20rule%20to%20allow,to%20bet%20on%20pro%20sports&text=Charles%20Barkley's%20proclivity%20for%20chasing,to%20a%20more%20moderate%20approach>.

⁹² Timothy Brown, “High Stakes: The NCAA’s New Betting Policy and the Risks for College Athletes”, Lewis Brisbois, Oct. 20, 2025, <https://lewisbrisbois.com/blog/category/sports-law/high-stakes-the-ncaas-new-betting-policy-and-the-risks-for-college-athletes>.

⁹³ “A New Era Of College Sports Is Here”, NCAA, Jan. 31, 2024, <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2024/1/31/change.aspx>.

⁹⁴ “New Report Identifies Possible Implications of NCAA’s Decision Allowing College Athletes to Bet on Professional Sports”, CBS 42, Oct. 9, 2025, <https://www.cbs42.com/business/press-releases/einpresswire/856746994/new-report-identifies-possible-implications-of-ncaas-decision-allowing-college-athletes-to-bet-on-professional-sports#:~:text=Normalization%20of%20Gambling%20Behavior%20%E2%80%94%20Betting, reducing%20stigma%20but%20increasing%20participation.&text=Integrity%20and%20Enforcement%20Recalibration%20%E2%80%94%20NCAA,the%20integrity%20of%20college%20competitions>.

Sports betting's escalating threat to college sports is no longer a theoretical concern or future speculation; it is a documented and ongoing crisis.⁹⁵ A series of recent high-profile gambling cases have unveiled a highly active subculture of gambling within college sports, exposing deep-seated gaps in the current system while revealing the shocking extent to which these wagers have infiltrated even the most prestigious of athletic departments.⁹⁶

Iowa State University and University of Iowa Scandal

Perhaps the most serious cautionary tale in recent memory has been the Iowa State University and University of Iowa betting scandal, first garnering national attention in the spring of 2023.⁹⁷ An investigation beginning with state gaming regulators looking into the use of third-party accounts on mobile betting apps rapidly transformed into one of the largest gambling busts in the history of college sports.⁹⁸ Initial criminal charges were filed against dozens of athletes from both universities, primarily for underage gambling and tampering with official records in order to conceal their identities.⁹⁹ However, these charges were merely the tip of the iceberg.¹⁰⁰

The subsequent investigation uncovered thousands of illegal wagers.¹⁰¹ For example, Iowa State quarterback Hunter Dekkers was accused of placing 366 bets for just under \$2800—which

⁹⁵ Jenny Vrentas, "Sports Betting Apps Have a Powerful New Tool to Keep Users Gambling", The New York Times, Sep. 30, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/business/live-in-game-sports-betting.html>.

⁹⁶ Luke Clark, "Sports betting scandals highlight knowledge gaps for gambling harm", PubMed Central, Aug. 28, 2024, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11399551/>.

⁹⁷ Paula Lavigne, "Inside the historic Iowa athlete sports betting prosecution", ESPN, Jul. 18, 2024, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/40575467/inside-iowa-iowa-state-ncaa-gambling-investigation.

⁹⁸ "Iowa, Iowa State investigating athletes gambling", ESPN, May 8, 2023, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/37568592/gaming-commission-investigating-iowa-possible-ncaa-violation.

⁹⁹ Richard Johnson, "Iowa Sports Betting Investigation: Seven Athletes Charged in Probe", SI, Aug. 2, 2023, <https://www.si.com/college/2023/08/02/iowa-sports-betting-investigation-iowa-state-what-we-know>.

¹⁰⁰ Adam Rittenberg, "More Iowa State, Iowa players charged in sports betting investigation", ESPN, Aug. 10, 2023, https://www.espn.com/college-football/story/_/id/38169161/more-iowa-state-iowa-players-charged-sports-betting-investigation.

¹⁰¹ Jason Fuller, "Dozens of student athletes in Iowa came under investigation for sports gambling", NPR, May 10, 2023, <https://www.npr.org/2023/05/10/1175302089/dozens-of-student-athletes-in-iowa-came-under-investigation-for-sports-gambling>.

included a wager on an Iowa State football game in 2021, when he was on the team as a backup.¹⁰² Another former Iowa State player, defensive lineman Eyioma Uwazurike (then with the Denver Broncos), allegedly made over 800 wagers totaling over \$21,000 of action.¹⁰³ Similar to Dekkers, Uwazurike bet on at least four Iowa State football games—though the alleged games were ones he actually played in.¹⁰⁴ The nature and sheer volume of the bets were appalling, demonstrating an endemic and flippant regard for critical NCAA regulations.¹⁰⁵

Since then, the scandal has continued to evolve,¹⁰⁶ with subsequent legal challenges raising questions as to whether the investigators’ use of tracking software and geofencing data to monitor athletes’ online activity was proper without sufficient warrants.¹⁰⁷ While this development has complicated prosecutions for these student-athletes, it does not erase their egregious disregard for underlying NCAA rules.¹⁰⁸

¹⁰² RJ Kraft, “Ex-Iowa State QB Hunter Dekkers, banned by NCAA for sports betting, signed by New Orleans Saints”, The Athletic, May 13, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6302384/2025/05/13/hunter-dekkers-gambling-signed-saints/#:~:text=He%20was%20accused%20of%20placing%20366%20mobile%20or%20online%20bets,to%20place%20any%20sports%20bet>.

¹⁰³ Nick Kosmider, “Eyioma Uwazurike bet on Broncos and Iowa State games, complaint alleges; DE facing tampering charge”, The Athletic, Aug. 2, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/4741334/2023/08/01/eyioma-uwazurike-betting-broncos-iowa-state/>.

¹⁰⁴ David Purdum, “Hunter Dekkers among 4 linked to Iowa State gambling, charged with tampering”, ESPN, Aug. 1, 2023, https://www.espn.com/college-football/story/_/id/38117323/hunter-dekkers-linked-iowa-state-gambling-probe-charged-tampering.

¹⁰⁵ Travis Hines, “NCAA rule changes align to public gambling sentiment – and aid Iowa, Iowa State athletes”, Des Moines Register, Jul. 5, 2023, <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/sports/college/2023/07/05/iowa-state-cyclones-iowa-hawkeyes-ncaa-gambling-penalties-investigation-eligibility/70312874007/>.

¹⁰⁶ Charlotte Varnes, “After a betting probe, an All-American went undrafted. Now he’s one step from MLB”, The Athletic, Jun. 27, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6454292/2025/06/27/keaton-anthony-phillies-iowa-sports-betting-case/?campaign=13928921&source=athletic_thewindup_newsletter&userId=23794279.

¹⁰⁷ Paula Lavigne, “Iowa-based athletes in betting inquiry sue, say rights violated”, ESPN, Apr. 26, 2024, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/40029156/iowa-iowa-state-gambling-lawsuit-civil-rights; Matt Brown (Aug. 1, 2025).

¹⁰⁸ Scott Dochterman, “Attorney claims ‘warrantless search’ led to Iowa, Iowa State gambling investigation”, The Athletic, Jan. 23, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/5222545/2024/01/23/iowa-state-gambling-investigation-news-2/>.

Furthermore, in a shocking development coming to light in May 2025, the NCAA also announced a negotiated resolution for five members of the Iowa State football support staff who were found to have placed a combined 6,200 wagers, including numerous bets on their own university's football and basketball teams.¹⁰⁹ This resolution in particular served as a deeply chilling reminder that the threat of illicit sports betting is not confined solely to the student-athletes themselves but rather extends deep into the halls of athletic departments, implicating other team staffers who potentially have access to sensitive team information.¹¹⁰ The Iowa State University and University of Iowa scandal has become a case study in the need for robust institutional monitoring and control, comprehensive anti-gambling education, and clear communication of rules to everyone who may be associated with a given athletic program.¹¹¹

Kayshon Boutte and the Audacity of Prohibited Betting

Next, the case of Kayshon Boutte, a former star wide receiver at Louisiana State University (LSU) who now plays for the NFL's New England Patriots, further illustrates the shortcomings of existing detection systems and the brazen approach some athletes have taken to the issue of illegal sports betting.¹¹² Back in January 2024, Boutte was arrested by the Louisiana State Police on charges relating to a sophisticated and extensive illegal gambling operation he ran while he was

¹⁰⁹ "NCAA disciplines 5 Iowa State staffers for sports gambling", ESPN, May 2, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-football/story/_/id/44969352/ncaa-disciplines-5-iowa-state-staffers-sports-gambling#:~:text=They%20face%20no%20criminal%20charges,order%20through%20April%2024%2C%202026.

¹¹⁰ "NCAA disciplines 5 current, former Iowa State football support staff members for gambling", Des Moines Register, May 3, 2025, <https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/sports/college/iowa-state/football/2025/05/02/iowa-state-football-former-support-staff-members-disciplined-ncaa-gambling/83415781007/>.

¹¹¹ "Sports wagering investigation", Iowa Office of Strategic Communication, May 8, 2023, <https://osc.uiowa.edu/news/2023/05/sports-wagering-investigation>.

¹¹² Brandon Champion, "NFL wide receiver accused of making thousands of illegal bets while starring at LSU", M Live, Jan. 25, 2024, <https://www.mlive.com/sports/2024/01/nfl-wide-receiver-accused-of-making-thousands-of-illegal-bets-while-starring-at-lsu.html>.

underage and a member of the LSU football team.¹¹³ The arrest warrant alleged Boutte had created a fraudulent account on a betting site using his mother's name, allowing him to circumvent age restrictions and illegally gamble.¹¹⁴ Boutte reportedly placed over 8,900 wagers between April 2022 and May 2023, depositing more than \$132,000 and wagering nearly half a million dollars.¹¹⁵

Perhaps even more alarming is the fact that at least seventeen of Boutte's tickets allegedly involved NCAA football games, with at least six wagers on his own LSU squad.¹¹⁶ The investigation highlighted one July 2022 parlay bet Boutte placed, which included a wager for him to score a touchdown and have over 82.5 receiving yards in LSU's season-opening game against Florida State University.¹¹⁷ Notably, Boutte finished the contest with just two catches for twenty yards, with no touchdowns scored.¹¹⁸ It is a strong indictment of the oversight mechanisms of LSU, the Southeastern Conference (SEC), and the NCAA that Boutte's prolific and audacious gambling activity, which included wagers on games in which he played a key role, went completely undetected until after he had already turned pro, effectively insulating him¹¹⁹ from any sort of sanction from the aforementioned parties.¹²⁰ Boutte's case also raises numerous questions about

¹¹³ Michael McCann, "NFL Receiver's Arrest for Underage Betting Raises Age-Old Issue", Sportico, Jan. 29, 2024, <https://www.sportico.com/law/analysis/2024/kayshon-boutte-arrest-illegal-sports-betting-age-1234764502/>.

¹¹⁴ "Patriots WR Kayshon Boutte charged in illegal sports gaming scheme", NFL, Jan. 25, 2024, <https://www.nfl.com/news/patriots-wr-kayshon-boutte-charged-in-illegal-sports-gaming-scheme#:~:text=Boutte%20allegedly%20created%20the%20name.28%2C%202022%2C%20and%20Oct.>

¹¹⁵ Mike Reiss, "Gambling charges dropped against Patriots' Kayshon Boutte", ESPN, Jul. 16, 2024, https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/40574352/gambling-charges-dropped-patriots-kayshon-boutte.

¹¹⁶ "Louisiana State Police Investigate Illegal Sports Gaming Scheme", Louisiana State Police, Jan. 25, 2024, <https://lsp.org/community-outreach/news/louisiana-state-police-investigate-illegal-sports-gaming-scheme/#:~:text=Between%20April%206%2C%202022%2C%20and,those%20wagers%20on%20LSU%20football>.

¹¹⁷ Austin Veazey, "Former LSU Wide Receiver Bet on Himself Against FSU Football and Lost", SI, Jan. 25, 2024, <https://www.si.com/college/fsu/football/former-lsu-wide-receiver-bet-on-himself-against-fsu-football-and-lost>.

¹¹⁸ Zach Ragan, "Former SEC WR placed a bet on himself as part of parlay and failed miserably", A to Z Sports, Jan. 25, 2024, <https://atozsports.com/nashville/volunteers/former-sec-wr-placed-football-parlay-lsu/>.

¹¹⁹ Mike Reiss, "Gambling charges dropped against Patriots' Kayshon Boutte", Jul. 16, 2024, https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/40574352/gambling-charges-dropped-patriots-kayshon-boutte.

¹²⁰ The same can be said of the three Eastern Michigan basketball players who refused to comply with a 2025 NCAA betting probe. While the NCAA can strip athletes of eligibility, there is no recourse against players who have no

what other illicit gambling activities are currently going unnoticed on campuses across the country.¹²¹

A Spreading Contagion: Other Notable Cases

Unfortunately, these cases are not isolated incidents, instead serving as a hallmark of a much broader trend.¹²² In 2023, University of Alabama head baseball coach Brad Bohannon was fired and later given a fifteen-year show-cause penalty by the NCAA after it was revealed he had provided a bettor with insider information.¹²³ Surveillance video from a Cincinnati-area sportsbook showed the bettor on the phone with Bohannon just before he placed a large and highly unusual wager against University of Alabama in their game against LSU.¹²⁴ The bet was quickly flagged by integrity monitors, leading to an investigation uncovering the direct link between the Alabama head coach and this alarming betting conspiracy.¹²⁵

Similarly, in 2024, gambling integrity firms flagged several Temple University men's basketball games after finding suspicious betting activity,¹²⁶ an action prompting the university to

eligibility remaining. https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/46710725/ex-eastern-michigan-players-refused-participate-betting-probe

¹²¹ Matt Dolloff, "Patriots' Kayshon Boutte opens up on illegal gambling issues", 98.5 The Sports Hub, Jul. 29, 2024, <https://985thesportshub.com/2024/07/29/kayshon-boutte-talks-gambling-issue/>.

¹²² Zach Lutz, "College sports betting scandals and controversies", Birches Health, <https://bircheshealth.com/resources/college-sports-betting-scandals-and-controversies>.

¹²³ David Purdum, "Brad Bohannon, ex-Alabama coach, sanctioned in betting scandal", ESPN, Feb. 1, 2024, https://www.espn.com/espn/betting/story/_/id/39436918/brad-bohannon-ex-alabama-baseball-coach-sanctioned-betting-scandal#:~:text=The%20NCAA%20found%20that%20Bohannon,five%20seasons%20of%20his%20employment.%22.

¹²⁴ "Former Alabama baseball head coach violated wagering, ethical conduct rules", NCAA, Feb. 1, 2024, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2024/2/1/media-center-former-alabama-baseball-head-coach-violated-wagering-ethical-conduct-rules.aspx>.

¹²⁵ Nick Bromberg, "Former Alabama baseball coach given 15-year show-cause by NCAA after betting scandal", Yahoo Sports, Feb. 1, 2024, <https://sports.yahoo.com/former-alabama-baseball-coach-given-15-year-show-cause-by-ncaa-after-betting-scandal-173611059.html>.

¹²⁶ Joe Vardon, "Temple men's basketball team played several games with unusual betting patterns", The Athletic, Mar. 9, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/5329020/2024/03/09/temple-basketball-betting-activity-uab/#:~:text=The%20Temple%20men's%20basketball%20team,the%20team's%20season%20by%20The>.

launch an internal investigation.¹²⁷ While specifics from this case remain under review, the public flagging of numerous games within a single program indicates integrity concerns, suggesting potential for coordinated manipulation as part of an organized betting scheme,¹²⁸ a result further eroding public confidence in the legitimacy of college athletics.¹²⁹

Lastly, in September 2025, the NCAA took another drastic step: issuing permanent bans to three California State University, Fresno and San Jose State University men's basketball players after an investigation uncovered they had been wagering on their own games and other collegiate sports.¹³⁰ The outcome in this case represents the NCAA's "nuclear option" when it comes to punishment, terminating the college careers of the offending student-athletes.¹³¹ While these sanctions show a zero-tolerance policy for the most egregious of violations, they also confirm the integrity of amateur competition is still actively under threat.¹³²

These cases highlight that the combination of easy access to online betting platforms via smartphones in conjunction with the relentless sports gambling advertising bombarding young

¹²⁷ Pete Thamel, "Feds investigating ex-Temple player for alleged point-shaving", ESPN, Nov. 21, 2024, https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/42514167/feds-investigating-point-shaving-allegations-temple.

¹²⁸ "Temple to review reports of unusual wagering on UAB game", ESPN, Mar. 8, 2024, https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/39684848/temple-review-reports-unusual-wagering-uab-game.

¹²⁹ Bennett Conlin, "Temple-UAB Basketball Game Draws Attention For Unusual Betting Activity", SportsHandle, Mar. 8, 2024, <https://sportshandle.com/temple-uab-game-unusual-betting-activity/>.

¹³⁰ David Purdum, "NCAA: Three men's basketball players conspired in gambling scheme", ESPN, Sep. 10, 2025, https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/46215924/ncaa-fresno-state-san-jose-state-players-gambling#:~:text=The%20NCAA%20ruled%20that%20Fresno,longer%20enrolled%20at%20their%20schools.

¹³¹ Jill Martin, "NCAA issues permanent ban to 3 men's basketball players from Fresno State and San Jose State for sports betting", CNN, Sep. 10, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/10/sport/basketball-ncaa-mens-sports-betting-violations-ban>.

¹³² Jack Klingler, "Legalized Sports Gambling and the NCAA's Struggle to Maintain Game Integrity", Sports Litigation Alert, Jun. 13, 2025, <https://sportslitigationalert.com/legalized-sports-gambling-and-the-ncaas-struggle-to-maintain-game-integrity/>.

people and sports fans has created a perfect storm¹³³—and the world of college athletics is right in the middle of it.¹³⁴

b. Overlap in Professional-Collegiate Gambling Issues

It is also important to note these problems are not unique to college sports.¹³⁵ The deeply intertwined nature of the American sports ecosystem means integrity issues are rarely confined to a singular level of competition,¹³⁶ with stories popping up about gambling overseas¹³⁷ and in youth sports¹³⁸ as well. The line between professional and collegiate athletics is fuzzy, with players, coaches, and information frequently traveling between them.¹³⁹ This interconnected relationship makes the issue of gambling in collegiate sports even more complex and dangerous, as such crises at the professional level can have direct and immediate implications on the amateur ranks below.¹⁴⁰

Jontay Porter Scandal and Collegiate Ripple Effect

No case has demonstrated this premise more potently than the Jontay Porter scandal.¹⁴¹ Porter's foray into the gambling world was first thrust into the national spotlight in the spring of

¹³³ "NCAA's Involvement in the College Basketball Betting Boom", Samba Recovery, Mar. 4, 2025, <https://www.sambarecovery.com/rehab-blog/ncaa-and-the-high-rate-of-gambling-on-college-basketball>.

¹³⁴ "NCAA releases sports wagering survey data", NCAA, May 24, 2023, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2023/5/24/media-center-ncaa-releases-sports-wagering-survey-data.aspx>; Associated Press, "NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1", ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

¹³⁵ Anders Hakansson, "Problem Gambling and Problem Gaming in Elite Athletes: a Literature Review", PubMed Central, Dec. 2021, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8634748/>.

