

The Football Season Can Be Costly for Problem Gamblers

WCPG urges sports bettors to be responsible

For Immediate Release

August 28, 2012

(Green Bay, WI) – With the college and pro football seasons just around the corner, the teams are getting ready to kick off their seasons just as sports bettors are readying for a season of wagering.

“There’s little doubt that a lot of people will be betting on the outcomes of the college or pro football games across the U.S. over the next few months,” said Rose Gruber, Executive Director of the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](#) (WCPG). “Most people can place a few bets on football games or other sporting events, but problem gamblers often pay a high price for their wagering. And their losses usually go well beyond their losing bets, affecting their families, jobs and more.”

Gruber says it is crucial for people to remember to bet responsibly and stay within their means. “We’re all bombarded with the hype of the pro and college football games,” Gruber said. “For someone addicted to sports betting, particularly in a football-crazed state like Wisconsin, the new season can be the beginning of a long, costly stretch.”

Sports betting is only legal in Nevada, however, the most recent estimates put illegal sports wagering in the United State as high as \$380 billion dollars annually.

Gruber says it’s a good time to remind people to ask some key questions:

- Has gambling ever made your home life unhappy?
- Have you lost time from work or school because of gambling?
- Do you ever gamble to get money to pay debts or solve other financial problems?
- After losing, do you feel that you have to gamble again to win your money back?
- Do you ever gamble longer than planned?
- Do you gamble until your last dollar is gone?
- Have you ever committed or considered committing a crime to get money for gambling?

(more)

Answering “yes” to several of these questions may mean it’s time to call the [Problem Gambling Helpline](#) (800-GAMBLE-5) for help.

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*The **Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling** is funded by a public awareness grant from the State of Wisconsin and additional funding from donors, including Wisconsin Native American Tribes. The Council operates a 24-hour Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, distributes informational brochures, organizes an annual statewide conference, makes presentations on problem gambling and conducts training sessions for treatment providers interested in the special requirements for working with compulsive gamblers and their families.*

For more information, visit www.wi-problemgamblers.org. WCPG is now on Facebook. Log on to Facebook, search for “Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling” and then click “like.”

If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5 for confidential help.

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