



News Release

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Make Sure Your Bracket Isn't Busted for the Wrong Reasons *How to Bet Legally on NCAA March Madness*

PHOENIX – With the 2021 National Collegiate Athletic Association basketball tournament, known as *March Madness*, starting today, people across the United States are making their picks and chasing that perfect bracket. However, the Arizona Department of Gaming would like to remind Arizonans who may want to place a bet on the tournament to make sure to follow state law. While small bracket tournaments and sports pools are legal under the state's social gambling laws, sports betting remains illegal in Arizona.

"Although sports wagering is currently illegal, Arizonans are still able to be a part of the action and participate in legal betting options," said Ted Vogt, ADG Director. "As long as individuals follow state law, *March Madness* bracket tournaments commonly played among friends and family can be completely legal."

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 pays 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)

Learn more about gambling in Arizona by viewing ADG's Gambling Tips to Remember:

<http://bit.ly/TipsToRemember>

ADG takes complaints about illegal gambling seriously. If you have a tip concerning suspected illegal gambling, please contact us at (602) 771-4263.

About ADG

Established by the Arizona State Legislature in 1995, ADG is the state regulatory agency for [tribal gaming](#), [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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