¹³⁶ Lawal Yazid Ibrahim, "Integrity Issues in Competitive Sports", ResearchGate, Sep. 2016, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/316171727_Integrity_Issues_in_Competitive_Sports.

¹³⁷ Ava Hult, "Several Americans Banned in British Basketball Game-Fixing Scandal", Front Office Sports, Jun. 17, 2025, <https://frontofficesports.com/fiba-bbl-sports-betting-suspensions/>.

¹³⁸ Jack Baer, "Little League World Series pleads for fans to not bet on games involving children", Yahoo Sports, Aug. 14, 2025, <https://sports.yahoo.com/mlb/breaking-news/article/little-league-world-series-pleads-for-fans-to-not-bet-on-games-involving-children-001915003.html>.

¹³⁹ Kenneth D. Ferguson, "Blurring the Boundary Lines Between Amateur and Professional Sports", UMKC School of Law Institutional Repository, 2008, https://irlaw.umkc.edu/faculty_works/132/.

¹⁴⁰ Owen Puckett, "When the game becomes a gamble: The silent crisis of sports betting in college", Daily Cardinal, Jan. 23, 2025, <https://www.dailycardinal.com/article/2025/01/when-the-game-becomes-a-gamble-the-silent-crisis-of-sports-betting-in-college>.

¹⁴¹ Danny Chau, "The Twisted Irony of the Jontay Porter Scandal", The Ringer, Apr. 18, 2024, <https://www.theringer.com/2024/04/18/nba/jontay-porter-gambling-nba-lifetime-ban-toronto-raptors>.

2024 and ultimately resulted in a lifetime ban from the National Basketball Association (NBA).¹⁴² The NBA's investigation found Porter, who was playing for the Toronto Raptors at the time, had disclosed confidential information about his health status to a known sports bettor.¹⁴³ Further, and perhaps more damning, Porter had intentionally limited his own participation in at least one game so he could influence the outcome of said bettor's prop bets on Porter's performance.¹⁴⁴

The details of Porter's impropriety left him with few defenses.¹⁴⁵ On January 26, 2024, Porter played a mere four minutes against the Los Angeles Clippers before claiming he was ill and leaving the contest—never to return to the game.¹⁴⁶ A co-conspirator had placed an \$80,000 parlay bet, which featured a wager that Porter would underperform his prop totals, amounting to a potential \$1.1 million in profits.¹⁴⁷ Then, on March 20, 2024, Porter only took the floor for three minutes against the Sacramento Kings before leaving the game once again.¹⁴⁸ He had told the bettors he would be taking himself out of the game early yet again, leading to additional high-value prop bet wagers being placed on his underperformance.¹⁴⁹

¹⁴² "Jontay Porter pleads guilty in case tied to NBA betting scandal", ESPN, Jul. 10, 2024, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/40534530/jontay-porter-pleads-guilty-case-tied-nba-betting-scandal.

¹⁴³ "Federal investigators eyeing Terry Rozier's play in 2023 game", ESPN, Jan. 30, 2025, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/43627495/federal-investigators-eyeing-terry-rozier-play-2023-game#:~:text=Last%20April%2C%20the%20NBA%20banned,He%20is%20awaiting%20sentencing.

¹⁴⁴ "Jontay Porter banned from NBA for violating league's gaming rules", NBA, Apr. 17, 2024, <https://www.nba.com/news/jontay-porter-banned-from-nba>.

¹⁴⁵ David Purdum, "NBA bans Raptors' Jontay Porter for gambling violations", ESPN, Apr. 17, 2024, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/39962406/nba-bans-raptors-jontay-porter-gambling-violations.

¹⁴⁶ Aaron Katersky, "Man charged in betting scheme involving ex-NBA player Jontay Porter", ESPN, Jun. 4, 2024, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/40279168/man-charged-betting-scheme-involving-ex-nba-player-jontay-porter.

¹⁴⁷ Sam Quinn, "Jontay Porter gambling investigation explained: NBA hands down lifetime ban after prop bet irregularities", CBS Sports, Apr. 17, 2024, <https://www.cbssports.com/nba/news/jontay-porter-gambling-investigation-explained-nba-hands-down-lifetime-ban-after-prop-bet-irregularities/>.

¹⁴⁸ Dan Gartland, "Jontay Porter Won't Be the Last NBA Betting Scandal", SI, Apr. 18, 2024, <https://www.si.com/nba/2024/04/18/jontay-porter-gambling-ban>.

¹⁴⁹ Pat Forde, "Sources: Investigation Underway Into Alleged Game-Fixing in NBA, College Basketball", SI, Jan. 30, 2025, <https://www.si.com/college-basketball/sources-widespread-investigation-underway-into-alleged-game-fixing-in-nba-college-basketball>.

The investigation revealed a sophisticated scheme designed to help reduce the significant gambling debts Porter had accrued through his own personal betting activity,¹⁵⁰ making blackmail a critical new concern created by legalization of sports betting.¹⁵¹ In July 2024, the case escalated once again when Porter pleaded guilty to charges of federal wire fraud.¹⁵² The rapid turnaround time of Porter's case, thanks in large part to the work of licensed sportsbooks and NBA data integrity partners like Sportsradar and Genius Sports Group,¹⁵³ centered on quickly identifying the abnormal betting patterns on Porter's prop bets and initiating investigation protocols, showcasing the effectiveness¹⁵⁴ of well-funded, technologically advanced systems for integrity monitoring.¹⁵⁵ The same mechanisms were used in the investigations into Terry Rozier¹⁵⁶ and Malik Beasley¹⁵⁷

¹⁵⁰ Mike Vorkunov, "Court documents show Jontay Porter's texts to alleged co-conspirators in betting scandal", The Athletic, Jan. 13, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6058110/2025/01/13/jontay-porter-texts-betting-scandal/>.

¹⁵¹ Eben Novy-Williams, "Blackmail Is the Real Concern in Latest NBA Betting Scandal", Sportico, Oct. 24, 2025, <https://www.sportico.com/business/sports-betting/2025/nba-betting-scandal-blackmail-athletes-jontay-porter-1234874753/>; Paula Lavigne, "Heat's Terry Rozier faced \$8 million tax lien from IRS in 2023", ESPN Oct. 28, 2025, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/46760404/heat-terry-rozier-faced-8-million-tax-lien-irs-2023#:~:text=The%20same%20year%20Miami%20Heat,clerk%20records%20obtained%20by%20ESPN.

¹⁵² Michelle Watson, "Former NBA player Jontay Porter pleads guilty to wire fraud conspiracy in connection to gambling case, prosecutors say", CNN, Jul. 11, 2024, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/07/11/us/jontay-porter-guilty-plead-wire-fraud-conspiracy>.

¹⁵³ "NBA Extends U.S. Betting Data Partnerships With Sportradar and Genius Sports Group", NBA, Oct. 29, 2020, <https://www.nba.com/news/nba-extends-u-s-betting-data-partnerships-with-sportradar-and-genius-sports-group>.

¹⁵⁴ Alex Schiffer, "Adam Silver: NBA's Problems With Gambling 'Have Been Predictable'", Front Office Sports, Sep. 17, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/adam-silver-nbas-problems-with-gambling-have-been-predictable/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=MLB%20Still%20Believes%20in%20Broadcast%20TV&utm_content=MLB%20Still%20Believes%20in%20Broadcast%20TV+CID_d251577498b80fe8d2fba4aa1087fbc1&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Adam%20Silver%20NBAs%20Problems%20With%20Gambling%20Have%20Been%20Predictable.

¹⁵⁵ Jesse Silvertown, "The NBA's Betting Investigation Of Jontay Porter Is An Example Of The System Working", Forbes, Apr. 2, 2024, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jessesilvertown/2024/04/01/the-investigation-of-jontay-porter-is-an-example-of-the-system-working/>.

¹⁵⁶ David Purdum, "Records detail unusual betting on NBA's Terry Rozier", ESPN, Jul. 18, 2025, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/45768772/records-show-new-details-unusual-betting-nba-rozier; Alex Schiffer, "Terry Rozier's Attorney Confirms He's Still Under Federal Gambling Probe", Front Office Sports, Jul. 16, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/terry-roziers-attorney-confirms-hes-still-under-federal-gambling-probe/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Asset%20Class%20Polymarket%20Beats%20Probe&utm_content=Asset%20Class%20Polymarket%20Beats%20Probe+CID_e1032cbaa7504ddb47aa518451b80468&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Terry%20Roziers%20Attorney%20Confirms%20Hes%20Still%20Under%20Federal%20Gambling%20Probe.

¹⁵⁷ David Purdum, "NBA investigating free agent Malik Beasley over gambling", ESPN, Sep. 10, 2025, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/46215307/nba-investigating-free-agent-malik-beasley-gambling; Michael

for potential illicit gambling as well.¹⁵⁸ The FBI arrested Rozier in late October 2025 following a federal investigation into his role in a gambling scheme,¹⁵⁹ though his apprehension nearly two years after the alleged incident raises questions¹⁶⁰ about the efficiency of such inquiries.¹⁶¹

While the impact on the NBA was profound, the fallout from the Porter case also extended far beyond the confines of the professional ranks.¹⁶² A concerning report from ESPN revealed the same federal inquiry into Porter’s sophisticated gambling ring had also unearthed suspicious betting activity involving at least three men’s college basketball programs during the 2024–25 season.¹⁶³ Despite the specifics of the investigation remaining confidential, including the names of the players and programs involved, this revelation was a bombshell.¹⁶⁴ If the same gambling ring

McCann, “Beasley Faces Federal Gambling Probe on Eve of NBA Free Agency”, Sportico, Jun. 29, 2025, <https://www.sportico.com/law/analysis/2025/malik-beasley-gambling-federal-investigation-1234858505/>.

¹⁵⁸ Jenny Vrentas, “Was a Sports Betting Scandal Inevitable?”, The New York Times, Oct. 24, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/24/nyregion/nba-sports-betting-gambling-scandal.html>.

¹⁵⁹ Michael McCann, “NBA Gambling Probes Lead to Arrests of Billups, Rozier and Jones”, Sportico, Oct. 23, 2025, <https://www.sportico.com/law/analysis/2025/rozier-billups-jones-arrested-charges-gambling-mafia-1234874558/>.

¹⁶⁰ Colin Salao, “How The Legal Sports Betting Giants Fit In NBA Betting Scandal”, Front Office Sports, Oct. 30, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/draftkings-fanduel-nba-betting-scandal/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Asset%20Class%20NBAs%20Inevitable%20Mess&utm_content=Asset%20Class%20NBAs%20Inevitable%20Mess+CID_def02b1e2d2a60cac2ca96ad597a62b5&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=How%20The%20Legal%20Sports%20Betting%20Giants%20Fit%20In%20NB

[A%20Betting%20Scandal](https://frontofficesports.com/draftkings-fanduel-nba-betting-scandal/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Asset%20Class%20NBAs%20Inevitable%20Mess&utm_content=Asset%20Class%20NBAs%20Inevitable%20Mess+CID_def02b1e2d2a60cac2ca96ad597a62b5&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=How%20The%20Legal%20Sports%20Betting%20Giants%20Fit%20In%20NB); Ben Horney, “Why the NBA Betting Scandal Was Inevitable—and What Comes Next”, Front Office Sports, Oct. 31, 2025, [https://frontofficesports.com/why-the-nba-betting-scandal-was-inevitable-and-what-comes-](https://frontofficesports.com/why-the-nba-betting-scandal-was-inevitable-and-what-comes-next/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ESPN%20ABC%20Off%20YouTube%20TV&utm_content=ESPN%20ABC%20Off%20YouTube%20TV+CID_4164b299f05ec81453085125fbaf8b4f&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Why%20the%20NBA%20Betting%20Scandal%20Was%20Inevitableand%20What%20Come)

[next/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ESPN%20ABC%20Off%20YouTube%20TV&utm_content=ESPN%20ABC%20Off%20YouTube%20TV+CID_4164b299f05ec81453085125fbaf8b4f&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Why%20the%20NBA%20Betting%20Scandal%20Was%20Inevitableand%20What%20Come](https://frontofficesports.com/why-the-nba-betting-scandal-was-inevitable-and-what-comes-next/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ESPN%20ABC%20Off%20YouTube%20TV&utm_content=ESPN%20ABC%20Off%20YouTube%20TV+CID_4164b299f05ec81453085125fbaf8b4f&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Why%20the%20NBA%20Betting%20Scandal%20Was%20Inevitableand%20What%20Come)
[s%20Next](https://frontofficesports.com/why-the-nba-betting-scandal-was-inevitable-and-what-comes-next/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=ESPN%20ABC%20Off%20YouTube%20TV&utm_content=ESPN%20ABC%20Off%20YouTube%20TV+CID_4164b299f05ec81453085125fbaf8b4f&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Why%20the%20NBA%20Betting%20Scandal%20Was%20Inevitableand%20What%20Come); David Hill, “Is Legal Sports Gambling Creating Cheaters or Exposing a Long-Held Secret?”, Rolling Stone, Oct. 31, 2025, <https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-commentary/nba-sports-betting-terry-rozier-1235456475/>.

¹⁶¹ David Purdum, “Chauncey Billups, Terry Rozier arrested in gambling inquiries”, ESPN, Oct. 23, 2025, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/46695228/sources-terry-rozier-arrested-part-gambling-inquiry.

¹⁶² David Purdum, “NBA, NFL, NHL, MLB weigh betting risks after Porter scandal”, ESPN, May 15, 2024, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/40140497/jontay-porter-scandal-nba-leagues-betting-risks.

¹⁶³ David Purdum, “Sources: NBA gambling ring also tied to college basketball games”, ESPN, Feb. 3, 2025, https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/43680104/sources-gambling-ring-tied-college-basketball-games.

¹⁶⁴ Kyle Boone, “Gambling ring under investigation involves multiple college basketball programs, per report”, CBS Sports, Feb. 3, 2025, <https://www.cbssports.com/college-basketball/news/gambling-ring-under-investigation-involves-multiple-college-basketball-programs-per-report/>.

was present on the college side, it would provide the first concrete link between a major match-fixing conspiracy at the professional level and potential corruption in the collegiate ranks.¹⁶⁵ The ESPN report seemingly suggests the same criminal elements preying on vulnerable professional athletes like Porter may now have their eyes set on their next target: college games.¹⁶⁶

The connection between Porter's misconduct and these college programs echoes the concerns raised by other incidents involving professional athletes with storied collegiate pasts.¹⁶⁷ Take, for example, the case of Detroit Lions wide receiver Jameson Williams, who was suspended by the NFL in 2023 after placing bets on non-NFL games while inside the team facility, or the numerous other NFL players suspended for similar gambling violations.¹⁶⁸ These cases beg a critical question: were these problematic gambling behaviors developed after these athletes had embarked on their respective professional careers, or were these deep-rooted habits formed during their college careers and simply undetected by unsophisticated and underfunded monitoring systems,¹⁶⁹ as was the case with Kayshon Boutte? The betting scandals of the pros serve as figurative canaries in the coal mine, signaling a deeper and more pervasive cultural issue in college athletics.¹⁷⁰ Despite these warning signs, no one appears to be pumping the brakes.¹⁷¹

¹⁶⁵ Michael Rosenberg, "Inside the Gambling Ring Allegedly Linked to Point Shaving Across Pro and College Basketball", SI, Feb. 25, 2025, <https://www.si.com/college-basketball/inside-the-gambling-ring-allegedly-linked-to-point-shaving-in-pro-and-college-basketball>.

¹⁶⁶ Ryan Young, "Multiple college basketball programs linked to federal investigation amid NBA gambling ring probe", Yahoo Sports, Feb. 3, 2025, <https://sports.yahoo.com/multiple-college-basketball-programs-linked-to-federal-investigation-amid-nba-gambling-ring-probe-204332209.html>.

¹⁶⁷ "Suspensions, arrests and lifetime bans: A timeline of sports betting scandals since the repeal of PASPA", ESPN, Oct. 23, 2025, https://www.espn.com/espn/betting/story/_/id/39908218/a-line-sports-gambling-scandals-2018.

¹⁶⁸ Eric Woodyard, "Jameson Williams among 4 Lions plus Washington DE suspended for betting", ESPN, Apr. 21, 2023, https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/36253087/wr-jameson-williams-four-lions-suspended-betting.

¹⁶⁹ Anders Hakansson, "Problem Gambling and Problem Gaming in Elite Athletes: a Literature Review", PubMed Central, Dec. 2021, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8634748/>.

¹⁷⁰ Luke Clark, "Sports betting scandals highlight knowledge gaps for gambling harm", PubMed Central, Aug. 28, 2024, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11399551/>.

¹⁷¹ Anthony Crupi, "NBA Gambling Scandal Won't Stop Sportsbook Marketing Blitz", Sportico, Oct. 24, 2025, <https://www.sportico.com/business/media/2025/nba-sportsbook-branding-ads-betting-fallout->

c. A Lack of Integrity and Its Potential Consequences

There is a sizable and growing chasm between the promotion of widespread, state-sanctioned sports betting and the increasingly lagging and inadequate oversight structure of college athletics.¹⁷² The resulting gap has created what may best be described as an “integrity void” in college sports as a whole.¹⁷³ This void is more than a theoretical weakness.¹⁷⁴ It exists as a space where a litany of damaging effects have taken root, eroding the very ethical underpinnings of college athletics and directly harming the players who participate.¹⁷⁵ Things are now so bad that commentators such as Matt Brown have claimed “[i]t is my professional opinion that if you and a couple of friends wanted to point shave an [Atlantic Sun Conference] game, you could easily do so and not get caught.”¹⁷⁶

The most clearly visible effect of this disparity has been the direct participation of athletic department staffers and athletes alike in prohibited betting activities.¹⁷⁷ The 6,200 wagers placed by just five football support staff members in the Iowa State University and University of Iowa

[1234874806/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Kicker+-+Oct+24+25&utm_content=642397_10-24-2025&utm_id=642397](https://www.foxsports.com/story/ncaa-sports-betting-scandal-1234874806?utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Kicker+-+Oct+24+25&utm_content=642397_10-24-2025&utm_id=642397).

¹⁷² Karen Brown, “As sports betting explodes, should states set more limits to stop gambling addiction?”, NPR, Sep. 30, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/09/30/nx-s1-5553428/sports-books-betting-gambling-addiction-massachusetts-gamesense>.

¹⁷³ Jonathan L. Israel, “The Kids Are Not Alright: Student athletes and the impact of legalized betting on college sports”, Foley Lardner, Apr. 5, 2024, <https://www.foley.com/insights/publications/2024/04/student-athletes-impact-legalized-betting-college-sports/>.

¹⁷⁴ Jared Bahir Browsh, “Sports gambling creates a windfall, but raises questions of integrity – here are three lessons from historic sports-betting scandals”, The Conversation, May 10, 2024, <https://theconversation.com/sports-gambling-creates-a-windfall-but-raises-questions-of-integrity-here-are-three-lessons-from-historic-sports-betting-scandals-227138>.

¹⁷⁵ Dan Wolken, “NCAA’s sports betting conundrum: Should players be allowed to bet on pro sports?”, Yahoo Sports, Sep. 11, 2025, <https://sports.yahoo.com/mens-college-basketball/breaking-news/article/ncaas-sports-betting-conundrum-should-players-be-allowed-to-bet-on-pro-sports-193950840.html>.

