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Winter 2016

# Newsletter

## Sports Betting

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For our directory of site locations across Ontario: **1-877-525-5515** or [ymcagta.org/gambling](http://ymcagta.org/gambling)

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## PRO-LINE

### What is Pro-line?

Pro line is a multi-sport betting card produced by the OLG (Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation). Players can choose 3 to 6 events to wager on, and within each event players can bet on a win by the home team (H), the visitors (V) or on a tie (T). Players can also choose to wager on the home team (H+) or visiting team (V+) winning by a larger spread than indicated. In addition bets can be made on the total score of an event. Players can choose to bet on whether the total score will be over (O) or under (U) the predicted outcome set by the OLG. Bets can be placed from a minimum of \$2.00 to a maximum of \$100.00.

### Single or Parlay?

As Canada does not allow single sports betting, participants must choose at least three events to wager on in order to play, this is referred to as parlay. Participants may bet different outcomes for the same game. For example, you can bet H+ and U on the same game. To win however, the player must win all of their bets.

Though many attempts have been made to allow single bets, the law has yet to change. Bill C-290, which seeks to amend the criminal code to allow single bets, had previously passed in the House of Commons, however it did not clear the Senate when the 42<sup>nd</sup> election was called. To date the fate of C-290 is uncertain.

### Skill or Chance?

Is sports betting an activity of chance? Or is it an activity of skill? This is a debate that continues to rage on.

There are a number of games in which the player has some control over the probability of winning or losing. Although such games involve skill, this does not necessarily mean that any given player has a better chance of winning. (Turner & Fritz, 2002)

In the case of sports betting the outcome is only partly random. The non-random elements are based on such factors as the skill of the players and the so called 'home court advantage', however there are also many variables that may affect an outcome of a game that cannot be planned for, for example unexpected injuries or personal issues of the players.

If we look at this issue in terms of the definition of gambling, risking something of value on an event with an uncertain outcome, we could then conclude that sports betting is an activity based on chance as there is no guarantee on which team is going to win the game.

When participating in sports betting, arming yourself with knowledge of the game, the odds of winning and understanding the risks and benefits involved, can allow for safer and more enjoyable participation.

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## SPREAD BETTING

Although sports betting is considered a traditional form of betting, it falls into many different categories. Most people assume you place a bet on a sports team and if the team you picked wins, you win the stake. However, there are many other types of sports betting, from fantasy betting to play betting and everything in between.

One type of sports betting is Sports Spread betting. Sports Spread betting is wagering on the outcome of a sporting event where the potential amount won or lost is based on how accurate a wager is. The amount won or lost in Spread betting is not based on fixed odds, but rather on how accurate (or inaccurate) a wager is on any particular game.

### How to Place a Bet

Bookmakers set a 'spread' based on a specific sports team's previous performance. The 'spread', for example 3-4 goals is a range in which a bookmaker feels the team will score in a future game. The bettor then decides if they feel their chosen sports team will score higher or lower than the given spread set by the bookmaker. As the bettor, if you believe the team will score higher than 3 goals, you would 'buy in at 4'. If you believe the team will score less than 3 goals, you would 'sell at 3'. The outcome of your wager is based on the team's performance.

If you were to 'buy in' and the team scored more goals than the 'spread' you win back the amount you wagered, multiplied by every additional goal over the set 'spread' however, if you 'buy in' and the team scores less goals than the 'spread' you then lose your wager multiplied by the difference.



If the bettor decides to 'sell' they believe that the team will score less than the 'spread' set by the bookmaker. If the bettor is correct and the team scores less than 3 goals they win their wager multiplied by the difference of goals set in the spread and the number of goals actually scored.

Sports Spread betting is a very risky form of sports betting with a chance to lose more than what you put at stake.

### Benefits of Sport Spread Betting

In Spread betting large sums of money can be won based on the stake. Spreads typically move throughout the game allowing the bettor to potentially trade out of a losing position to minimize losses.

### Tips and Advice

It is important to remember that point spreads usually move throughout the game allowing to trade out or decrease losses. If you are going to partake in Sport Spread betting, keeping stakes small helps to minimize risk. Also, educating yourself on the rules of the game or limiting your wagers to those sports you understand can also help keep betting fun and safe.

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## LES PARIS SPORTIFS

Les jeunes d'aujourd'hui grandissent dans une société dans laquelle le jeu est monnaie courante. Les jeux de hasard et d'argent sont légalisés, publicisés et « à la mode ». L'intérêt pour les jeux de hasard et d'argent peut apparaître dès l'âge de 8 ans et devenir une habitude avant même qu'un adolescent n'entre à l'école secondaire. Les jeunes sont exposés aux jeux de hasard par des membres de la famille, des amis, la télévision et sur Internet pour en nommer que quelques exemples.

Au Canada, les jeux de hasard et d'argent sont réglementés par les gouvernements provinciaux et territoriaux. L'âge légal pour jouer varie entre 18 et 19 ans, selon la province ou les territoires ainsi que la forme de jeux de hasard. Pourtant plusieurs mineurs y prennent déjà part. Les jeux de hasard organisés par les adolescents ne sont pas soumis à des lois (jeux de cartes, jeux de dés, paris sportifs). Certains mineurs réussissent à contourner l'interdit en utilisant des fausses cartes d'identité pour acheter des billets de loteries ou jouer dans des casinos et en pariant sur Internet.

D'après les résultats du sondage sur la consommation de drogues et la santé des élèves de l'Ontario (SCDSEO) réalisé par le Centre de toxicomanie et de santé mentale, les paris sportifs font partie des formes de jeux de hasard les plus populaires auprès des adolescents, plus particulièrement chez les garçons.

