

# College Betting Bans Are Counterproductive to a **SAFE, WELL-REGULATED SPORTS BETTING MARKET**

Sports wagering is authorized in 39 states, Washington DC, and Puerto Rico. While professional sports comprise the overwhelming majority of total betting activity, betting on collegiate football and basketball is also very prevalent. As a result, the NCAA has proposed a handful of policy measures designed to protect the mental health and well-being of student-athletes. As part of this effort, the NCAA has requested state gaming regulators to restrict legal wagering on proposition betting involving college teams and individual athletes, stating that this was leading to an uptick in athlete harassment.

The NCAA's unproven assertion that the availability of legal prop bets on college athletics is a root cause of athlete harassment is misguided. A transparent, well-regulated, and legal market for such wagers has proven to be the most effective measure to ensure athlete safety, protect the integrity of athletic competition, and deter consumers from engaging with unscrupulous illegal betting operations.

**Implementing such a ban nationwide would result in an estimated annual loss of more than \$200 million** from sports wagering revenues in legal U.S. gaming jurisdictions, and more severely impact states with prominent collegiate athletic programs. To compound the problem, much of this revenue would gravitate to illegal gambling markets, where there is no oversight, integrity monitoring or consumer protections.

To date, several state regulators have complied with the NCAA request to ban college prop betting, yet the majority have taken no such action. In Ohio, the Casino Control Commission implemented such a ban, but this action was refuted by the legislative Study Commission on the Future of Gaming in Ohio, which stated:

*While we understand the circumstances in which this decision was made, we believe it is one that was not needed. With the current landscape of collegiate athletics and NIL, players are now being paid to play in certain sports. That is no different than any other professional sport (i.e., NFL, NBA, or MLB). And with professional sports, any individual can go on DraftKings or FanDuel to place a prop-bet on any athlete. Reports of harassment and potential threats are unacceptable at any stage of athletics. Such acts should be investigated and prosecuted accordingly. But the response from the OCCC to simply ban prop-betting on individual collegiate athletes looks to solve the problem without addressing the issue. We recommend that the OCCC's policy be rescinded and prop betting on college athletes be restored.<sup>1</sup>*

The FSGA and its member companies concur with the findings of the Ohio Study Commission. The FSGA supports efforts to engage in meaningful athlete harassment deterrence efforts, and applauds the NCAA in their ongoing efforts to protect student-athletes. However, efforts to broadly restrict betting types will stifle the legal market and ultimately be counterproductive to the policy objectives of eliminating illegal wagering and protecting the integrity of athletic competitions, collegiate and otherwise.

1. [https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/study-commission-on-the-future-of-gaming-in-ohio/meetings/cmte\\_h\\_future\\_gaming\\_1\\_2024-07-12-0800\\_1403](https://ohiohouse.gov/committees/study-commission-on-the-future-of-gaming-in-ohio/meetings/cmte_h_future_gaming_1_2024-07-12-0800_1403), page 5