¹⁷⁶ Matt Brown (Aug. 1, 2025).

¹⁷⁷ Stephanie F. Hughes, “Assessing the impact of NCAA scandals: An exploratory analysis”, ResearchGate, Jan. 2008, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/247834590_Assessing_the_impact_of_NCAA_scandals_An_exploratory_analysis.

case are perhaps the most flagrant example.¹⁷⁸ A group of individuals who were entrusted with the operations of the team chose to actively bet on the games of their own university, a jaw-dropping breach of trust indicative of systemic failures of both culture and compliance.¹⁷⁹

Another damaging consequence of the new gambling world of college sports has been the strong rise in athlete harassment by aggrieved bettors.¹⁸⁰ With sportsbooks now a few clicks away online¹⁸¹ and social media more present than ever,¹⁸² sports gamblers have weaponized the accessibility offered by modern society.¹⁸³ Athletes now report constant streams of hateful and threatening messages¹⁸⁴ on platforms like X, Instagram, and Venmo after games¹⁸⁵—often from anonymous accounts livid over a dropped pass, missed shot, or failure to cover a betting spread

¹⁷⁸ Pavle Markovic, “Five Iowa State football staffers disciplined by NCAA for violating sports gambling rules”, Iowa State Daily, May 4, 2025, <https://iowastatedaily.com/318371/sports/five-iowa-state-football-staffers-disciplined-by-ncaa-for-violating-sports-gambling-rules/>.

¹⁷⁹ Paula Lavigne, “Inside the historic Iowa athlete sports betting prosecution”, ESPN, Jul. 18, 2024, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/40575467/inside-iowa-iowa-state-ncaa-gambling-investigation.

¹⁸⁰ David Purdum, “Study: ‘Angry bettors’ behind growing abuse of NCAA athletes”, ESPN, Oct. 8, 2024, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/41665899/study-angry-bettors-growing-abuse-ncaa-athletes.

¹⁸¹ Paul Solotaroff, “There’s Now a Casino in Everyone’s Pocket. For Some Young Men, It’s a Near-Fatal Gamble”, Rolling Stone, Oct. 12, 2025, https://www.rollingstone.com/culture/culture-features/mobile-sports-betting-gambling-addiction-fanduel-draftkings-1235444172/#recipient_hashed=1d62366ef898d693ca82dcc8cfab27301ac69c91ed7266483a1ddba1bba1c33&recipient_salt=5f1932963bfa620fd01571dc666ab518ffd22b8dfe22762796665a001407681?utm_medium=email.

¹⁸² Doug Greenberg, “Venmo requests and death threats: Heckling in the digital sports betting age”, ESPN, Aug. 12, 2025, https://www.espn.com/espn/betting/story/_/id/45913349/espn-sports-betting-venmo-requests-death-threats-heckling-digital-age?utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Kicker+-+Aug+12+25&utm_content=626337_8-12-2025&utm_id=626337.

¹⁸³ Jenny Vrentas, “Sports Betting Apps Have a Powerful New Tool to Keep Users Gambling”, The New York Times, Sep. 30, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/business/live-in-game-sports-betting.html>; Maria Torres, “MLB All-Stars speak on the ‘gray area’ of sports betting, social media threats”, The Athletic, Jul. 15, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6494316/2025/07/14/mlb-all-star-game-2025-sports-betting/?source=athletic_thewindup_newsletter&campaign=14192988&userId=23794279.

¹⁸⁴ Tyler Kepner, “‘People suck, dude’: MLB players on the impact of sports betting on fan interactions”, The Athletic, Jun. 11, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6385628/2025/06/11/mlb-sports-betting-gambling-player-poll/>; Colin Salao, “Ukrainian Tennis Star Blames Sports Bettors for Death Threats”, Front Office Sports, Aug. 6, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/ukrainian-tennis-star-blames-sports-bettors-for-death-threats/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Record%20Payday%20at%20US%20Open&utm_content=Record%20Payday%20at%20US%20Open+CID_50fa9d4bbfbca36134b3f36db595a028&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Ukrainian%20Tennis%20Star%20Blames%20Sports%20Bettors%20for%20Death%20Threats.

¹⁸⁵ David Purdum, “Study: Betting-related abuse of college athletes common online”, ESPN, Oct. 7, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46521744/study-betting-related-abuse-college-athletes-common-online.

costing these individuals money.¹⁸⁶ These toxic displays by bettors¹⁸⁷ have reached such intensity that NCAA President Charlie Baker began to speak out against the issue in early 2025, when he called it one of the most serious and unforeseen side effects coming from the legalization of sports betting.¹⁸⁸ Once Baker highlighted just how harmful this social media abuse had become,¹⁸⁹ programs like “morethanabet.org”¹⁹⁰ and “Don’t Be a Loser”¹⁹¹ came out in force, pushing out content aiming to humanize student-athletes and fight back against the torrent of abuse now faced by college players.¹⁹² Those involved have expressed vulnerability by sharing their stories of gambling-based harassment and highlighting the mental toll such abuse took on them.¹⁹³ More directly, the NCAA announced an August 2025 partnership with Venmo in order to help identify and combat harassment occurring on the payment application¹⁹⁴—a move coming after athletes

¹⁸⁶ “NCAA calls on fans, social media platforms to curb abuse as it releases first online harassment study”, NCAA, Oct. 10, 2024, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2024/10/10/media-center-ncaa-calls-on-fans-social-media-platforms-to-curb-abuse-as-it-releases-first-online-harassment-study.aspx>.

¹⁸⁷ Margaret Fleming, “Grand Slam Track Investigating Man Saying He Heckled Gabby Thomas to Win His Bet”, Front Office Sports, Jun. 2, 2025, <https://frontofficesports.com/grand-slam-track-investigating-man-saying-he-heckled-gabby-thomas-to-win-his-bet/>; David Purdum, “Intoxicated bettor behind threats to McCullers, police say”, ESPN, Jun. 2, 2025, https://www.espn.com/mlb/story/_/id/45437648/intoxicated-bettor-threats-mccullers-police-say?utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Kicker+-+June+2+25&utm_content=611845_6-2-2025&utm_id=611845.

¹⁸⁸ Andrew Rafferty, “NCAA head warns of the dark side of college sports gambling”, KBSY, Dec. 17, 2024, <https://www.ksby.com/sports/ncaa-head-warns-of-the-dark-side-of-college-sports-gambling>.

¹⁸⁹ “NCAA president Charlie Baker calls for ban on college prop bets”, ESPN, Mar. 27, 2024, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/39820326/ncaa-president-charlie-baker-calls-ban-college-prop-bets.

¹⁹⁰ “More Than A Bet”, <https://morethanabet.org/>.

¹⁹¹ ““Don’t Be a Loser”: NCAA launches sports betting anti-harassment video”, NCAA, Mar. 18, 2025, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/3/18/media-center-don-t-be-a-loser-ncaa-launches-sports-betting-anti-harassment-video.aspx>.

¹⁹² “Ohio Creates “More Than A Bet” Campaign to Curb Student Athlete Harassment Over Sports Bets”, Pause Before You Play, Oct. 7, 2024, <https://pausebeforeyouplay.org/2024/10/ohio-creates-more-than-a-bet-campaign-to-curb-student-athlete-harassment-over-sports-bets/>.

¹⁹³ Justin Byers, “Ohio campaign for athletes against gambling harassment gets updates”, SBC Americas, Mar. 13, 2025, <https://sbcamericas.com/2025/03/13/ohio-campaign-online-abuse-athletes/>.

¹⁹⁴ David Purdum, “NCAA, Venmo partner to combat harassment of college athletes”, ESPN, Aug. 26, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46077993/ncaa-venmo-partner-combat-harassment-college-athletes.

like professional golfer Scottie Scheffler¹⁹⁵ reported receiving droves of unsolicited payment requests from angry bettors.¹⁹⁶

On another front, this harassment has only increased the efforts of conference commissioners, state-based athlete advocates, and even President Baker himself to prohibit individual player proposition bets on college sports.¹⁹⁷ These so-called “prop bets,” which focus specifically on an individual player’s statistical achievements (i.e., points scored, total strikeouts, yards gained), are being viewed as a growing threat.¹⁹⁸ Prop bets (as well as prediction-based markets¹⁹⁹ like Kalshi,²⁰⁰ Polymarket,²⁰¹ and now potentially DraftKings²⁰²) narrow the focus of a

¹⁹⁵ Mark Puleo, “Scottie Scheffler says he deleted Venmo account due to bettors’ requests: ‘It wasn’t a good feeling’”, The Athletic, Jun. 11, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6418635/2025/06/11/scottie-scheffler-venmo-requests-us-open/?source=athletic_pulsenewsletter&campaign=13768872&userId=23794279.

¹⁹⁶ Steve Henson, “Scottie Scheffler deletes Venmo because bettors asked for payments”, Los Angeles Times, Jun. 11, 2025, <https://www.latimes.com/sports/story/2025-06-11/scottie-scheffler-deletes-venmo-bettors-request-payments-harassment-us-open-oakmont>.

¹⁹⁷ Andy Berg, “NCAA President Baker Calls for Increased Gambling Regulation, End to ‘Prop Bets’”, Athletic Business, Dec. 19, 2024, <https://www.athleticbusiness.com/operations/governing-bodies/article/15710790/ncaa-president-baker-calls-for-increased-gambling-regulations-end-to-prop-bets>.

¹⁹⁸ Lindsey Adler, “Opinion | Prop betting is hugely popular — and a threat to baseball”, Yahoo Sports, Jun. 30, 2025, <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/opinion-prop-betting-hugely-popular-193841846.html>; Alex Schiffer, “Ohio Moving to Ban Prop Bets Amid Guardians Gambling Investigation”, Front Office Sports, Aug. 12, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/ohio-prop-bet-bans-clase-guardians/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Celtics%20Owner%20Will%20Exit%20After%20Sale&utm_content=Celtics%20Owner%20Will%20Exit%20After%20Sale+CID_54e7c31b99d118d8f42b1b489fe0b2c0&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Ohio%20Moving%20to%20Ban%20Prop%20Bets%20Amid%20Guardians%20Gambling%20Investigation; Matt Brown (Aug. 1, 2025).

¹⁹⁹ “NHL announces landmark multiyear partnerships with Kalshi, Polymarket”, NHL, Oct. 22, 2025, <https://www.nhl.com/news/nhl-announces-landmark-multiyear-partnerships-with-kalshi-polymarket>.

²⁰⁰ David Purdum, “How Kalshi and prediction markets are disrupting sports betting”, ESPN, Jun. 2, 2025, https://www.espn.com/espn/betting/story/_/id/45377686/kalshi-prediction-markets-disrupt-sports-betting; Eben Novy-Williams, “NHL’s Kalshi, Polymarket Deals Could Clarify Role of Data Firms” Sportico, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.sportico.com/business/sports-betting/2025/nhl-kalshi-polymarket-data-sportradar-genius-1234874471/?utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Kicker+-+Oct+22+25&utm_content=641899_10-22-2025&utm_id=641899; Alexander Osipovich, “Prediction Market Kalshi Hits \$2 Billion Valuation in New Funding Round”, The Wall Street Journal, Jun. 25, 2025, https://www.wsj.com/finance/prediction-market-kalshi-hits-2-billion-valuation-in-new-funding-round-2d0c8b4c?st=v6jTNC&reflink=article_imessage_share.

²⁰¹ Nathan Bomey, “Polymarket to return to U.S. after acquisition”, Axios, Jul. 21, 2025, <https://www.axios.com/2025/07/21/prediction-market-polymarket-us>.

²⁰² Ben Horney, “DraftKings Buys Prediction-Markets Platform but No Sports Just Yet”, Front Office Sports, Oct. 21, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/draftkings-buys-prediction-markets-platform-but-no-sports-just-yet/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=FOS%20AM%20Oct%2022%202025&utm_content=FOS%20AM%20O

wager from a team’s collective outcome to an individual athlete’s performance²⁰³—thus making that player a direct target for post-game abuse and undue influence.²⁰⁴ Legislation prohibiting these bets is currently viewed as a crucial step forward²⁰⁵ in order to protect the integrity of the game and the mental health of the young athletes who play it,²⁰⁶ though experts believe that achieving that end may be more difficult than it sounds.²⁰⁷ The “integrity void” is not just about the risk of games being fixed.²⁰⁸ The void also focuses on the daily corrosion of the student-athlete experience and the rapid transformation of third parties from fans into financially motivated critics who do not view these players as people but rather as components of their parlay.²⁰⁹

III. The Human Element: Student-Athlete Welfare and the Public Health Crisis of Gambling

[ct%2022%202025+CID_eaddbe93a4b173be8d0ae8abff21e131&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=DraftKings%20Buys%20Prediction-Markets%20Platform%20but%20No%20Sports%20Just%20Yet.](#)

²⁰³ Alex Andrejev, “What are prop bets, and what does the latest gambling scandal mean for regulation?”, The Athletic, Oct. 24, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6747376/2025/10/24/prop-bets-nba-gambling-scandal/?source=athletic_pulsenewsletter&campaign=15326371&userId=23794279.

²⁰⁴ David Purdum, “NBA, union back bet limits to curb manipulation, athlete abuse”, ESPN, Aug. 15, 2025, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/45987377/nba-union-back-bet-limits-curb-manipulation-athlete-abuse; Matt Brown (Aug. 1, 2025).

²⁰⁵ Colin Salao, “Limitations on Prop Bets Supported by NBA, Players’ Union”, Front Office Sports, Aug. 18, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/limitations-on-prop-bets-supported-by-nba-players-union/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Is%20MLB%20Expansion%20Coming&utm_content=Is%20MLB%20Expansion%20Coming+CID_5c50bd31ab12c58829a59eea07ed88b1&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Limitations%20on%20Prop%20Bets%20Supported%20by%20NBA%20Players%20Union; “Betting buzz: Ovechkin betting action heats up as he nears 900 goals”, ESPN, Oct. 28, 2025, https://www.espn.com/espn/betting/story/_/id/40159558/betting-buzz-latest-sports-betting-odds-updates-changes-line-moves-industry-intel.

²⁰⁶ “Governor DeWine Calls on Casino Control Commission to Remove Prop Bets Following MLB Investigation, Previous Player Threats”, Governor of Ohio, Jul. 31, 2025, <https://governor.ohio.gov/media/news-and-media/governor-dewine-calls-on-casino-control-commission-to-remove-prop-bets-following-mlb-investigation-previous-player-threats>.

²⁰⁷ Dustin Gouker, “The Takeaway: No, Banning Sports Betting Or Prop Bets Isn’t The Answer To The NBA Scandal”, The Closing Line, Oct. 23, 2025, https://closingline.substack.com/p/banning-sports-betting-and-props-is-not-the-answer?source=athletic_moneycall_newsletter&campaign=15002198&userId=23794279.

²⁰⁸ Jay Caspian Kang, “Online Gambling Is Changing Sports for the Worse”, The New Yorker, Mar. 29, 2024, <https://www.newyorker.com/news/fault-lines/online-gambling-is-changing-sports-for-the-worse>.

²⁰⁹ Devin O’Connor, “Venmo to Monitor Accounts for Abuse From Angry Sports Bettors”, Casino.org, Aug. 26, 2025, <https://www.casino.org/news/venmo-to-monitor-student-athletes-accounts-bettor-abuse/>.

Outside of the prominent issues of institutional compliance and competitive integrity is a more fundamental fear: the massive impact the new sports betting landscape has had on the mental and psychological well-being of college players.²¹⁰ To view the issue of gambling as one solely about enforcement and rules would be to completely ignore the public health aspects²¹¹ of this growing crisis.²¹² The increasing normalization of sports betting now poses a direct threat to a student population uniquely vulnerable to its harms.²¹³

a. Vulnerable Brains: Neuroscience and the Young Gambler

Scientific research into the neurobiology underlying addiction has revealed the brains of teens and young adults possess a unique susceptibility to compulsive and risky behaviors, which include gambling.²¹⁴ The prefrontal cortex, which is the region of the brain responsible for long-term planning, risk assessment, impulse control, and other executive functions, does not fully mature until a person has reached their mid-twenties.²¹⁵ Additionally, the dopamine neurotransmitter, which drives the brain's reward system, is highly active during what is a critical developmental period in one's life.²¹⁶

When an individual places a bet, the anticipation they have of a potential win triggers a rush of dopamine, which in turn creates a sense of excitement and pleasure in the wagering

²¹⁰ Arvin Shaygan, "More than fun and games: Problematic sports betting and its adverse impact on mental health and well-being in young adults", PubMed Central, Dec. 2024, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39509763/>.

²¹¹ Jenny Vrentas, "Sports Betting Apps Have a Powerful New Tool to Keep Users Gambling", The New York Times, Sept. 30, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/business/live-in-game-sports-betting.html>.

²¹² Scott Young, "Sports gambling: a public health threat?", Harvard Law Today, Oct. 16, 2025, <https://hls.harvard.edu/today/sports-gambling-a-public-health-threat/>.

²¹³ Randi Richardson, "Online gambling has fueled an industry boom that threatens public health, commission finds", NBC News, Oct. 24, 2024, <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/health-news/gambling-industry-growth-threat-public-health-report-rcna175356>.

²¹⁴ Marc N. Potenza, "The neurobiology of pathological gambling and drug addiction: an overview and new findings", PubMed Central, Jul. 18, 2008, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2607329/>; Matt Brown (Aug. 1, 2025).

²¹⁵ Mariam Arain, "Maturation of the adolescent brain", PubMed Central, Apr. 3, 2013, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC3621648/>.

²¹⁶ Dustin Wahlstrom, "Developmental Changes in Dopamine Neurotransmission in Adolescence: Behavioral Implications and Issues in Assessment", PubMed Central, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC2815132/>.

individual.²¹⁷ In a developing brain, this type of powerful neurochemical reward can create a strong feedback loop, leading some to chase the “high” of winning until it becomes the chasing of losses, a signature characteristic of a gambling disorder.²¹⁸ There is also the “near miss” effect, where a bet comes very close to winning (before ultimately losing), which has been shown to stimulate the same reward pathways as an actual victory, a cycle reinforcing continued play despite the participant losing money.²¹⁹ Mobile sports betting sites and applications are strategically designed to capitalize on these neurological vulnerabilities through in-app features such as constant notifications, in-game betting opportunities, and, perhaps most glaringly, personalized promotions fostering feelings of continuous and urgent action, making it extremely challenging for a brain still developing its impulse control to disengage.²²⁰

These issues were prominently exposed after a 2025 settlement between the Jacksonville Jaguars and gambling powerhouse FanDuel²²¹ after former Jaguars employee Amit Patel pleaded guilty to stealing nearly twenty-two million dollars in Jaguars team funds in order to gamble on the site.²²² Patel, who was diagnosed with a gambling disorder a month after his firing, was

²¹⁷ Prescott House, “The Psychology of Gambling: Inside the Gamblers Mind”, Prescott House, Oct. 13, 2025, <https://www.prescотthouse.com/blog/the-psychology-of-gambling#:~:text=In%20gambling%2C%20the%20anticipation%20of,the%20thrill%20of%20gambling%20again.>

²¹⁸ Ke Zhang, “Loss-chasing in gambling behaviour: neurocognitive and behavioural economic perspectives”, ResearchGate, Feb. 2020, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/338972072_Loss-chasing_in_gambling_behaviour_neurocognitive_and_behavioural_economic_perspectives.

