



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF GAMING
TRIBAL GAMING • RACING • BOXING & MIXED MARTIAL ARTS

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2018

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NCAA March Madness: Wild Upsets Not the Only Path to a Busted Bracket

Betting Legally on March Madness

PHOENIX – As one of the craziest NCAA Tournaments in recent history narrows to the Final Four, sports bettors continue to evaluate matchups and place wagers. Wild upsets aren't the only path to a busted bracket – in Arizona, sports betting is illegal. While the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) has a team ready to engage in a full court press, don't rip up that bracket just yet! There are legal exceptions – such as social gambling – that include office grid pools and modest bracket tournaments among family and friends.

“Making a bracket is a fun, time-honored tradition across the country each March. The Arizona Department of Gaming wants to make sure that you know and follow state law,” ADG Director Dan Bergin said.

ADG urges you not to run afoul of the law and make sure your social gambling is legal. Familiarize yourself with these circumstances, which suggest illegal gambling, and avoid an unintended violation:

- Fee charged to participate (“suggested” or “voluntary” donations, rental fees, etc.)
- Host who keeps a percentage of the pool to administer the game
- Minimum purchase required to participate (food or beverage, etc.)
- Unequal odds
- Underage participants (under 21 years of age)

Arizona law [A.R.S. 13-3301(7)] specifies that social gambling “gambling that is not conducted as a business and that involves players who compete on equal terms with each other in a gamble...” Social gambling obligates hosts to pay out all pool money to winners, and establishes that only participants can win.

ADG takes complaints about illegal gambling very seriously. If you have a tip concerning suspected illegal gambling, or just need information, please call (602) 771-4263. To learn more, visit [Social Gambling Tips](#).

About ADG

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) is the state regulatory agency for [tribal gaming](#), [pari-mutuel racing and wagering](#), and [boxing and mixed martial arts](#). 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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