



News Release

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Bet Smart: Your Guide to Legal and Responsible Betting this Football Season

PHOENIX – In just two weeks, on Thursday, September 5th, the NFL's 105th season kicks off with the league's annual primetime Kickoff game, as the defending Super Bowl Champion the Kansas City Chiefs host the Baltimore Ravens at GEHA Field at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City. American football is one of the most anticipated sports every year, and as we've seen with the Super Bowl, it remains one of the most popular events to wager on. The Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) asks that if you choose to wager on event wagering, please do so responsibly and legally.

Jackie Johnson, CEO of ADG, encourages all Arizonans to enjoy the upcoming football season responsibly: "As the excitement builds, we want to remind every Arizonan to place their bets wisely and within the legal boundaries to keep the experience safe and enjoyable."

Sports Pools – Know What Rules to Follow

In the United States, it is common to see friends and family participate in sports pools during the football season. These pools are legal as long as the state's social gambling rules are followed. According to Arizona law ([A.R.S. § 13-3301\(7\)](#)), social gambling requires:

- That gambling cannot be conducted as business, which means that hosts cannot receive financial benefit unless they are participating in the game;
- Hosts pay out **all** pool money to the winner(s);
- Only participants can win; and
- Players compete on equal terms with each other.

A few things to be on the lookout for that indicate illegal gambling:

- Paying a fee to participate, including "suggested" or "voluntary" donations.
- A host who keeps a percentage of the pool for administering the game.
- A required minimum purchase to participate (food or beverage, etc.).
- Unequal odds.
- Underage participants (under 21 years of age).

ADG takes complaints about illegal gambling seriously. To report suspected illegal gambling activity, visit our [website](#), call (602) 255-3886, or email publicaffairs@azgaming.gov. You can remain anonymous.

Responsible Betting – What to Keep in Mind

With sports betting legal in the state, it has become increasingly important to educate yourself on how you can bet responsibly. Listed below are some helpful tips as part of the American Gaming Association's *Have A Game Plan.*® *Bet Responsibly.*™ campaign:

- **Set a Budget** – It is crucial to keep in mind that everyone will have different budgets; never bet beyond your own means. Be cautious and make sure you set a limit – and stick to it – if you plan on wagering. More information on how to responsibly set a budget for wagering: [HERE](#).
- **Know the Odds** – There are plenty of key terms everyone should know when making a sports bet. What's a parlay? Over/under? Moneyline? If you decide to wager, make sure you are briefed on the [basics of sports betting](#).
- **Keep it Social** – Whenever gambling, be mindful that all forms of gambling are for the purpose of entertainment. This is **not** a way to make money. By gaming with friends, family, and colleagues, you can keep playing responsibly and have fun.
- **Use Legal Sportsbooks & Operators** – Legal operators provide important player protections that are not found in the illegal market. Whether you are placing a wager on your phone or at a physical sportsbook, make sure you are using a legal operator in the state. Visit the ADG website to view a list of the state's approved event wagering and fantasy sports operators and retail locations: [HERE](#).

You can view more information on how to bet responsibly by visiting haveagameplan.org.

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, you can get help now by calling 1-800-NEXT-STEP (1.800.639.8783), the Division of Problem Gaming (DPG)'s confidential helpline, texting "NEXTSTEP" to 53342, or utilizing a chat feature on the DPG website. DPG's helpline provides confidentiality and connects callers with a master's level counselor who can connect them with available resources, including statewide treatment providers who specialize in problem gambling. The helpline is available 24/7 to everyone facing a problem with gambling – individuals and affected family members, friends or co-workers. Learn more and access DPG resources: problemgambling.az.gov.

About ADG

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, ADG is the state regulatory agency for [tribal gaming](#), [event wagering & fantasy sports contests](#), [racing and pari-mutuel/simulcast wagering](#), and [unarmed combat sports](#). ADG also provides and supports education, prevention, and treatment programs for people and families affected by problem gambling through its [Division of Problem Gambling](#) and 24-hour confidential helpline, 1-800-NEXT-STEP.

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