²¹⁹ Cathrine Hultman, “Autonomic responses during Gambling: the Effect of Outcome Type and Sex in a large community sample of young adults”, PubMed Central, Apr. 9, 2022, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9981532/>.

²²⁰ Nerilee Hing, “Situational features of smartphone betting are linked to sports betting harm: An ecological momentary assessment study”, PubMed Central, Nov. 27, 2023, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10786227/>.

²²¹ Xuan Thai, “Sources: FanDuel to pay Jaguars \$5M over stolen betting funds”, ESPN, Sep. 12, 2025, https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/46234100/fanduel-jaguars-amit-patel-compensation-5-million.

²²² “Former Jacksonville Jaguars Employee Sentenced To More Than Six Years For Embezzling In Excess Of \$22 Million”, United States Attorney’s Office, Mar. 12, 2024, <https://www.justice.gov/usao-mdfl/pr/former-jacksonville-jaguars-employee-sentenced-more-six-years-embezzling-excess-22>.

sentenced to six and a half years in prison on charges of wire fraud.²²³ He claimed that FanDuel “exploited” his gambling addiction and that FanDuel should have known about his problematic gambling after he made over 1,000 deposits of \$25,000 into the sportsbook.²²⁴ The Jaguars, seemingly agreeing with Patel’s claims (and seeking to recoup their losses), sued FanDuel in July 2024,²²⁵ but the betting company chose to settle the case for five million dollars rather than taking it to trial and risking the potential for treble damages.²²⁶ While discovery would have surely offered more insight into the marketing practices of FanDuel and similar sites, the mere premise of an NFL employee stealing millions in funds in order to gamble highlights the severe risks associated with the existing sports betting industry.²²⁷

b. Risk Factors Unique to the Student-Athlete Population

While all young adults are at risk to the dangerous allure of gambling, student-athletes present a unique focus group featuring specific psychological and environmental risk factors, leaving them more vulnerable to problematic gambling and undue influence.²²⁸ These include: (1) high levels of competitiveness; (2) risk-taking and thrill-seeking behavior; (3) high-stress lifestyle and use of coping mechanisms; (4) “insider knowledge” and misconceptions about control; (5)

²²³ Michael DiRocco, “Ex-Jaguars employee Amit Patel sentenced to prison for fraud”, ESPN, Mar. 12, 2024, https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/39709860/jacksonville-jaguars-amit-patel-sentenced-six-half-years.

²²⁴ Katie Strang, “Feeding the ‘demon inside’: Ex-employee tells how and why he stole \$22 million from Jaguars”, The Athletic, Mar. 18, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/5349453/2024/03/18/jacksonville-jaguars-amit-patel-fraud-prison/>.

²²⁵ David Purdum, “Ex-Jaguars employee Amit Patel sues FanDuel for \$250 million”, ESPN, Oct. 1, 2024, https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/41549560/jacksonville-jaguars-employee-amit-patel-sues-fanduel.

²²⁶ Mark Long, “FanDuel agrees to pay Jaguars roughly \$5M to offset losses from ex-employee’s theft, AP source says”, AP News, Sep. 12, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/fanduel-jaguars-agreement-amit-patel-e06b7eed53d1eda787ad1288d88bd3c6>.

²²⁷ Carter Bahns, “Imprisoned ex-Jaguars employee now facing felony grand theft charges after stealing \$22 million from team”, CBS Sports, Jul. 10, 2025, <https://www.cbssports.com/nfl/news/imprisoned-ex-jaguars-employee-now-facing-felony-grand-theft-charges-after-stealing-22-million-from-team/>.

²²⁸ A. Krotter, “Risk Factors of At-Risk/Problem Gambling Among Young Adult Spanish Students”, PubMed Central, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11982148/>.

newfound access to large amounts of disposable income; and (6) glamorized gambling at the professional level.

By nature, student-athletes are intensely competitive.²²⁹ While this trait is essential for success in athletes' respective sports,²³⁰ it can also serve as a liability in gambling contexts.²³¹ Players may see their competitive nature morph into an overconfidence in their ability to correctly predict the outcomes of games or individual player performances.²³² These same individuals may also be less willing than others to accept a loss.²³³ There is also a correlation between athletic participation at high levels and increased susceptibility to risky behaviors as athletes turn to illicit means to mimic the rush provided by a roaring crowd.²³⁴ This "sensation seeking" quality can make the inherent risks of gambling more attractive to elite athletes.²³⁵

There is also the fact that the lives of student-athletes are loaded with immense pressure as they balance rigorous training, performance, and travel expectations with demanding academic coursework.²³⁶ For many, gambling can become a maladaptive way to cope with these external

²²⁹ "Stress in Academic and Athletic Performance in Collegiate Athletes: A Narrative Review of Sources and Monitoring Strategies", PubMed Central, May 8, 2020, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7739829/>; Kate Hammer, "How to Be a Highly Competitive Student Athlete Without Threatening Your Academics", The Sentinel, May 14, 2025, <https://digitalsentinel.org/3964/on-campus/how-to-be-a-highly-competitive-student-athlete-without-threatening-your-academics/>.

²³⁰ Dee Warmath, "The Role of Athlete Competitiveness in High School Sport Specialization in the United States", PubMed Central, Mar. 10, 2022, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8918744/>.

²³¹ Nerilee Hing, "A bad bet for sports fans: the case for ending the "gamblification" of sport", Taylor & Francis Online, Sep. 21, 2023, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14413523.2023.2260079>.

²³² "Problem Gambling – A barrier to high performance", EPIC Global Solutions, Mar. 10, 2022, <https://www.epicglobalsolutions.com/news/problem-gambling-a-barrier-to-high-performance/>.

²³³ Anders Hakansson, "Problem Gambling and Problem Gaming in Elite Athletes: a Literature Review", PubMed Central, Dec. 1, 2021, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8634748/>.

²³⁴ Karen E. Johnson, "Health-risk behaviors among high school athletes and preventive services provided during sports physicals", PubMed Central, Jan. 19, 2016, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC4717902/>; Matt Brown (Aug. 1, 2025).

²³⁵ A. Hakansson, "Problem gambling and gaming in elite athletes", PubMed Central, Aug. 14, 2018, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6104348/>.

²³⁶ "This Study Proves Just How Much Time College Athletes Spend On Their Sport", NCSA College Recruiting, <https://www.ncsasports.org/blog/study-time-demands-d1-studentathletes-excessive>.

factors, serving as an easily accessible way to escape stress, alleviate boredom when traveling for away games, or distract players from performance-based anxiety.²³⁷

Furthermore, the significant role some athletes play for their teams may lead athletes to the mistaken belief they can control game outcomes,²³⁸ thinking their deep knowledge of the sport can provide a significant gambling edge.²³⁹ Oftentimes, this can lead to players gambling more money than they can afford to lose,²⁴⁰ as was seen in the case of Jontay Porter, where his illegal activity was done in part to offset previous betting losses.²⁴¹ The importance of this factor has only grown with the advent of the NIL movement in college athletics,²⁴² which has given countless athletes access to large amounts of disposable income for the first time in their lives²⁴³—at a stage where many players have few of the pressing financial responsibilities of older adults.²⁴⁴ While this newfound liquidity can change the trajectory of student-athletes' lives, it can also provide the fuel for a problematic gambling habit and lead individuals to chase massive losses.²⁴⁵

²³⁷ Carol Wang, “Stressful Life Events and Gambling: The Roles of Coping and Impulsivity Among College Students”, PubMed Central, Aug. 26, 2021, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8388113/>.

²³⁸ Dr. Martin Turner, “Controlling Sport Performance”, Player Development Project, <https://playerdevelopmentproject.com/controlling-sport-performance/>.

²³⁹ Matthew Adam Turk, “Predictors of adverse gambling behaviours amongst elite athletes”, PubMed Central, Jan. 16, 2023, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9841496/>.

²⁴⁰ “The Science Behind Gambling”, Responsible Gambling, <https://responsiblegambling.org/for-the-public/about-gambling/the-science-behind-gambling/>.

²⁴¹ Jennifer Peltz, “The NBA betting scandal that ended Jontay Porter’s career yields a criminal case against an NYC man”, AP News, Jun. 4, 2024, <https://apnews.com/article/nba-jontay-porter-banned-man-charged-4d526223923d0ced516c3ae9cc22f9eb>.

²⁴² Anthony M. Dalimonte, “NIL Timeline: The Events That Transformed College Sports”, Foster Swift, Apr. 21, 2023, <https://www.fosterswift.com/newsroom/publications/timeline-NIL-cases-transform-college-sports>.

²⁴³ Sara Coello, “What is NIL in college sports? How do athlete deals work?”, ESPN, Mar. 24, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/41040485/what-nil-college-sports-how-do-athlete-deals-work.

²⁴⁴ DJ Sixsmith, “NIL-era college athletes navigate new realm of financial literacy”, CNBC Sport, Apr. 12, 2024, <https://www.cnbc.com/2024/04/12/nil-era-college-athletes-navigate-new-realm-of-financial-literacy.html>.

²⁴⁵ Braden E. Norris, “NCAA Student-Athletes' Sports Gambling Behaviors Examined Using Psychological Reactance Theory”, Journal of Issues in Intercollegiate Athletics, Jan. 2025, <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1103&context=jiia>.

However, what is arguably most problematic is the glamorization of gambling at the professional level.²⁴⁶ While athletes across the major leagues face varying restrictions in terms of the types of bets they are allowed to place (i.e., bans against sports betting but not gambling on casino games),²⁴⁷ a burgeoning subculture of gambling exists at the highest level of nearly all professional sports.²⁴⁸ While catastrophic failures (such as the lifetime suspension of Pete Rose²⁴⁹ or the aforementioned incident involving Jontay Porter²⁵⁰) highlight the harsh punishments for those who use their playing conduct to influence bets,²⁵¹ other players, like Michael Jordan, are revered for their love for betting and their hatred for losing.²⁵² More recently, entertainers²⁵³ and athletes have even appeared in gambling-related endorsements.²⁵⁴ In addition, countless stories from both players and reporters alike have emerged detailing the frequent card games²⁵⁵ and other

²⁴⁶ Zach Lutz, “Glamorized Gambling and What To Be Aware Of”, Birches Health, Feb. 8, 2025, <https://bircheshealth.com/resources/glamorized-gambling-and-what-to-be-aware-of>.

²⁴⁷ “What are league rules around gambling on sports?”, ESPN, Jun. 29, 2023, https://www.espn.com/nfl/story/_/id/37819966/what-league-rules-gambling-sports-ncaa-nba-mlb-nfl-nhl.

²⁴⁸ Ayesha Rascoe, “Pro sports have a gambling problem. How did we get here, and how bad is it?”, NPR, Apr. 21, 2024, <https://www.npr.org/2024/04/21/1246163910/pro-sports-have-a-gambling-problem-how-did-we-get-here-and-how-bad-is-it>.

²⁴⁹ Bill Bock, “The Bock’s Score: Pete Rose and a Lifetime Ban”, KGR Law, <https://kgrlaw.com/the-bocks-score-pete-rose-and-a-lifetime-ban/>.

²⁵⁰ Anthony Milton, “Game Over”, Toronto Life, May 26, 2025, <https://torontolife.com/deep-dives/fallen-toronto-raptor-jontay-porter-sports-betting-scandal/>.

²⁵¹ Jason W. Osborne, “Athletes Face Discipline For Allegedly Violating Gambling Policies”, Forbes, Jul. 5, 2023, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/jasonwosborne/2023/07/05/athletes-face-discipline-for-allegedly-violating-gambling-policies/>.

²⁵² Sam Quinn, “Michael Jordan and gambling: A brief history of basketball's most famous bettor”, CBS Sports, May 17, 2020, <https://www.cbssports.com/nba/news/michael-jordan-and-gambling-a-brief-history-of-basketballs-most-famous-bettor/>.

²⁵³ Scott Thompson, “Fanatics Sportsbook sees major spike in downloads from Kendall Jenner's viral Super Bowl ad campaign”, Fox Business, Feb. 5, 2026, <https://www.foxbusiness.com/sports/fanatics-sportsbook-sees-major-spike-downloads-from-kendall-jenners-viral-super-bowl-ad-campaign>.

²⁵⁴ “Combining renowned athletes and online casinos is a smart marketing tool that can easily boost a brand's player base”, Athletics Weekly, Mar. 19, 2024, <https://athleticsweekly.com/news/athlete-endorsements-and-the-online-casino-industry-1039976563/>.

²⁵⁵ Marc Stein, “Sources: Dispute began over card game”, ESPN, Jan. 2, 2010, <https://www.espn.com/nba/news/story?id=4789650>.

types of wagers placed in locker rooms, planes, and team buses across the country.²⁵⁶ This dichotomy, where “successful” gambling is celebrated while “improper” gambling is strongly sanctioned, may contribute to confusion²⁵⁷ amongst student-athletes who idolize the stars they see on TV without recognizing the risk associated with these betting behaviors.²⁵⁸

c. The Intersection of Mental Health, Gambling, and Substance Abuse

Problematic gambling also rarely exists in isolation.²⁵⁹ In fact, it is frequently correlated with other mental health issues, which can create a dangerous cycle of compounding problems for afflicted bettors.²⁶⁰ Studies have shown that people with gambling disorders also have exceptionally high rates of other conditions, such as nicotine dependence, alcohol use disorder,²⁶¹ and major depressive disorder.²⁶²

While this may not sound like your typical student-athlete, players already report high rates of depression and anxiety,²⁶³ making gambling a potent form of self-medication ultimately

²⁵⁶ Jay Harris, “Special report: The extent of gambling’s grip on football dressing rooms”, *The Athletic*, May 27, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/4520698/2023/05/27/football-gambling-dressing-rooms/>.

²⁵⁷ Paula Lavigne, “Why college athletes are unaware of legal issues when betting”, *ESPN*, May 18, 2024, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/40163580/naaa-colleges-athletes-gambling-policies-law.

²⁵⁸ Hannah Pitt, “Young people’s views about the use of celebrities and social media influencers in gambling marketing”, *PubMed Central*, Feb. 11, 2024, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10859070/>.

²⁵⁹ “Pathological Gambling Psychological Disorders: Understanding the Complexities of Gambling Addiction”, *Dokumen*, <https://www2.arpel.org/libweb/s3ACHK/244352/PathologicalGamblingPsychologicalDisordersEng.pdf>.

²⁶⁰ Leanne Quigley, “Gambling Disorder and Stigma: Opportunities for Treatment and Prevention”, *PubMed Central*, Sep. 3, 2022, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9440767/>.

²⁶¹ Jennifer L. Tackett, “Comorbidity of Alcohol and Gambling Problems in Emerging Adults: A Bifactor Model Conceptualization”, *PubMed Central*, Mar. 2017, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5361058/>.

²⁶² Nicki A. Dowling, “The Reciprocal Association between Problem Gambling and Mental Health Symptoms/Substance Use: Cross-Lagged Path Modelling of Longitudinal Cohort Data”, *PubMed Central*, Nov. 6, 2021, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6912817/#:~:text=A%20systematic%20review%20of%20community,%25%2C%20and%20illicit%20drug%20abuse%2F>.

²⁶³ “Prioritizing Mental Health in College Athletes”, *Trine University*, 2022, <https://www.trine.edu/academics/centers/center-for-sports-studies/blog/2022/prioritizing-mental-health-in-college-athletes.aspx#:~:text=An%20NCAA%20study%20found%2030,considerably%20higher%20in%20college%20athletes>.

exacerbating the same underlying mental health conditions athletes are aiming to escape.²⁶⁴ The secrecy and shame potentially associated with mounting betting debts can push individuals to social isolation, while these same financial stressors can also amplify feelings of hopelessness.²⁶⁵ The pressure to conceal such issues from teammates, coaches, and family due to a fear of losing respect or eligibility can lead to an immense psychological burden, further increasing the risk of negative outcomes for afflicted athletes.²⁶⁶ Addressing the rise of sports gambling in college athletics must therefore require an integrated approach acknowledging the deep ties between the issue at hand and the broader mental health crisis facing young people (and amateur athletes especially) today.²⁶⁷

IV. Forging the Shield: Designing a Robust Integrity and Oversight System for College Athletics

a. Assessing the Current State of College Athletics

An objective assessment of the current oversight and integrity systems available in college athletics is a necessary first step in confronting the formidable challenges posed by the growing legalization of sports betting.²⁶⁸ Unfortunately, the reality is that the existing regulatory framework is an incongruous and fragmented patchwork largely designed for an era of the past²⁶⁹—which is now dangerously outmatched by the scale, speed, and sophistication of the modern gambling

²⁶⁴ Eduardo Valenciano-Mendoza, “Clinical Correlates of Sports Betting: A Systematic Review”, PubMed Central, Apr. 1, 2023, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10066997/>.

²⁶⁵ Adam Runacres, “Prevalence of anxiety and depression in former elite athletes: a systematic review and meta-analysis”, PubMed Central, Dec. 18, 2024, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11667483/>.

²⁶⁶ “College sports not immune to mental health challenges”, NCAA, May 4 2023, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2023/5/4/media-center-college-sports-not-immune-to-mental-health-challenges.aspx>.

²⁶⁷ “The Rise of Sports Betting Among College Students: A Growing Public Health Concern”, Rutgers Addiction Research Center, <https://www.addiction.rutgers.edu/the-rise-of-sports-betting-among-college-students-a-growing-public-health-concern/>.

²⁶⁸ Oliver Bateman, “The Work of Regulating Sports Betting”, Oliver Bateman Does The Work, Mar. 28, 2025, <https://oliverbatemandoesthework.substack.com/p/the-work-of-regulating-sports-betting>.

²⁶⁹ Patrick Moran, “Anyone’s Game: Sports-Betting Regulations after Murphy v. NCAA”, CATO Institute, Mar. 11, 2019, <https://www.cato.org/legal-policy-bulletin/anyones-game-sports-betting-regulations-after-murphy-v-ncaa>.

industry.²⁷⁰ Historically, the NCAA’s central compliance office has taken on the responsibility of investigating major infractions,²⁷¹ though their model has several flaws:²⁷² reactive punishments instead of proactive guidelines, cumbersome hearing processes, and limited resources largely preventing the largest governing body in college sports from effectively monitoring the monsoon of data the legal betting market generates. In fact, the NCAA and pro sports leagues seem more concerned with selling their gambling data than protecting the very players who generate it.²⁷³

Zooming into the institutional level, in-house compliance departments located within university athletic programs serve as the front lines of defense against a wide range of NCAA infractions.²⁷⁴ However, these offices are also all too often underfunded, understaffed, and overburdened by their vast portfolio of responsibilities²⁷⁵—which range from academic eligibility to recruiting rules to the complexities of NIL²⁷⁶ (and perhaps now private equity).²⁷⁷ Compliance

²⁷⁰ Clea Simon, “Gambling problems are mushrooming. Panel says we need to act now.”, *The Harvard Gazette*, Jan. 28, 2025, <https://news.harvard.edu/gazette/story/2025/01/online-gambling-is-on-the-rise-panel-says-we-need-to-act-now/>.

