



Fantasy of Sports Betting

WCPG urges responsible sports wagering

SPOKESPERSON: *Available for comment*

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(Green Bay, WI) – Betting on football games has probably been around almost as long as the sport itself. It's not a problem to wager responsibly. Rose Blozinski, Executive Director of the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling, says the long football season can be difficult for someone addicted to betting on football or other sports.

"There's a lot of temptation for problem gamblers with another football season underway," Blozinski says. "On any given weekend, there are many games for sports bettors to choose from. And now there are even weekly and daily fantasy leagues with heavy advertising campaigns promising huge payouts to attract new participants."

Proponents of the weekly and daily fantasy leagues argue that fantasy football and other fantasy leagues aren't gambling because skill is involved. Blozinski steers clear of that argument, noting that the role of the WCPG is to help those who are addicted to gambling, no matter the form it takes.

"While the vast majority of people can bet on football games or other sports, compulsive gamblers often end up paying the price of losing more than they can afford to lose," Blozinski says. "With all of the attention on football, it can quickly turn into a long, tough season for anyone with a gambling addiction. The losses can be steep monetarily and affect the family, workplace and more."

Whether it's an office pool, online sports betting, legal wagering in Las Vegas or daily fantasy football, Blozinski says there are some key questions to ask:

- Is gambling the most exciting activity in your life?
- Are you preoccupied with thoughts of gambling?
- Do you miss school, activities, work or other events due to gambling?
- Do you borrow money to gamble?
- Has your gambling ever caused problems at home?
- Have you stolen from your family, roommate, friends or others to gamble or to pay back a gambling debt?
- Have you sold personal belongings to finance your gambling?
- After losing, do you gamble more to try to win your money back?

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If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, call the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling Helpline at 1-800-GAMBLE-5, Text at 1-850-888-Hope or Live Chat through the WCPG website at www.wi-problemgamblers.org.

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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 1-850-888-HOPE Textline, and Chat available on www.wi-problemgamblers.org, 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 the [Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling](http://www.wisconsin-council-on-problem-gambling.org) website, visit us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WisconsinCouncilonProblemGambling or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/wcpgambling>