



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

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 3, 2018

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Don't Get Sacked: How To Bet Legally on the Super Bowl

PHOENIX – While you watch the Philadelphia Eagles take on the New England Patriots during Super Bowl LII, the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) offers tips about your Super Bowl squares to help you avoid any personal fouls with the law. If you're weighing odds on which team will earn the NFL Championship title, don't place your money just yet. Sports betting is illegal in the State of Arizona, but the Arizona Department of Gaming (ADG) acknowledges that social gambling, such as your office Super Bowl Grid Pool, may be permitted if you follow a few simple rules.

"It may seem innocent to lay down a friendly bet with friends on Super Bowl Sunday, but many well-meaning bettors can easily fumble into trouble if they aren't fully aware of all rules and our office is tasked with blowing the whistle," said Department of Gaming Director Dan Bergin.

Before that happens, ADG requests that grid pool administrators keep these guidelines on standby to make sure all grid pools are conducted legally. Arizona law [A.R.S. 13-3301(7)] specifies social gambling is not to be conducted as business, which means that hosts can't receive financial benefit, unless they're participating in the game. Social gambling requires all pool money be paid to the winner(s), and, only participants can win.

A few indicators of conducting or participating in illegal gambling include situations where a host:

- Charges a fee to participate ("suggested" or "voluntary" donations, rental fees, etc.)
- Keeps a percentage of the pool for administering the game
- Requires a minimum purchase to participate (food or beverage, etc.)
- Creates unequal odds (assigns numbers to the first column and row before filling the grid with names)

"The Arizona Department of Gaming wants everyone to have a great time, but betting and the law can be a game of inches. So, before you kick off your office or home pool, be sure you take a knee and huddle up before throwing that Hail Mary," added Bergin.

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

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](#).

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