²⁷¹ Rashad Grove, “NCAA Launches Widespread Gambling Investigation, Targeting Dozens of Players”, *BET*, Sep. 12, 2025, <https://www.bet.com/article/5x9fup/ncaa-launches-widespread-gambling-investigation-targeting-dozens-of-players>.

²⁷² Dennis Dodd, “College sports’ overlooked gambling issue: Improprieties being ignored as betting soars nationwide”, *CBS Sports*, Nov. 17, 2022, <https://www.cbssports.com/college-football/news/college-sports-overlooked-gambling-issue-improprieties-being-ignored-as-betting-soars-nationwide/>.

²⁷³ Eben Novy-Williams, “NCAA to Sell Gambling Data to Sportsbooks Via Genius Sports”, *Sportico*, Apr. 25, 2025, <https://www.sportico.com/business/sports-betting/2025/ncaa-genius-sports-deal-gambling-data-1234844879/>; Jay King, “Celtics’ Jaylen Brown says NBA hasn’t prepared players for current gambling climate”, *The Athletic*, Oct. 24, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6747505/2025/10/24/celtics-jaylen-brown-nba-gambling-climate/?source=athletic_pulsenewsletter&campaign=15326371&userId=23794279.

²⁷⁴ “Division I Compliance”, *NCAA*, May 11, 2021, <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2021/5/11/division-i-compliance.aspx>.

²⁷⁵ “ASSESSING THE NCAA AS A COMPLIANCE ORGANIZATION”, *Wisconsin Law Review*, Nov. 15, 2021, <https://wlr.law.wisc.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/1263/2021/11/15-Grow-Haugh-Camera-Ready.pdf>.

²⁷⁶ “Job Standard for Athletics NCAA Compliance Director”, *Boise State University*, <https://www.boisestate.edu/hrs-job-levels-job-standards/job-standard-for-athletics-ncaa-compliance-director/#:~:text=Key%20Responsibilities&text=This%20includes%20the%20maintenance%20of,as%20required%20by%20various%20agencies>.

²⁷⁷ Eben Novy-Williams, “The Twisted Rhetoric of College Sports’ Investment Ambitions”, *Sportico*, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.sportico.com/leagues/college-sports/2025/college-sports-investment-twisted-rhetoric-1234874345/#recipient_hashed=1d62366ef898d693ca82dcb8cfab27301ac69c91ed7266483a1ddba1bba1c33&recipient_salt=5f1932963bfa620fd01571dc666ab518ffd22b8dfe22762796665aeea1407681&utm_medium=email&utm_s

actors within these institutions, many of whom lack formal experience with the gambling industry, often do not have the technological tools,²⁷⁸ specialized expertise, or jurisdictional authority to maintain the types of sophisticated investigation and monitoring practices necessary to consistently detect illicit gambling activity²⁷⁹ or to educate student-athletes in order to prevent it.²⁸⁰ Further, most colleges and universities primarily rely on educational initiatives,²⁸¹ such as programming during orientation sessions at the beginning of each season, used to warn athletes of the risks and rules behind various violations.²⁸² While these practices are necessary, they are also horribly inefficient—largely placing the burden on athletes themselves to police and prevent improper activity. College sports have still failed to impose a standardized, universally mandated system for data monitoring, do not have a shared protocol for investigating suspicious gambling, and lack a centralized data hub where schools, conferences, the NCAA, and compliance monitoring organizations can share intelligence.²⁸³ These shortcomings have expedited the development of a system riddled with vulnerabilities²⁸⁴ that make the likelihood of discovering a rule-breaking

[source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=Sportico_TheMorningLead&utm_content=641680_10-22-2025&utm_term=36128459?utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Morning+Lead&utm_content=641680_10-22-2025&utm_id=641680.](https://www.ncaa.org/news/2023/10/10/media-center-ncaa-launches-first-sports-wagering-e-learning-module.aspx)

²⁷⁸ “NCAA launches first sports wagering e-learning module”, NCAA, Oct. 10, 2023, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2023/10/10/media-center-ncaa-launches-first-sports-wagering-e-learning-module.aspx>.

²⁷⁹ Dr. Heath Wardle, “The Lancet Public Health Commission on gambling”, The Lancet Public Health, Nov. 2024, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468266724001671>.

²⁸⁰ “NCAA study: Education shows promise in changing sports betting behaviors; harassment from bettors prevalent in DI”, NCAA, Jan. 14, 2025, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2025/1/14/media-center-ncaa-study-education-shows-promise-in-changing-sports-betting-behaviors-harassment-from-bettors-prevalent-in-di.aspx>.

²⁸¹ “NCAA Extends Partnership to Continue Gambling Harm Education Program”, Athletic Business, Mar. 7, 2025, <https://www.athleticbusiness.com/operations/governing-bodies/article/15739321/ncaa-extends-partnership-to-continue-gambling-harm-education-program>.

²⁸² Robert Fletcher, “NCAA launches “Draw the Line” gambling education campaign”, I Gaming Business, Mar. 20, 2024, <https://igamingbusiness.com/sports-betting/ncaa-launches-draw-the-line-education-campaign/>.

²⁸³ Eric Kasimov, “The NCAA Just Admitted It Can’t Police Sports Betting. Now What?”, SportsEpreneur, Oct. 8, 2025, <https://sportsepreneur.com/ncaa-sports-betting-athletes-policy/>.

²⁸⁴ Dan Wetzel, “Wetzel: NCAA announcement shows athletes can’t win at the sports betting game”, ESPN, Sep. 12, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46226732/ncaa-announcement-shows-athletes-win-sports-betting-game.

athlete or staffer alarmingly low, as has been seen in the major scandals at Iowa,²⁸⁵ LSU,²⁸⁶ and Alabama²⁸⁷—where infractions were uncovered not through NCAA investigatory oversight or university compliance, but by state law enforcement, independent integrity monitors, and gaming commissions. These incidents show the current state of gambling in college athletics is seemingly one of high risk and low preparedness,²⁸⁸ which will be a devastating combination for universities and student-athletes alike.²⁸⁹

John Mateer

A prominent example of the persistence of these potential violations and significant gaps in regulatory oversight is the 2025 scandal involving star Oklahoma quarterback John Mateer.²⁹⁰ In August, screenshots of Mateer’s public Venmo transaction history²⁹¹ dating back to 2022 surfaced, showing payments that were blatantly labeled as “sports gambling.”²⁹² These messages

²⁸⁵ Scott Dochterman, “How a gambling sting ensnared 2 dozen athletes and raised questions for the NCAA”, The Athletic, Apr. 24, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/5436872/2024/04/24/noah-shannon-iowa-gambling-case-ncaa-questions/>.

²⁸⁶ Erin Lowrey, “Report: Charges dropped for former LSU football star accused of illegal sports betting”, WDSU, Jul. 16, 2024, <https://www.wdsu.com/article/kayson-boutte-illegal-gambling-charges-dropped/61611407>.

²⁸⁷ Jill R. Dorson, “Insider who tried to wager \$100,000 on Alabama baseball sentenced”, I Gaming Business, Jul. 30, 2024, <https://igamingbusiness.com/sports-betting/alabama-baseball-neff-sentenced/>.

²⁸⁸ “New Report Identifies Possible Implications of NCAA’s Decision Allowing College Athletes to Bet on Professional Sports”, FOX 21, Oct. 9, 2024, <https://www.fox21news.com/business/press-releases/ein-presswire/856746994/new-report-identifies-possible-implications-of-ncaas-decision-allowing-college-athletes-to-bet-on-professional-sports>.

²⁸⁹ Eamonn Brennan, “College athletes shouldn’t bet on sports”, Eamonn Brennan, Sep. 10, 2025, <https://www.eamonnbrennan.com/p/college-athletes-shouldnt-bet-on>.

²⁹⁰ Joshua McDaniel, “Quarterback John Mateer, OU officially deny gambling accusations after Venmo transactions posted on X”, OU Daily, Aug. 12, 2025, https://www.oudaily.com/sports/oklahoma-sooners-sec-ncaa-football-john-mateer-sports-gambling-venmo-transactions/article_f1ff42ad-8320-4db7-9310-cf8255103a78.html.

²⁹¹ Andrew Goodrich, “Cybersecurity Experts Warn Athletes Against Public Venmo Accounts”, Front Office Sports, Aug. 15, 2025, <https://frontofficesports.com/cybersecurity-experts-warn-athletes-against-public-venmo-accounts/#:~:text=Oklahoma%20quarterback%20John%20Mateer%20was,at%20Washington%20State%20in%202022>.

²⁹² Shane Shoemaker, “Oklahoma QB John Mateer’s alleged Venmo payments put him under microscope for sports gambling”, Yahoo Sports, Aug. 12, 2025, <https://sports.yahoo.com/article/oklahoma-qb-john-mateer-alleged-043725973.html>.

included a payment referencing a USC football game that had occurred the day prior.²⁹³ While the university and Mateer both quickly dismissed the memos as “inside jokes” amongst friends (with no formal NCAA investigation ever launched), the incident is deeply illustrative.²⁹⁴ Once again, this discovery was not made by compliance departments at the NCAA, the SEC, or the involved universities, but rather via fans combing through public social media data.²⁹⁵ Mateer’s case demonstrates a response system and oversight model that is reactive rather than proactive, where official bodies are often alerted to potential issues only after they have gained public traction online.²⁹⁶ Currently, it seems discovery is being left to the fans rather than official investigators.²⁹⁷

b. Learning from the Successes (and Failures) of Other Models

For collegiate athletics to forge a viable and effective shield against the growing threats of sports betting, it must look beyond the outdated structures of its past and turn to the more advanced integrity and oversight models developed across professional sports leagues and international governing bodies as a means to learn and inform its future frameworks.²⁹⁸ These organizations

²⁹³ Dylan McNeill, “Rumors fly surrounding Oklahoma QB John Mateer and 2022 UCLA-USC football game”, UCLA Wire, Aug. 13, 2025, <https://uclawire.usatoday.com/story/sports/college/ucla/football/2025/08/13/oklahoma-reviews-john-mateer-possible-gambling-ucla-usc-game/85633480007/>.

²⁹⁴ David Purdum, “Oklahoma's John Mateer 'never bet on sports,' was 'inside joke'”, ESPN, Aug. 12, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-football/story/_/id/45955784/source-oklahoma-john-mateer-denies-gambling-involvement.

²⁹⁵ Jordan Dajani, “Oklahoma's John Mateer denies college football gambling amid suspicious screenshots, calls them 'inside jokes'”, CBS Sports, Aug. 12, 2025, <https://www.cbssports.com/college-football/news/oklahomas-john-mateer-denies-college-football-gambling-amid-suspicious-screenshots-calls-them-inside-jokes/>.

²⁹⁶ Patrick Andres, “Oklahoma's John Mateer Responds to Public Scrutiny of His Venmo Transactions”, SI, Aug. 12, 2025, <https://www.si.com/college-football/oklahoma-john-mateer-venmo-response>.

²⁹⁷ Cliff Brunt, “Oklahoma QB John Mateer denies gambling, says Venmo transaction titles were ‘inside jokes’”, AP News, Aug. 12, 2025, <https://apnews.com/article/oklahoma-quarterback-mateer-gambling-719000612111e6395adfb3eb3d8f54>.

²⁹⁸ “Sports betting, its risks and practical safeguards in college sports”, NCAA, Jan. 10, 2024, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2024/1/10/media-center-sports-betting-its-risks-and-practical-safeguards-in-college-sports.aspx>.

have had to grapple with the realities of legalized gambling for years, necessarily investing heavily into robust and layered systems designed to safeguard the very integrity of their competitions.²⁹⁹

North American professional sports leagues offer a powerful blueprint featuring some of the strongest sports gambling regulation systems worldwide.³⁰⁰ The swift handling of the Jontay Porter scandal by the NBA was not an aberration—it was a feature of a system built for this very purpose.³⁰¹ The key characteristics of this North American system include: (1) strategic partnerships,³⁰² (2) advanced data analytics,³⁰³ (3) unambiguous investigative and adjudicative authority,³⁰⁴ and (4) comprehensive education programming.³⁰⁵

First, these major leagues have exclusive partnerships with data integrity firms like Sportradar,³⁰⁶ Genius Sports,³⁰⁷ and IC360.³⁰⁸ These robust firms monitor global betting markets using real-time data, relying on advanced algorithms to flag anomalous odds movements or

²⁹⁹ Becky Harris, “Reshaping College Athlete Sports Betting Education”, *BYU Law Review*, Oct. 15, 2022, https://digitalcommons.law.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?params=/context/lawreview/article/3347/&path_info=47BYUL.Rev.2.389_449.pdf.

³⁰⁰ Michelle Minton, “Legal gambling enhances sports integrity—despite what critics claim”, Reason Foundation, Jul. 18, 2025, <https://reason.org/commentary/legal-gambling-enhances-sports-integrity-despite-what-critics-claim/>.

³⁰¹ Kyle Hightower, “Pro leagues balance profit, integrity risks in legal betting era”, AP News, Jun. 14, 2023, <https://apnews.com/article/sports-betting-nfl-nba-mlb-nhl-e05bfff8a0153dbded66d1dd5c6cd3a>.

³⁰² “Genius Sports and IBIA establish global sports integrity partnership”, Genius Sports, Jun. 12, 2024, <https://www.geniussports.com/newsroom/genius-sports-and-ibia-establish-global-sports-integrity-partnership/>.

³⁰³ Walid Raad, “How to promote responsible gaming through data-driven solutions”, EY, Jan. 3, 2023, https://www.ey.com/en_us/insights/forensic-integrity-services/using-data-to-promote-responsible-gaming.

³⁰⁴ “Regulated Sports Betting Protects Game Integrity”, American Gaming Association, Jul. 2024, <https://www.americangaming.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/AGA-Integrity-Factsheet-FINAL.pdf>.

³⁰⁵ “NCAA and EPIC provide sports gambling harm prevention education to over 10,000 student-athletes”, NCAA, Feb. 22, 2023, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2023/2/22/media-center-ncaa-and-epic-provide-sports-gambling-harm-prevention-education-to-over-10-000-student-athletes.aspx>.

³⁰⁶ “Major League Baseball and Sportradar Announce Expanded, Exclusive Partnership Through 2032”, Sportradar, Feb. 7, 2025, <https://investors.sportradar.com/news-releases/news-release-details/major-league-baseball-and-sportradar-announce-expanded-exclusive>.

³⁰⁷ George Smith, “The National Football League Expands and Extends Strategic Partnership with Genius Sports in Multi-Year Deal”, Genius Sports, Jun. 11, 2025, <https://www.geniussports.com/newsroom/the-national-football-league-expands-and-extends-strategic-partnership-with-genius-sports-in-multi-year-deal/>.

³⁰⁸ “IC360 Announces Integrity Partnership with PGA of America”, IC360, Apr. 22, 2025, <https://ic360.io/page/ic360-announces-integrity-partnership-with-pga-of-america>.

suspicious wagering patterns potentially indicating match-fixing or insider betting.³⁰⁹ Several leagues also have the power to receive detailed gambling data directly from their licensed sportsbook partners, allowing teams and leagues to see not just what a given bet was, but also who placed it.³¹⁰ However, scandals like Amit Patel,³¹¹ discussed *supra*, highlight the imperfect nature of these partnerships.³¹²

These major league systems also feature clear investigative and adjudicative authorities, with several leagues creating dedicated security and integrity units staffed by former law enforcement officials.³¹³ These bodies are granted broad authority to investigate potential violations.³¹⁴ In addition, the commissioner's office retains the ultimate authority to impose sanctions, including lifetime bans,³¹⁵ which may provide a potent deterrent to potential gamblers.³¹⁶ The fourth and final hallmark of the American major league betting integrity systems is comprehensive education.³¹⁷ Continuous and mandatory education programs are typically

³⁰⁹ "BETTING CORRUPTION AND MATCH-FIXING IN 2022", Sportradar, Mar. 2023, <https://sportradar.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Betting-Corruption-And-Match-Fixing-In-2022.pdf>.

³¹⁰ Jeff Edelstein, "Sports Leagues Continue To Lobby To Force Sportsbooks To Use Their Data", SportsHandle, May 5, 2021, <https://sportshandle.com/official-league-data-paper/>.

³¹¹ Mark Puleo, "Florida charges ex-Jaguars employee Amit Patel with 6 counts of state grand theft", The Athletic, Jul. 11, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6488045/2025/07/11/jaguars-amit-patel-grand-theft-charges/>.

³¹² John Shipley, "Jaguars, FanDuel Make Huge Agreement Following Scandal", SI, Sep. 12, 2025, <https://www.si.com/nfl/jaguars/jacksonville-amit-patel-fanduel-shad-khan-liam-coen>.

³¹³ "NFL using 'integrity representatives' to monitor suspicious in-game gambling activity", The Guardian, Aug. 22, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/sport/article/2024/aug/22/nfl-using-integrity-representatives-to-monitor-suspicious-in-game-gambling-activity>.

³¹⁴ Paula Lavigne, "Who's in charge of finding and catching cheaters in sports gambling? It's complicated.", ESPN, Apr. 1, 2022, https://www.espn.com/chalk/story/_/id/33629960/charge-finding-catching-cheaters-sports-gambling-complicated.

³¹⁵ Bill Bock, "The Bock's Score: Pete Rose and a Lifetime Ban", KGR Law, <https://kgrlaw.com/the-bocks-score-pete-rose-and-a-lifetime-ban/>.

³¹⁶ "NFL has disciplined 25 league and team personnel for gambling violations", Yahoo Sports, Feb. 6, 2024, <https://sports.yahoo.com/nfl-disciplined-25-league-team-171419927.html>.

³¹⁷ Mike Vorkunov, "How does the NBA monitor suspicious betting activity? Explaining the process and who's involved", The Athletic, Apr. 12, 2024, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/5408400/2024/04/12/nba-betting-integrity-monitoring-explained/>.

provided to all players, coaches, and staff, eliminating the potential for miscommunication or for employees to claim they did not know the rules.³¹⁸

On a similar note, international organizations like the International Olympic Committee (IOC)³¹⁹ and the Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA)³²⁰ have both been at the forefront of the global fight against match-fixing for decades at this point.³²¹ The integrity frameworks of these groups include confidential reporting mechanisms and whistleblower protections³²² (much like those being implemented for NIL compliance in college sports today)³²³ seeking to empower individuals to report corruption openly without fear of retaliation.³²⁴ Their systems also feature collaborations with international law enforcement agencies like INTERPOL³²⁵ and a global focus recognizing how modern sports corruption can transcend state and even national borders.³²⁶ By studying the key components of both the American and international professional gambling models, such as proactive data monitoring, centralized

³¹⁸ “As sports wagering grows, NCAA continues providing education, integrity services and research”, NCAA, May 16, 2023, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2023/5/16/media-center-as-sports-wagering-grows-ncaa-continues-providing-education-integrity-services-and-research.aspx>.

