



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT OHIO'S NEW SPORTS BETTING LAW



WHEN DOES SPORTS BETTING BECOME LEGAL IN OHIO?

All sports betting starts in Ohio on Jan. 1, 2023. Bets placed on or after that date with a licensed sportsbook operator are legal.

HOW WAS SPORTS BETTING LEGALIZED IN THE U.S.?

Sports betting was illegal in most states until 2018. That's when the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the federal law that had effectively banned betting, opening the door for states to decide on the legalization of sports betting for themselves.

WHAT WAS THE ROAD TO LEGAL SPORTS BETTING IN OHIO?

Casino gambling has been legal in Ohio since 2009, but sports betting arrived more recently with House Bill 29 (H.B. 29). The bill was passed by the Ohio General Assembly and signed into law by the Ohio governor in 2021. It made sports betting legal and called for all sports betting to start on the same date. The Ohio Casino Control Commission set that universal state date as Jan. 1, 2023.

WHAT KIND OF BETS ARE LEGAL?

Many different forms of sports bets are legal in Ohio, as long as they are placed with a licensed sportsbook operator. Bets can be made from your laptop or phone using online sportsbooks, or in person at a casino, racetrack, or sportsbook. Some types of sports bets can also be made using digital lottery kiosks in certain bars that hold a liquor license and sell lottery tickets. As with any other type of gambling, sports betting is best engaged in responsibly.

WHERE ARE SPORTSBOOKS ALLOWED TO OPERATE?

Sportsbooks that have a license from the state can take bets online, in physical locations, and at kiosks in bars through out the state after Jan. 1, 2023, though the number of brick-and-mortar locations in each county is limited based on how many people live there. Professional sports teams can also offer sportsbooks in their stadiums.

DID THE NEW SPORTS BETTING LAW CHANGE FANTASY SPORTS?

No. Fantasy sports have been legal in Ohio since 2017 and fantasy sports are separate from the sports betting legalization process that was started by H.B. 29. But even though fantasy sports are different from sports betting, both can put you at risk for a problem with gambling and should be engaged in responsibly.

WHAT DOES THE NEW SPORTS BETTING LAW MEAN FOR RESPONSIBLE GAMBLING?

Responsible gambling advocates in Ohio are expecting sports betting to be a large and growing industry in the coming years. But along with that growth comes concern that more people engaging in gambling behavior could also result in an increase in people who have a problem with gambling. Since online betting apps let people place bets quickly and more frequently, encouraging responsible gambling is more important than ever.

IS MY SPORTS BETTING PUTTING ME AT RISK FOR DEVELOPING A PROBLEM WITH GAMBLING?

If you think you or someone you know is at risk, call the free Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-589-9966 or visit [PauseBeforeYouPlay.org](https://www.pausebeforeyouplay.org). There you can:

-  **Take the quiz** to see if you're at risk for problem gambling
-  **Find free resources** for responsible betting
-  **Get help** from free and accessible locations