³¹⁹ Jean-Loup Chappelet, “The Olympic fight against match-fixing”, Taylor & Francis Online, May 8, 2015, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/17430437.2015.1034519>.

³²⁰ “Integrity: Match Manipulation”, FIFA, <https://inside.fifa.com/legal/integrity/match-manipulation>.

³²¹ David Purdum, “How FIFA is taking precautions to combat match-fixing at World Cup”, ESPN, Nov. 16, 2022, https://www.espn.com/chalk/story/_/id/35033837/how-fifa-plans-combat-match-fixing-2022-world-cup-qatar.

³²² “Regulated Sports Betting Protects Game Integrity”, American Gaming Association, Jul. 2024, <https://www.americangaming.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/AGA-Integrity-Factsheet-FINAL.pdf>.

³²³ “College Sports Commission sets up tip line for NIL violations”, ESPN, Oct. 8, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46531436/college-sports-commission-sets-tip-line-nil-violations.

³²⁴ “BEST PRACTICES FOR WHISTLEBLOWING IN SPORT”, Transparency International, 2018, https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/helpdesk/Whistleblowing-in-sports_2018_PR.pdf.

³²⁵ “Corruption in sport”, INTERPOL, <https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Corruption/Corruption-in-sport>.

³²⁶ M.R. Haberfeld, “Match Fixing in International Sports Existing Pro: Unveiling the Shadows of Fair Play”, Dokumen, <https://www2.arpel.org/index.jsp/s3AKIG/244356/Match%20Fixing%20In%20International%20Sports%20Existing%20Pro.pdf>.

investigative power, strategic industry partnerships, and robust educational outreach, college sports can begin to construct the necessary tools to develop their own effective defense systems.³²⁷

c. The Framework of Future Oversight

The optimal structure for oversight and integrity in college athletics will require detailed and careful consideration of the industry's unique nature,³²⁸ including a blend of institutional autonomy and centralized governance. Recognizing these oftentimes-competing interests, it appears any viable future model will fall into one of three categories: a fully centralized system led by the NCAA, a decentralized conference-by-conference approach, or a hybrid model combining elements of both.

The primary advantages of the centralized, NCAA-led system include facilitating consistency, ensuring uniformity, and the deterring factor of formidable enforcement power. Under this model, a single national body would set the sports gambling rules, regulate data monitoring partnerships, hand down all sanctions, and conduct all major investigations,³²⁹ thereby eliminating the current patchwork system under which differing standards and intensity of enforcement vary by conference.³³⁰ Vesting investigatory and judiciary power exclusively in the NCAA here would create a clear and unambiguous line of authority.³³¹ Despite these benefits, a

³²⁷ Becky Harris, "Reshaping College Athlete Sports Betting Education", *BYU Law Review*, Oct. 15, 2022, https://digitalcommons.law.byu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?params=/context/lawreview/article/3347/&path_info=47BYUL.Rev.2.389_449.pdf.

³²⁸ "College Sports: A Cultural Phenomenon", *Business of College Sports*, Jul. 18, 2024, <https://businessofcollegesports.com/other/college-sports-a-cultural-phenomenon/>.

³²⁹ Callum Jones, "'A serious disease': Congress weighs federal gambling crackdown amid growing concerns", *The Guardian*, Dec. 22, 2024, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2024/dec/22/congress-gambling-addiction-sports-betting>.

³³⁰ John Barr, "Lawmakers propose new federal regulations on sports betting", *ESPN*, Sep. 12, 2024, https://www.espn.com/sports-betting/story/_/id/41234480/congressmen-propose-new-federal-regulations-sports-betting.

³³¹ Donald L. Swanson, "Sports Gambling and U.S. Constitution: The Ball is Back in Congress's Court (Murphy v. NCAA)", *American Bankruptcy Institute*, May 15, 2018, <https://www.abi.org/feed-item/sports-gambling-and-us-constitution-the-ball-is-back-in-congress%E2%80%99s-court-murphy-v-ncaa>.

centralized regulator could be inflexible, slow, and potentially isolated from the specific and nuanced competitive and cultural realities of their diverse member institutions.³³²

A decentralized model shifting the power entirely to the conferences, in contrast, would likely be more responsive and nimble. Individual conferences, especially the all-powerful “Power Four,”³³³ could feasibly develop and fund their own integrity units tailored to the specific needs of their member institutions. These conferences could enter into data-monitoring partnerships and manage their own efforts in education and enforcement (as the ACC has already done with IC360),³³⁴ mirroring some of the structures seen in the professional soccer leagues of Europe.³³⁵ However, this approach also carries risk, including the potential for a “race to the bottom.” Conferences seeking to maximize media exposure, sponsorship revenue, and competitive success may be incentivized to adopt more permissive gambling rules or to deprioritize enforcement in order to satisfy broadcasters, commercial partners, and prospective student-athletes. Without a uniform baseline, these pressures could lead to divergent standards and enforcement practices, ultimately undermining the integrity of the NCAA and college athletics as a whole.³³⁶

It logically follows that a hybrid model is likely to offer the most promising path forward for the NCAA, its conferences, and their member institutions. Under such a structure, the NCAA

³³² Kevin Blue, “Symptoms and Root Causes: An Open Letter to NCAA President Charlie Baker”, Athletic Director U, <https://athleticdirector.com/articles/symptoms-root-causes-open-letter-to-ncaa-president-charlie-baker/>.

³³³ “NCAA revamps governance policy to expand influence of big conferences”, ESPN, Aug. 5, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/45910050/ncaa-revamps-governance-policy-expand-influence-big-conferences.

³³⁴ “ACC set to begin sports betting monitoring partnership”, Sports Business Journal, Aug. 29, 2024, <https://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/Articles/2024/08/29/acc-sports-betting/>.

³³⁵ “Serie A Partners With Genius Sports for Betting Data Distribution”, Sportico, Aug. 4, 2025, <https://www.sportico.com/business/sports-betting/2025/serie-a-genius-sports-betting-data-distribution-deal-1234865806/>.

³³⁶ Alexander J. Wood, “A Seat at the Table: Why Collegiate Athletes Should Seek Fair NIL Regulations Through Their Right to Collectively Bargain and Not Federal Legislation”, Loyola Law Journal, 2024, <https://loyola-chicago-law-journal.scholasticahq.com/api/v1/articles/122648-a-seat-at-the-table-why-collegiate-athletes-should-seek-fair-nil-regulations-through-their-right-to-collectively-bargain-and-not-federal-legislation.pdf>.

could establish a national framework of minimum standards, core regulatory principles, and universal prohibitions on certain acts or types of bets (such as the controversial “player prop” bets).³³⁷ This model could also leverage this same national scope to negotiate some sort of comprehensive intelligence sharing and data monitoring partnership agreement serving to benefit all Division I schools. Building off of this, the NCAA could set a mandatory “Code of Gambling Conduct” (much like that available through the American Gaming Association),³³⁸ replete with a clear and transparent schedule of sanctions for those who violate the regulations. This collaborative approach would pair uniform national standards with conference-level education and investigation, improving consistency, on-the-ground enforcement, and implementation.

No matter what form the final structure takes, any effective integrity and oversight system will necessarily have to be built upon a foundation of essential components, including: comprehensive and recurring educational programming for all stakeholders;³³⁹ real-time data monitoring via partnerships with betting operators or specialized integrity firms;³⁴⁰ clear and confidential reporting mechanisms with effective whistleblower safeguards;³⁴¹ investigative and

³³⁷ Ralph D. Russo, “NCAA pushes for college player prop bet bans with new Genius Sports data licensing agreement”, The Athletic, Apr. 25, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6309803/2025/04/25/ncaa-sports-prop-bet-ban-licensing-agreement/>.

³³⁸ “AGA Responsible Gaming Code of Conduct”, American Gaming Association, Nov. 2020, https://www.americangaming.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/AGA-Responsible-Gaming-Code-of-Conduct_Nov-2020.pdf.

³³⁹ “Gambling Education Key to Protecting Team and League Integrity”, Kindbridge, May 21, 2024, <https://kindbridge.com/gambling/gambling-education-sports-integrity/>.

³⁴⁰ “Gambling Regulators Increasingly Reliant on Integrity Monitoring”, Computronix, <https://www.computronix.com/gambling-regulators-increasingly-reliant-on-integrity-monitoring/>.

³⁴¹ “REPORTING MECHANISMS IN SPORT”, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2019, https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2019/19-09580_Reporting_Mechanisms_in_Sport_ebook.pdf.

adjudicative bodies free from conflicts of interest;³⁴² and consistent, predictable, and transparent sanctioning guidelines applied uniformly across all conferences and member institutions.³⁴³

d. How the NCAA/CSC Fits In

A national body, like the CSC to which this letter is addressed, is in a unique position to serve as both the conscience and catalyst for the growth of gambling in college athletics.³⁴⁴ Historically, the political complexities, competing interests, and inherent inertia of the NCAA structure have frequently stifled any type of bold or rapid reform.³⁴⁵ Whether fully independent or merely semi-independent, such a commission would effectively address the numerous issues sports betting brings to college athletics,³⁴⁶ driving the adoption and development of a more robust oversight and integrity framework.

This Commission should set a clear and powerful mandate: to create a series of inalienable standards for sports gambling integrity, encourage the universal adoption of best practices across the NCAA, and serve as an accountability mechanism for the entire enterprise of college athletics. This body could be at the forefront of research into different oversight models, bringing together a variety of experts from across professional sports leagues, the data integrity industry, and law enforcement in order to come to the consensus of opinion needed to move forward in a productive

³⁴² Eduard Blonk, “Betting Integrity Monitors’ Only Conflict of Interest Is With Fixers”, Sportico, Jul. 27, 2023, <https://www.sportico.com/business/sports-betting/2023/betting-integrity-monitors-no-conflict-of-interest-1234729760/>.

³⁴³ Christopher P. Conniff, “NCAA Takes Steps to Permit Gambling on Professional Sports While Continuing to Crack Down on College Sports Betting”, Ropes & Gray, Oct. 9, 2025, <https://www.ropesgray.com/en/insights/alerts/2025/10/ncaa-takes-steps-to-permit-gambling-on-professional-sports-while-continuing-to-crack-down>.

³⁴⁴ Jack Robbins, “How the New College Sports Commission Will Reshape the NCAA Era”, 2 a Days, Jun. 19, 2025, <https://www.2adays.com/blog/how-the-new-college-sports-commission-will-reshape-the-ncaa-era/>.

³⁴⁵ John T. Holden, “Reimagining the Governance of College Sports After Alston”, Florida Law Review, 2022, <https://scholarship.law.ufl.edu/flr/vol74/iss3/2/>.

³⁴⁶ AJ Werner, “The betting epidemic: The problem with sports gambling”, Baylor Lariat, Oct. 22, 2024, <https://baylorlariat.com/2024/10/22/the-betting-epidemic-the-problem-with-sports-gambling/>; “Sports Betting on College Campuses | A Storm Is Brewing”, Sports Entrepreneur, Oct. 27, 2024, <https://sportsepreneur.com/sports-betting-on-college-campuses-storm-is-brewing/>.

manner. If the CSC were to issue an unequivocal set of recommendations and publicly advocate for their adoption, the Commission may be able to create the political goodwill necessary for the NCAA and its member conferences to go all-in in terms of investing resources and making the structural changes necessary to effectuate the protection of game integrity and student-athlete well-being in this new and challenging era.³⁴⁷

V. The Revenue Question: The Allure (and Peril) of Sports Betting Dollars

a. The “Ohio Model” for Future Stadium Funding and Its Relevance to the Issue at Hand

Now that state legislatures nationwide are embracing the legalization of sports gambling, they have also been forced to confront the complex question of determining how (and when) to tax bettors and to allocate any revenue generated as a result.³⁴⁸ This debate has extended beyond the mere generation of general funds³⁴⁹ and now has begun to involve proposals to directly link sports wager proceeds to specific high-profile public and private projects. Such is the truth in a controversial and compelling case in Ohio,³⁵⁰ where Governor Mike DeWine wanted to increase the state tax rate on sports betting operators in the hopes of creating a dedicated long-term fund for the construction and renovation of professional sports stadiums.³⁵¹

This “Ohio Model” dreams of a future where the hefty financial costs of multi-billion-dollar sports venues shift from traditional taxpayer sources (i.e., income, property taxes) to a “user

³⁴⁷ Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

³⁴⁸ Andy Rosen, “Taxes on Sports Betting: How They Work, What’s Taxable”, Nerd Wallet, Oct. 2, 2025, <https://www.nerdwallet.com/article/taxes/sports-betting-taxes>.

³⁴⁹ Jon Styf, “Wisconsin lawmakers propose legalizing mobile sports wagering”, The Center Square, Oct. 17, 2025, https://www.thecentersquare.com/wisconsin/article_58808fa4-2a50-4a7d-9335-8ff386cf2249.html.

³⁵⁰ Rich Exner, “Game-changing proposal? How Ohio could fund big stadium plans for Browns and Bengals”, Cleveland.com, May 11, 2025, <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2025/05/game-changing-proposal-how-ohio-could-fund-big-stadium-plans-for-browns-and-bengals.html>.

³⁵¹ Jeremy Pelzer, “DeWine’s proposal to hike sports betting tax for a new Cleveland Browns stadium faces legislative skepticism”, Cleveland.com, Feb. 6, 2025, <https://www.cleveland.com/news/2025/02/dewines-proposal-to-hike-sports-betting-tax-for-a-new-cleveland-browns-stadium-faces-legislative-skepticism.html>.

fee” model harping on the gambling industry.³⁵² As of mid-2025, DeWine’s proposal has been a subject of intense debate within the Ohio legislature.³⁵³ While the governor’s initial ask was for a substantial tax increase, early drafts have seen the figure progressively negotiated downwards, with some funding possibly being tagged for use in a potential new stadium for the Cleveland Browns.³⁵⁴ The team’s owners have been seeking nearly \$1.2 billion in new funding for their next venue,³⁵⁵ with DeWine’s gambling tax being presented as a politically palatable way to provide such financing.³⁵⁶ While currently only on the table in Ohio,³⁵⁷ this model is incredibly relevant to college athletics moving forward, as it established a powerful direct precedent for using gambling revenue to influence the very infrastructure of sports.³⁵⁸ The “Ohio Model” thus represents an idea both incredibly alluring and also ripe with ethical peril for educational institutions.³⁵⁹

b. Could Betting Revenue Fund College Athletic Needs?

³⁵² “Ohio governor proposes doubled sports gambling tax to help fund team facilities”, Sports Business Journal, Feb. 5, 2025, <https://www.sportsbusinessjournal.com/Articles/2025/02/05/ohio-governor-proposes-doubled-sports-gambling-tax-to-help-fund-team-facilities/>.

³⁵³ Justin Byers, “Ohio’s new budget plan excludes tax rate increase for sportsbooks”, SBC Americas, Jun. 27, 2025, <https://sbcamericas.com/2025/06/27/ohio-no-tax-rate-increase-sportsbooks/>.

³⁵⁴ Nick Evans, “Gov. DeWine signs off on using unclaimed funds for Browns stadium, future Ohio projects”, Ohio Capital Journal, Jul. 1, 2025, <https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2025/07/01/gov-dewine-signs-off-on-using-unclaimed-funds-for-browns-stadium-future-ohio-projects/>.

³⁵⁵ Jon Styf, “Browns ask for \$1.2B in public funds using claims debunked by economists”, The Center Square, Feb. 14, 2025, https://www.thecentersquare.com/ohio/article_58683764-eae5-11ef-94c8-dffcd066ea04.html.

³⁵⁶ Morgan Trau, “Ohio’s proposed final budget includes tax cut to wealthy, Browns stadium funding”, Ohio Capital Journal, Jun. 25, 2025, <https://ohiocapitaljournal.com/2025/06/25/ohios-proposed-final-budget-includes-tax-cut-to-wealthy-browns-stadium-funding/>.

³⁵⁷ Justin Byers, “Gov. DeWine wants to hike Ohio sports betting tax up to 40%”, SBC Americas, Feb. 4, 2025, <https://sbcamericas.com/2025/02/04/budget-tax-hike-sports-betting-in-ohio/>.

³⁵⁸ Andrew Tobias, “Gov. DeWine proposes hiking sports gaming tax to pay for stadium projects, including the Cleveland Browns’ Brook Park proposed dome”, Signal Cleveland, Feb. 3, 2025, <https://signalcleveland.org/gov-dewine-proposes-hiking-sports-gaming-tax-to-pay-for-stadium-projects-including-the-cleveland-browns-brook-park-proposed-dome/>.

³⁵⁹ Haley BeMiller, “How Gov. Mike DeWine’s tax hike on sports betting could help Ohio pro sports teams”, Cincinnati.com, Feb. 5, 2025, <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/05/browns-bengals-could-get-money-under-ohio-plan-to-raise-gaming-tax/78208873007/>.

At its basis, the very prospect of channeling sports betting revenue into the books of collegiate athletic departments is a double-edged sword.³⁶⁰ On the one hand, it represents a potential financial lifeline to schools in an NIL era of unprecedented transformation and escalating costs.³⁶¹ Athletic departments already face immense financial pressures,³⁶² driven by coaching salaries, facility upgrades, and a new world of direct revenue sharing with athletes following the groundbreaking *House v. NCAA* settlement.³⁶³

Dedicated revenue streams from college sports-related betting taxes could theoretically provide these groups with a reality-altering infusion of capital potentially used to address a wide variety of needs.³⁶⁴ Such funding could supplement the construction of new practice facilities, weight rooms, and stadiums, helping universities to compete at the highest level.³⁶⁵ This money could also provide a source of funding for so-called “NIL collectives”³⁶⁶ or for direct payments to student-athletes,³⁶⁷ in turn aiding institutions as they navigate the post-amateurism space. Another

³⁶⁰ David Patterson, “Legalized Sports Betting: A Double-Edged Sword for College Athletics Integrity”, 2 a Days, Jun. 25, 2025, <https://www.2adays.com/blog/legalized-sports-betting-a-double-edged-sword-for-college-athletics-integrity/>.

³⁶¹ Dan Johnson, “A Field of Dreams: How NIL Changed the Game for Student Athletes”, Financial Planning Association, May 2023, <https://www.financialplanningassociation.org/learning/publications/journal/MAY23-field-dreams-how-nil-changed-game-student-athletes-OPEN>.

³⁶² Scott Dochterman, “Why there’s never enough money in college sports: ‘We’re, at times, our own worst enemy’”, The Athletic, Aug. 24, 2025, <https://www.nytimes.com/athletic/6567247/2025/08/24/college-sports-athletic-department-spending-buyouts/>.

³⁶³ Wesley L. Meares, “NIL and Higher Education: An Exploration of the Early Impact of NIL on Fundraising and Competition in Universities and Athletic Departments”, ResearchGate, Nov. 2024, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/385680433_NIL_and_Higher_Education_An_Exploration_of_the_Early_Impact_of_NIL_on_Fundraising_and_Competition_in_Universities_and_Athletic_Departments.

³⁶⁴ Robert Williams, “The Social and Economic Impacts of Gambling”, Research Gate, Jan. 2011, https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228352378_The_Social_and_Economic_Impacts_of_Gambling.

³⁶⁵ *Id.*

³⁶⁶ “What is an NIL Collective”, NIL Club, Sep. 29, 2025, <https://nilclub.com/blog/what-is-an-nil-collective#:~:text=NIL%20collectives%20operate%20under%20a,services%20that%20the%20athlete%20performs>.

³⁶⁷ Dan Murphy, “College Sports Commission loosens prohibition on NIL payments”, ESPN, Jul. 31, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/45867746/college-sports-commission-loosens-prohibition-nil-collectives-payments.

potential use for these funds would be to enhance critical student-athlete support services,³⁶⁸ such as mental health counseling,³⁶⁹ academic tutoring,³⁷⁰ and career development programs.³⁷¹ Most appropriately, a portion of this revenue could be dedicated towards fully funding a robust oversight and integrity system desperately needed to police the very industry generating these funds.³⁷²

In spite of these potential benefits, the other side of the coin is one laden with significant practical and ethical pitfalls. Many critics are deeply troubled by the potential for public and private universities, whose chief mission is student development and education, to become financially dependent on gambling revenue.³⁷³ Such payments would create a fundamental conflict of interest, placing the institution in a direct position of financial benefit from an activity posing documented risks to its student population—including addiction, financial hardship, and potential liability.³⁷⁴ Such reliance could either subtly or overtly taint policies at these institutions as well, potentially discouraging measures designed to curb gambling in favor of activities increasing the school's betting-related tax revenues.³⁷⁵ These sorts of ties also raise numerous questions about the message

³⁶⁸ Sayvon J.L. Foster, “Bridging the Gap: Using College Athlete Support Services as Justification for Human Development in a Commercialized Sport Management”, PubMed Central, Jul. 1, 2022, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9458287/>.

³⁶⁹ “Sports betting culture negatively impacts mental health; NCAA works to support student-athletes”, NCAA, May 17, 2024, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2024/5/17/media-center-sports-betting-culture-negatively-impacts-mental-health-ncaa-works-to-support-student-athletes.aspx>.

³⁷⁰ Marcella Otto, “Academic Services Plays A Critical Role In The Experience Of First-Year Student-Athletes”, Athletic Director U, <https://athleticdirector.com/articles/academic-services-experience-first-year-student-athletes/>.

³⁷¹ “Accelerating Academic Success Program”, NCAA, Jan. 24, 2017, <https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2017/1/24/accelerating-academic-success-program.aspx>.

³⁷² Daria Ukhiva, “The expansion of gambling across the Americas poses risks to mental health and wellbeing”, ScienceDirect, Sept. 2024, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2667193X24001820>.

³⁷³ Anna Betts, “How Colleges and Sports-Betting Companies ‘Caesarized’ Campus Life”, The New York Times, Nov. 20, 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/11/20/business/caesars-sports-betting-universities-colleges.html>.

³⁷⁴ Serah Louis, “‘You freakin’ idiots’: Dave Ramsey just blasted US universities for promoting online gambling to students — and reaping millions in fees. Why young people are the perfect prey”, MoneyWise, Dec. 2, 2022, <https://moneywise.com/managing-money/debt/you-freakin-idiots-dave-ramsey-just-blasted-us-universities-for-promoting-online-gambling-to-students-and-reaping-millions-in-fees-why-young-people-are-the-perfect-prey>.

³⁷⁵ Peter Schmidt, “Experts Question Reliance on Gambling Revenue for Education”, The Chronicle of Higher Education, Sept. 13, 1996, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/experts-question-reliance-on-gambling-revenue-for-education/>.

this type of partnership would send to students, alumni, and the public at large about the priorities and values of a given institution.³⁷⁶ On top of these challenges, immense practical hurdles also exist. Schools will likely face complex negotiations over their tax rates and revenue allocation formulas while receiving scrutiny from a public wanting to see these funds used responsibly and transparently, rather than to simply fuel an endless arms race of facilities and salaries.

c. A Broader Context: Public Financing of Sports Venues and Team Relocation Battles

The debate over the use of betting revenue to fund college facilities and other initiatives is not one existing in isolation.³⁷⁷ This is a controversy deeply embedded in a decades-long national conversation about the public financing of professional sports venues³⁷⁸ and the painful battles ensuing when teams threaten relocation as a last resort.³⁷⁹ The state of Ohio is once again a leader in this regard, providing essential historical and legal background with its infamous “Modell Law.”³⁸⁰ This law, known officially as Ohio Revised Code 9.67,³⁸¹ passed in 1996 as a direct response to the shocking relocation of the original Cleveland Browns to Baltimore.³⁸² Now, the law requires professional sports teams receiving some sort of public financial aid to either receive

³⁷⁶ K. Edwards, “Universities and Gambling Partnerships”, Student Affairs Now, Mar. 1, 2023, <https://studentaffairsnow.com/universities-and-gambling-partnerships/>.

³⁷⁷ Jason Russell, “Americans Are Turning Against Sports Betting—But It's Not Going Anywhere”, AOL, Oct. 7, 2025, <https://www.aol.com/news/americans-turning-against-sports-betting-142010795.html>.

³⁷⁸ Clark Merrefield, “Public funding for sports stadiums: A primer and research roundup”, The Journalist’s Resource, Apr. 10, 2024, <https://journalistsresource.org/economics/sports-stadium-public-financing/>.

³⁷⁹ Frank A. Mayer III, “Stadium Financing: Where We Are, How We Got Here, and Where We Are Going”, Jeffrey S. Moorad Sports Law Journal, 2005, <https://digitalcommons.law.villanova.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1105&context=mslj>.

³⁸⁰ Abbey Marshall, “Cleveland mayor invokes Modell Law to block Browns move to Brook Park”, Ideastream Public Media, Dec. 31, 2024, <https://www.ideastream.org/government-politics/2024-12-31/cleveland-mayor-invokes-modell-law-to-block-browns-move-to-brook-park>.

³⁸¹ “Section 9.67 | Restrictions on owner of professional sports team that uses a tax-supported facility.”, Ohio Revised Code, Sep. 30, 2025, <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-revised-code/section-9.67>.

³⁸² David Suggs, “Why did the Browns move to Baltimore? Revisiting Art Modell's 1995 relocation controversy that created Ravens”, The Sporting News, Sep. 14, 2025, <https://www.sportingnews.com/us/nfl/news/why-browns-move-baltimore-art-modell-relocation-ravens/a829b97dd42665a5af2e77d4>.

permission from the city before instituting relocation or otherwise give the city an opportunity to purchase the team.³⁸³ As the Cleveland Browns of 2025 were negotiating for a new stadium³⁸⁴ and weighing their options (including a move to a suburban location),³⁸⁵ the constitutionality and applicability of this Modell Law were being contested in court, a case underscoring the legal complexity and deep public interest surrounding the intersection of sports and public money.³⁸⁶

The diligent work of legal and financial experts in this field, who have advised on numerous major league franchise relocations and stadium deals, highlight the intricate web of these public-private partnerships defined by economic impact and legal maneuvering.³⁸⁷ For years, teams have successfully argued their potential new stadiums are engines for team economic growth, in turn justifying massive public subsidies.³⁸⁸ However, there is a new body of academic research challenging these claims of late,³⁸⁹ at a time when public appetite for general tax-funded projects from billionaire owners is waning.³⁹⁰ Against such a backdrop, the “Ohio Model” concept of using dedicated sports betting tax revenue is a seemingly novel and politically savvy alternative allowing politicians to support stadium projects without simultaneously raising taxes on the general

³⁸³ “There Is Such A Thing As The ‘Modell Law’”, The Sports Curmudgeon, Jan. 23, 2025, <https://sportscurmudgeon.com/2025/01/23/there-is-such-a-thing-as-the-modell-law/>.

³⁸⁴ Michelle Jarboe, “Proposed settlement gives Browns the option to stay put at Cleveland stadium for 2 more years”, News 5 Cleveland, Oct. 17, 2025, <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/proposed-settlement-gives-browns-the-option-to-stay-put-at-cleveland-stadium-for-2-more-years>.

³⁸⁵ Eric Fisher, “Browns, Cleveland Reach \$100M Deal to Clear Team’s Move to Suburbs”, Front Office Sports, Oct. 13, 2025, <https://frontofficesports.com/browns-cleveland-reach-100m-deal-to-clear-teams-move-to-suburbs/>.

³⁸⁶ Alex Geyelin, “Ohio’s Art Modell Law and the Ongoing Fight Over its Legality”, Sports Litigation Alert, May 2, 2025, <https://sportslitigationalert.com/ohios-art-modell-law-and-the-ongoing-fight-over-its-legality/>.

³⁸⁷ “Balancing Act: Navigating Public-Private Partnerships in Sports Infrastructure Development”, Mortenson, Aug. 11, 2025, <https://www.mortenson.com/news-insights/public-private-partnerships-in-sports-infrastructure>.

³⁸⁸ Andrew Zimbalist, “Sports, Jobs, & Taxes: Are New Stadiums Worth the Cost?”, Brookings, Jun. 1, 1997, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/sports-jobs-taxes-are-new-stadiums-worth-the-cost/>.

³⁸⁹ John Mozena, “Sports Stadium Subsidies: Fair or Foul?”, Better Cities Project, Jun. 20, 2022, <https://better-cities.org/economic-prosperity/sports-stadium-subsidies-fair-or-foul/>.

³⁹⁰ “Fields of Failure: The Scandal of Taxpayer Funded Stadiums”, Citizens Against Government Waste, 2023, <https://www.cagw.org/fields-of-failure-the-scandal-of-taxpayer-funded-stadiums/>.

population at large.³⁹¹ The crucial question college sports leaders now face is whether this politically expedient path³⁹² is one that is wise for schools to follow or if it represents a risk-laden step towards commercial entanglement that could fundamentally compromise their academic mission.³⁹³

d. The Influence Ecosystem: University-Sportsbook Partnerships and Media Integration

Yet another deeply concerning aspect of this new college sports gambling landscape is the proactive commercial interactions between universities and the sports betting industry.³⁹⁴ Following the PASPA repeal, numerous prominent universities and athletic departments joined incredibly lucrative multi-year marketing partnerships where they aligned directly with sports gambling operators like Caesars,³⁹⁵ PointsBet,³⁹⁶ and SuperBook Sports.³⁹⁷ Institutions such as Louisiana State University,³⁹⁸ Michigan State University,³⁹⁹ and the University of Colorado⁴⁰⁰ all

³⁹¹ John Kosich, “DeWine proposes using some of the money sports bettors lose in Ohio to help pay for new sports stadiums”, News 5 Cleveland, Feb. 4, 2025, <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/dewine-proposes-using-some-of-the-money-sports-bettors-lose-in-ohio-to-help-pay-for-new-sports-stadiums>.

³⁹² Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

³⁹³ Jeff Edelstein, “New Study Challenges Common Negative Sports Betting Narrative”, InGame, Sep. 10, 2025, <https://www.ingame.com/progressive-policy-institute-study/>.

³⁹⁴ “Caesars Sportsbook Named Official Sports Betting & iGaming Partner of Michigan State Athletics”, MSU Spartans, Jan. 13, 2022, <https://msuspartans.com/news/2022/1/13/general-caesars-sportsbook-named-official-sports-betting-igaming-partner-of-michigan-state-athletics>.

³⁹⁵ Chris Solari, “Michigan State athletics signs landmark partnership with Caesars Sportsbook”, Detroit Free Press, Jan. 13, 2022, <https://www.freep.com/story/sports/college/michigan-state/spartans/2022/01/13/michigan-state-spartans-caesars-sportsbook-partnership-igaming/9198104002/>.

³⁹⁶ Jessica Weldman, “PointsBet and UC-Boulder cut ties midway through 5-year partnership”, SBC Americas, Mar. 30, 2023, <https://sbcamericas.com/2023/03/30/pointsbet-colorado-boulder-terminate-deal/>.

³⁹⁷ “Denver Athletics Partners with Superbook Sports”, Denver Pioneers, Sep. 2, 2021, <https://denverpioneers.com/news/2021/9/2/denver-athletics-partners-with-superbook-sports.aspx>.

³⁹⁸ “LSU becomes first SEC school to partner with gambling company, agrees to Caesars Sportsbook deal”, ESPN, Sep. 17, 2021, https://www.espn.com/college-football/story/_/id/32225468/lsu-becomes-first-sec-school-partner-gambling-company-agrees-caesars-sportsbook-deal.

³⁹⁹ Matt Charboneau, “Michigan State athletics completes partnership deal with Caesars Sportsbook”, The Detroit News, Jan. 13, 2022, <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/sports/college/michigan-state-university/2022/01/13/michigan-state-athletics-completes-partnership-deal-caesars-sportsbook/6511342001/>.

⁴⁰⁰ Izzy Fincher, “CU Boulder ends sports betting partnership with PointsBet”, CU Independent, Mar. 31, 2023, <https://www.cuindependent.com/2023/03/31/cu-boulder-ends-sports-betting-partnership-with->

signed deals including advertising on campus and in-stadium, as well as promotional material sent out to alumni and fan databases.⁴⁰¹ Several of these partnerships also offered financial incentives for new user sign-ups.⁴⁰²

These relationships created an immediate and glaring ethical conflict.⁴⁰³ The same universities previously tasked with teaching student athletes about the dangers of gambling and enforcing other NCAA prohibitions were now actively promoting betting within their own communities.⁴⁰⁴ For example, Colorado's deal with PointsBet reportedly included a provision where the university would take in a \$30 referral fee for every new customer who signed up using a university-provided promo code.⁴⁰⁵ After receiving significant criticism from responsible gambling advocates, many of these universities began to phase out or terminate their direct sportsbook partnerships.⁴⁰⁶ However, this initial rush to embrace a new revenue stream exemplified a profound lack of foresight regarding potentially detrimental consequences for

[pointsbet/#:~:text=The%20University%20of%20Colorado%20Boulder,been%20terminated%20three%20years%20early.](#)

⁴⁰¹ Katherine Sayre, "Sports Betting Companies Advertise on College Campuses—but Not to Students, They Say", The Wall Street Journal, Nov. 30, 2022, https://www.wsj.com/articles/gambling-operators-push-sports-betting-at-colleges-but-not-to-students-they-say-11669815758?gaa_at=eafs&gaa_n=AWetsqflvRpyB5po1OpfvcVTJliLPD02DG_8Pm46PqJ1tHtR9hOOu8mwYokNpRSHGCY%3D&gaa_ts=68f882eb&gaa_sig=35gzosXehVd1tccvExzFG59A50Dgl80xWf9gZcOaKMO25w3D3YPmeQOBsHPFL0s-swe2MdUTEtP1sozXKPWzrA%3D%3D.

⁴⁰² Amanda Christovich, "Sports Betting Money Won't Bail Out Cash-Hungry College Athletic Departments", Front Office Sports, Jun. 23, 2024, <https://frontofficesports.com/sports-gambling-college-sports-partnerships/>.

⁴⁰³ Jessica Welman, "MSU reportedly ends marketing partnership with Caesars", SBC Americas, May 31, 2023, <https://sbcamericas.com/2023/05/31/michigan-state-caesars-cancel-sponsorship/>.

⁴⁰⁴ Brian Curcio, "Gambling Away Our Students' Futures", Forbes, Dec. 9, 2024, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/yassprize/2024/12/09/gambling-away-our-students-futures/>.

⁴⁰⁵ Izzy Fincher, "CU Boulder ends sports betting partnership with PointsBet", CU Independent, Mar. 31, 2023, <https://www.cuindependent.com/2023/03/31/cu-boulder-ends-sports-betting-partnership-with-pointsbet/>.

⁴⁰⁶ Kevin Draper, "Facing Criticism, a Gambling Company and a University End Their Deal", The New York Times, Mar. 29, 2023, <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/03/29/sports/sports-betting-universities-pointsbet-caesars.html>.

student welfare and the very reputation of their institution,⁴⁰⁷ an issue that could rear its head again with renewed efforts to roll back gambling restrictions in college sports.⁴⁰⁸

Direct gambling promotion by universities has only been amplified by the near-total integration of betting content into sports media.⁴⁰⁹ It is almost impossible to watch a broadcast on major networks like ESPN without being overwhelmed with live odds displays,⁴¹⁰ betting-related segments,⁴¹¹ and on-air personalities who moonlight as sportsbook ambassadors.⁴¹² This continual exposure normalizes sports betting as an essential and intrinsic part of the fan experience,⁴¹³ effectively becoming a large-scale advertisement⁴¹⁴ disproportionately geared towards the young, male demographic comprising large portions of both the student-athlete and general student bodies.⁴¹⁵ This sort of “influence ecosystem,” where media companies, universities, and

⁴⁰⁷ “Sports Betting on College Campuses | A Storm Is Brewing”, SportsEpreneur, Oct. 27, 2024, <https://sportsepreneur.com/sports-betting-on-college-campuses-storm-is-brewing/>.

⁴⁰⁸ Pat Forde, “NCAA to Allow Athletes to Bet on Pro Sports in Major Rule Change”, SI, Oct. 8, 2025, <https://www.si.com/college-football/ncaa-to-allow-athletes-to-bet-on-pro-sports-in-major-rule-change>.

⁴⁰⁹ Morgane Guillou-Landreat, “Gambling Marketing Strategies and the Internet: What Do We Know? A Systematic Review”, PubMed Central, Feb. 26, 2021, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7952992/>.

⁴¹⁰ “Amazon Prime Video lets fans track NBA bets live on-screen with FanDuel integration”, Tribuna, Oct. 2, 2025, <https://tribuna.com/en/casino/news/2025-10-02-amazon-prime-video-lets-fans-track-nba-bets-live-onscreen-with-fanduel-integration/>.

⁴¹¹ Katia Riddle, “March Madness is a season for betting, but help for problem gambling is hard to find”, NPR, Mar. 29, 2025, <https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/03/29/nx-s1-5342574/gambling-addiction-march-madness-sportsbook-betting>.

⁴¹² Brant James, “Sportsbooks Bringing Star Power for NFL TV Advertisements”, Gaming Today, Sep. 5, 2024, <https://www.gamingtoday.com/news/sportsbooks-bringing-star-power-for-nfl-tv-advertisements/>.

⁴¹³ Heather Hugelmeyer, “The normalization of gambling is fueling addiction”, Northwell Health, Sep. 9, 2024, <https://www.northwell.edu/news/insights/gambling-addiction-normalization>.

⁴¹⁴ Anthony Crupi, “NBA Gambling Scandal Won’t Stop Sportsbook Marketing Blitz”, Sportico, Oct. 24, 2025, https://www.sportico.com/business/media/2025/nba-sportsbook-branding-ads-betting-fallout-1234874806/#recipient_hashed=1d62366ef898d693ca82dcb8cfab27301ac69c91ed7266483a1ddba1bba1c33&recipient_salt=5f1932963bfa620fd01571dc666ab518ffd22b8dfe22762796665aaca1407681&utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=Sportico_TheMorningLead&utm_content=642516_10-27-2025&utm_term=36128459?utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Morning+Lead&utm_content=642516_10-27-2025&utm_id=642516.

⁴¹⁵ Christian Nyemcsok, “Young men’s perceptions about the risks associated with sports betting: a critical qualitative inquiry”, PubMed Central, Apr. 30, 2025, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9059698/>.

sportsbooks are all commercially intertwined,⁴¹⁶ creates a powerful cultural undercurrent, making any message of caution or outright prohibition from the NCAA or on-campus administrators seem contradictory and ring hollow.

VI. Answering the Call: Actionable CSC Recommendations

In light of these numerous complex challenges and risks, this Commission has the opportunity and the obligation to recommend a coherent, comprehensive, and bold national strategy to approach sports betting in college athletics. The following recommendations are therefore proposed as a blueprint for the CSC and college sports more broadly to navigate this new landscape. These suggestions are proposed with the twin goals of protecting the integrity of the competition at hand and promoting student-athlete well-being.

a. Athlete and Staff Betting

As discussed in detail, the NCAA policy shift to allow betting on professional sports⁴¹⁷ requires a simultaneously nuanced and cautious approach. The Commission should respectfully recommend that if the NCAA is to proceed with this proposed change, it should be implemented with a strict, non-negotiable set of parameters. First and foremost, the prohibition on betting on any and all collegiate, amateur, or Olympic events must be clearly communicated and strongly reinforced. Next, an explicit and robust policy addressing this misuse of insider information must be established, making it clear individuals who provide information to any outside party for gambling purposes shall be punished as if they bet on the sport directly. This would even implicate parties like team equipment managers, who are perhaps the most dangerous informants outside of

⁴¹⁶ Ashley Rodriguez, “How sports betting is changing the media industry in the US”, Business Insider, Dec. 26, 2022, <https://www.businessinsider.com/how-us-sports-betting-is-changing-media-companies-partnerships-ma-2021-12>.

⁴¹⁷ Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

referees⁴¹⁸ in this new sports gambling world due to their low ranking in the team hierarchy (and therefore less associated risk with providing inside knowledge) combined with easy access to sensitive team information.⁴¹⁹ Lastly, clear regulations regarding conflicts of interest must be put into place in order to address scenarios where a student-athlete may bet on a professional league in which a close friend or family member is involved. The overarching goal behind these regulations should be to limit the enforcement burden of minor infractions while ensuring the door to more problematic integrity breaches remains closed.

b. Establishing a National Collegiate Sports Integrity Framework

The current (and inadequate) system of oversight must be removed and replaced. The Commission should formally recommend the creation of a National Collegiate Sports Integrity Framework, structured using the hybrid model discussed *supra*. Further, the CSC should mandate and fund the NCAA national office to create and establish a central integrity unit to combat the continued rise of these issues. This group's responsibilities could include things like: the negotiation of a universal data monitoring and intelligence sharing partnership with a leading gaming integrity provider in the industry, such as Genius Sports⁴²⁰ or Sportradar,⁴²¹ to cover all Division I competitions; developing a uniform set of sanctioning guidelines for those who still

⁴¹⁸ Margaret Fleming, "Turkish Soccer Says It Has Widespread Ref Gambling Problem", Front Office Sports, Oct. 27, 2025, https://frontofficesports.com/turkey-soccer-referee-gambling/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Sports%20Equinox%20TV%20Chaos&utm_content=Sports%20Equinox%20TV%20Chaos+CID_a1065051c499316ad11933ad3014668f&utm_source=FOS%20Daily%20Newsletter&utm_term=Turkish%20Soccer%20Says%20It%20Has%20Widespread%20Ref%20Gambling%20Problem; Scott Eden, "From the archives: How former ref Tim Donaghy conspired to fix NBA games", ESPN, Jul. 9, 2020, https://www.espn.com/nba/story/_/id/25980368/how-former-ref-tim-donaghy-conspired-fix-nba-games.

⁴¹⁹ Matt Brown (Aug. 1, 2025).

⁴²⁰ "NCAA and Genius Sports expand partnership through 2032", Genius Sports, Apr. 25, 2025, <https://www.geniussports.com/newsroom/ncaa-and-genius-sports-expand-partnership-through-2032/>; Steve Chen, "Genius Sports and IBIA form a sports integrity partnership", CDC Gaming, Jun. 12, 2024, <https://cdcgaming.com/genius-sports-and-ibia-form-a-sports-integrity-partnership/>.

⁴²¹ "Integrity in Action: 2024 Global Analysis & Trends", Sportradar, <https://sportradar.com/content-hub/report/integrity-in-action-2024-global-analysis-and-trends/?lang=en-us>.

violate the rules; and establishing a national, confidential tip line and whistleblower program. As mentioned previously, the introduction of these educational programs and the handling of the initial investigations should begin at the conference level with professionally staffed and well-funded integrity offices. Adoption of this proposed framework, including the conference-level oversight offices, should become a mandatory condition of NCAA membership for all Division I schools, allowing for responsive, on-the-ground enforcement while also ensuring consistency at the national level.

c. Use of Potential Revenue

The strong allure of sports betting revenue,⁴²² while incredibly tantalizing, must be approached with extreme caution and be guided by powerful and unshakeable ethical tenets. The Commission should recommend that if a state or institution creates a plan to derive certain revenue from college sports betting taxes, they must adhere to a strict set of regulations. Most importantly, a significant portion of any such revenue must be dedicated, by law, to funding the National Collegiate Sports Integrity Framework and to expanding support services on campus, particularly in the mental health and problem gambling spaces. In addition, the remaining funds should be used to prioritize broad-scope student-athlete welfare initiatives,⁴²³ such as enhanced medical care, stronger academic support, and career development—not coaching salaries or facility enhancements.⁴²⁴

d. Protecting Student-Athletes

⁴²² Avery Kreemer, “DeWine proposes doubling Ohio sports betting tax to pay for sports stadiums, youth sports”, Dayton Daily News, Feb. 10, 2025, <https://www.daytondailynews.com/local/dewine-proposes-doubling-ohio-sports-betting-tax-to-pay-for-sports-stadiums-youth-sports/DXPIDU5ZKRAX5GUNKM3NX2Q55A/>.

⁴²³ Immie Cowper, “Supporting student-athletes: 5 ways universities can help improve well-being”, Keystone Education Group, Mar. 2, 2025, <https://www.keg.com/news/supporting-student-athletes-5-ways-universities-can-help-with-well-being>.

⁴²⁴ “Game changer: Transformation in student-athlete care can drive health and wellness innovation”, Huron Consulting Group, <https://www.huronconsultinggroup.com/insights/transformation-student-athlete-care>.

Moreover, the well-being of student-athletes must also be a critical focus of any new strategy effectuated by the Commission.⁴²⁵ The CSC should issue a strong recommendation or proposed framework for a multi-tiered approach to athlete protection. They should call for the NCAA and its member institutions to actively lobby at both the state and federal levels for a nationwide prohibition on individual player proposition bets for all collegiate athletic events (as many other leagues are now doing),⁴²⁶ which would be the single most effective step to immediately and impactfully reduce the targeted harassment athletes face on a daily basis while also mitigating many of the issues with match-fixing. The Commission should also mandate all athletic departments create formal partnerships with certified problem gambling experts and campus counseling services to provide student-athletes with confidential and easily accessible support. Such partnerships should also include a “safe harbor” policy helping to insulate the eligibility of any student-athlete who self-reports a gambling problem and seeks counseling services, as this sort of proactive, help-seeking behavior should be incentivized, not punished. Lastly, the CSC should endorse and further encourage the continued expansion of peer-led initiatives, such as “morethanabet.org,” to change the culture and conversation around sports gambling while also helping to humanize athletes in the eyes of what can be a highly critical public.⁴²⁷

e. The Ever-Present Offshore Issue

⁴²⁵ “Student-Athlete Welfare: Managing the Complete Athlete”, Kitman Labs, Aug. 9, 2021, <https://www.kitmanlabs.com/blog/student-athlete-welfare-managing-the-complete-athlete/>.

⁴²⁶ Johnny K., “NBA and Players Union Push for Prop Betting Restrictions After Gambling Scandals”, World Casino Directory, Aug. 20, 2025, <https://news.worldcasinodirectory.com/nba-and-players-union-push-for-prop-betting-restrictions-after-gambling-scandals-119461>.

⁴²⁷ “More Than a Bet”, <https://morethanabet.org/protect-our-athletes/>.

Perhaps the most intractable issue is the prevalence of so-called “offshore” gambling,⁴²⁸ which typically operates outside of U.S. regulatory and legal jurisdiction.⁴²⁹ These illicit markets are essentially untraceable, as they use non-U.S. payment processors, cryptocurrencies, and anonymized platforms to help shield them from oversight and legal penalties.⁴³⁰ The presence of these sites creates a prominent and unregulated “black market” where student-athletes can place wagers with little to no fear of detection by state-level or collegiate compliance systems.⁴³¹ While enhanced federal enforcement and future regulations⁴³² may attempt to curb these operations through the targeting of payment facilitators and website access data, experts acknowledge that these efforts are often like playing a game of whack-a-mole.⁴³³ Given their seemingly endless ability to relocate, regenerate, and adapt, offshore books appear to be an ever-present challenge that will consistently undermine domestic regulatory integrity.⁴³⁴

f. How Will Athletes Be Treated Upon Turning Pro?

⁴²⁸ Heli Hagfors, “Gambling Motives and Offshore Gambling: A Finnish Population Study”, PubMed Central, Sep. 28, 2023, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC11272742/>; Dustin Gouker (Aug. 1, 2025).

⁴²⁹ Sinyong Choi, “Examining the Use of Offshore Online Gambling Sites in the United States via Routine Activities Theory: A SEM Analysis”, PubMed Central, May 7, 2023, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10164417/>.

⁴³⁰ “Dangers of Offshore Sportsbooks: States Cracking Down”, Birches Health, Dec. 4, 2024, <https://bircheshealth.com/resources/offshore-sportsbooks>; Dustin Gouker (Aug. 1, 2025).

⁴³¹ Dylan Bortnick, “Betting on the Future: How Legal Sports Gambling is Reshaping American Sports Industries”, University of Texas at Austin, 2025, <https://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstreams/8ecae396-3a4c-4c78-9a54-e030eba3e158/download>; Dustin Gouker (Aug. 1, 2025).

⁴³² Michael McCann, “NBA Scandal May Push Congress Back Into Sports Betting Debate”, Sportico, Oct. 28, 2025, https://www.sportico.com/law/analysis/2025/terry-rozier-nba-gambling-scandal-congress-implications-1234874917/#recipient_hashed=1d62366ef898d693ca82dccb8cfab27301ac69c91ed7266483a1ddba1bba1c33&recipient_salt=5f1932963bfa620fd01571dc666ab518ffd22b8dfe22762796665aeea1407681&utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=Sportico_TheMorningLead&utm_content=642754_10-28-2025&utm_term=36128459&utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Morning+Lead&utm_content=642754_10-28-2025&utm_id=642754.

⁴³³ “Reducing online gambling black markets: an analysis of international practices used to combat online gambling black markets”, Regulus Partners, Sep. 2024, <https://www.entaingroup.com/media/zh2n0i0s/regulus-report-2024-black-market-gambling.pdf>; Dustin Gouker (Aug. 1, 2025).

⁴³⁴ Sara Severens, “Titus Cracks Down on Illegal, Offshore Sports Books”, Congresswoman Dina Titus, Jun. 29, 2022, <https://titus.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=3279>; Dustin Gouker (Aug. 1, 2025).

An additional pressing regulatory question centers around the jurisdictional oversight of athletes who are drafted to a professional league and are transitioning from collegiate to pro careers, helping to bridge the regulatory gap identified in the case of Kayshon Boutte.⁴³⁵ The most logical framework would seemingly dictate a “hand-off” of primary oversight—thus transferring responsibility from the collegiate system to the respective professional leagues once an athlete is no longer a student.⁴³⁶ However, it is crucial that this jurisdictional transfer avoids the creation of an information vacuum or the severing of regulatory ties. It is imperative that the collegiate regulatory bodies and professional leagues work diligently to cultivate formalized collaborative relationships and intelligence-sharing protocols. As discussed *supra*, existing avenues of communication between current student-athletes and professional alumni represent a significant vulnerability. Therefore, a working partnership between the professional leagues and the NCAA is essential to monitor this risk and effectively manage investigations that may cross from the collegiate sphere into the professional ranks.⁴³⁷

g. Timeline and Next Steps

The issue of legalized gambling in college sports⁴³⁸ is an urgent situation demanding swift action, though such nuanced problems require complex solutions and, in turn, a deliberate process. The Commission should contemplate a phased, twenty-four-month timeline for their continued work and for the implementation of these reforms. The first six months of this initiative could be

⁴³⁵ Liz Roscher, “Underage gambling, fraud charges dropped against Patriots WR Kayshon Boutte in Louisiana”, Yahoo Sports, Jul. 16, 2024, <https://sports.yahoo.com/underage-gambling-fraud-charges-dropped-against-patriots-wr-kayshon-boutte-in-louisiana-145225816.html>.

⁴³⁶ Logan Reardon, “What are the gambling policies for each sports league? Here's what players can and can't bet on”, NBC Los Angeles, Mar. 27, 2024, <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/sports/what-are-the-gambling-policies-for-each-sports-league-heres-what-players-can-and-cant-bet-on/3373795/>.

⁴³⁷ David Purdum, “Records show gambling 'syndicate' targeted NCAA basketball”, ESPN, Oct. 17, 2025, https://www.espn.com/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/46607545/records-gambling-syndicate-ncaa-basketball-suspicious-bets.

⁴³⁸ Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

dedicated to items like background research, consultation with stakeholders, and a detailed framework for the National Collegiate Sports Integrity Framework. Next, the ensuing twelve months could be focused on securing new NCAA legislation and commitments from the respective Power Four (and other Division I) institutions to establish and fund such a groundbreaking new structure. Finally, the last six months could be dedicated to the launch of the new system, with an initial focus on player and staff education as well as the rollout of the national data monitoring system. Such a timeline from the CSC would provide a well-marked path from recommendation to reality, leaving no doubt college athletics can confront this growing challenge with the care and urgency it deserves.

VII. Conclusion: A Defining Moment for College Sports

The universe of college sports is now at a pivotal crossroads.⁴³⁹ The legalization of sports betting⁴⁴⁰ has let loose a wave of powerful cultural and commercial forces crashing through the traditional safeguards of amateurism, creating a new and dangerous landscape for student-athletes and the universities they represent.⁴⁴¹ The evidence is now nearly irrefutable: the integrity of sporting competition is actively under attack.⁴⁴² The well-being of student-athletes is being compromised, while the ethical foundations of the entire enterprise of college sports are seemingly being challenged.⁴⁴³

⁴³⁹ “Knight Commission/Elon Poll: College sports are at a crossroads”, Today at Elon, Oct. 9, 2025, <https://www.elon.edu/u/news/2025/10/09/knight-commission-elon-poll-college-sports-are-at-a-crossroads/>.

⁴⁴⁰ David Purdum, “Five years into sports betting legalization: Breaking down the numbers”, ESPN, May 12, 2023, https://www.espn.com/sports-betting/story/_/id/37605381/five-years-sports-betting-legalization-breaking-numbers-supreme-court-us-stats.

⁴⁴¹ The Lancet Regional Health – Americas, “Sports gambling in the Americas: the rise of invisible risks”, PubMed Central, Aug. 8, 2025, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12365529/>.

⁴⁴² “Sport integrity under threat”, Uniting Communities, Jan. 29, 2016, <https://www.unitingcommunities.org/news/sport-integrity-under-threat>.

⁴⁴³ Timothy Brown, “High Stakes: The NCAA’s New Betting Policy and the Risks for College Athletes”, Lewis Brisbois, Oct. 20, 2025, <https://lewisbrisbois.com/blog/category/sports-law/high-stakes-the-ncaas-new-betting-policy-and-the-risks-for-college-athletes>.

To sit back and watch the very essence of college sports crumble, or to implement inadequate or piecemeal measures, are luxuries the NCAA and CSC can no longer afford. To continue with the current framework would be to invite additional catastrophic integrity scandals into the world of college athletics,⁴⁴⁴ potentially permanently damaging public trust and the perception of fairness in sports. The work of this Commission, therefore, is laden with both a historic weight and a transformative potential. The recommendations outlined in this paper, including the creation of a robust national integrity framework for college athletics,⁴⁴⁵ the establishment of a clear and enforceable set of gambling regulations, the prioritization of athlete well-being⁴⁴⁶ and protection,⁴⁴⁷ and a cautious and ethical approach to the question of the use of future wager revenue, all offer a comprehensive outline of a safer and more secure future for college sports today.

This is a final call to action: not just for bold leadership, but for collaborative and innovative solutions. For an unwavering promise to place the health of student-athletes and the core educational values that have long sustained intercollegiate athletics⁴⁴⁸ at the forefront of all of the Committee's future decisions. The path forward for college sports as they navigate this new

⁴⁴⁴ Eric Prisbel, "A college football betting scandal this fall? 'We'll probably see two,' says expert", On3, Jul. 21, 2023, <https://www.on3.com/os/news/a-ncaa-college-football-betting-scandal-this-fall-well-probably-see-two-says-expert/>.

⁴⁴⁵ Tom Nightingale, "Protecting integrity in sports and betting means educating all parties", SBC Americas, May 20, 2024, <https://sbcamericas.com/2024/05/20/protecting-integrity-in-sports-betting/>.

⁴⁴⁶ "How the NCAA is prioritizing mental health", NCAA, May 1, 2024, <https://www.ncaa.org/news/2024/5/1/media-center-how-the-ncaas-prioritizing-mental-health.aspx>.

⁴⁴⁷ "Fantasy Sports and Gaming Association Position Paper: Protecting Collegiate Athletes in the Age of Legal Wagering", Fantasy Sports & Gaming Association, Dec. 9, 2024, <https://thefsga.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/FSGA-College-prop-wager-final-12-9-2024.pdf>.

⁴⁴⁸ Jaiden Fisher-Dayn, "Education Reform in College Athletics", Cornell Policy Group, Apr. 11, 2024, <https://www.cornellpolicygroup.org/post/education-reform-in-college-athletics>.

forefront of legalized sports betting⁴⁴⁹ will not be easy, but it will be essential.⁴⁵⁰ The very soul of college athletics will be hanging in the balance.⁴⁵¹

⁴⁴⁹ Associated Press, “NCAA allows athletes to bet on pro sports starting Nov. 1”, ESPN, Oct. 22, 2025, https://www.espn.com/college-sports/story/_/id/46689420/ncaa-allows-athletes-bet-pro-sports-starting-nov-1.

⁴⁵⁰ Michael McCann, “NCAA’s Sports Betting Move Reflects Fairness but Comes With Risks”, Yahoo Sports, Oct. 9, 2025, <https://sports.yahoo.com/article/ncaa-sports-betting-move-reflects-123037439.html>.

⁴⁵¹ Joon Lee, “Gambling Is Killing Sports and Consuming America”, The New York Times, Oct. 28, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/10/28/opinion/sports-gambling-major-leagues.html#recipient_hashed=1d62366ef898d693ca82dcc8cfab27301ac69c91ed7266483a1ddba1bba1c33&recipient_salt=5f1932963bfa620fd01571dc666ab518ffd22b8dfe22762796665aeaa1407681?utm_medium=email&utm_source=exacttarget&utm_campaign=The+Morning+Lead&utm_content=643009_10-29-2025&utm_id=643009.