Un pari sportif consiste à miser de l'argent ou quelque chose de valeur sur des événements ou rencontres sportives. Il peut s'agir de hockey, football, soccer, baseball, boxe et bien plus encore.

Il existe plusieurs types de paris sportifs, le plus populaire étant de parier sur la victoire d'une équipe ou d'un athlète.

Il n'est jamais trop tôt pour commencer la conversation sur les jeux de hasard et d'argent auprès des jeunes. Il est important de discuter de la définition du sport et de la façon dont la saturation de publicités pour les sites de paris normalise le jeu et influence les jeunes à associer les paris comme partie intégrale du sport.

La technologie a également changé la façon dont les gens parient sur les sports. Le jeu est maintenant facile d'accès en tout temps et partout. Les paris en ligne ne sont pas sans risques.

Les jeunes sont plus vulnérables et susceptibles de développer des problèmes de jeu pouvant entraîner de graves conséquences et difficultés scolaires, financières et relationnelles. Certains signes avant-coureurs d'un problème lié au jeu sont la perte de contrôle, troubles avec les amis et la famille, baisse des résultats scolaires, problèmes financiers (emprunts, vols et dettes) et participation à des activités illicites.

Il est important d'éduquer les jeunes sur le sujet des jeux de hasard afin d'aider à prévenir que le jeu ne devienne un problème et promouvoir des habitudes de jeu responsable.

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## HORSE RACING IN ONTARIO

Known as the “Sport of Kings”, horse racing has been in Canada for more than 1000 years and is one of the more popular forms of gambling in Ontario. The first organized race was held in Toronto in 1837 and quickly became one of society’s favourite pastimes. Horse racing is also important to Ontario’s agricultural sector, in 2010 it provided an estimated 60 000 jobs per year and paid \$1.5 billion in wages and salaries.

### Horse Racing Breeds

There are 3 types of horses that are bred for racing, Thoroughbred, Standardbred, and Quarter Horse. These three breeds are run differently and usually on different length tracks each with its own style of racing.

All three of these breeds are raced throughout Ontario. Quarter Horse races are the fastest and sometimes called the “dragsters” of racing. They cover short distances very quickly. Thoroughbred and Standardbred horses run different lengths of races that typically depend on the track. All tracks are different lengths, ranging from an eighth of a mile up to a mile and a half. The smaller tracks are straight ways and therefore run faster races.

### How to place a bet on a horse race

Bettors can place wagers on races at any of the 16 racetracks across Ontario. This can also be done at one of the fifty-five off-track betting venues. Off track betting venues are generally located in taverns or bars and require a bettor to place a wager with a teller followed by watching a race on TV. All races are broadcasted on close-circuit television and wagers can be placed on many races around the world.

When thinking about a bet you have to consider a number of factors. The Jockey has a great influence on the way a horse will run the race. Jockeys

are required to stay in great shape both physically and mentally, they are responsible for guiding a horse through a race. Jockeys either ride on the backs of Thoroughbreds and Quarter horses or in a Sulky (race bike) attached to the horse with a harnesses in Standardbred races.

When placing a wager bettors often take into consideration the horses’ past wins and losses and the trainer’s history. Bettors also rely on the posted odds associated with each horse. These stats change continually before the race within the betting period and are set by the race track officials. The odds are listed on the ‘Tote Board’. The minimum bet for each wager is \$2.00.

The wager is based on the position a horse will come in at the end of the race; first, second or third. “To Win”, means that the bet is only won if the horse comes in at first place. “To Place”, means that the win is only paid out if the horse comes in at second place and “To Show”, means that the horse has to come in at third place for the wager to be won. If a bettor bets on all three and the horse comes in at any one of those three positions then the bettor wins the bet. The payout is according to the odds on the horse, the “favourite” horse, being the horse that most people have bet on, will have a lower payout if a win occurs. If the “longshot” horse (less people have bet on this horse) wins, the payout is higher because the odds are against this horse winning.



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### Skill or Chance

Is betting on horse racing an activity of skill or is it based on chance? Can bettors solely rely on their knowledge of the jockey and the horses in order to win their bet, or do other factors play into the outcome of a race? Horse racing itself is a skilled sport. Horses and jockeys put many hours into training and preparing for each race and as such wagers can be based on knowledge of the horses, jockeys and trainers. However, as with any gambling activity there is always an element of risk as there are factors that can affect the outcome of the race that cannot be planned for; injuries, weather, personal issues, etc.

### Want in on the fun?

You can catch Canada's most popular race in July,

The Queen's Plate is raced at Woodbine Race track. Watch for Queen Elizabeth's horses wearing the silks coloured baby blue and white stripes.

Want to learn more about Horse racing please visit: [www.ontariohorseracing.ca](http://www.ontariohorseracing.ca) or [www.ohria.com](http://www.ohria.com)

If you choose to place a bet on a horse race, don't think of it as a way to make money, play for fun, limit your bet to the money you can afford to lose and stay within your preset time frame

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## FANTASY SPORTS

Fantasy sports have taken North America by storm! A fantasy sport is an online game where people create virtual teams made up of real players of a professional sport. The virtual team that you have created then competes based on statistical performance of those players against other virtual teams in actual games. Bets are placed, the whistle blows and fingers are crossed in hopes of your team placing first to win the big payout! Are your odds of winning greater because you have extensive knowledge of the players on the team? How much does that chance of winning the big prize cost you every year? Who runs these online fantasy sports sites?

### Chance or Skill?

This is the fundamental question in fantasy sports; it is causing some stormy waters in the legal world of gambling. The gambling laws have left fantasy sports in a "grey area" as to what is legal and what is not. The definition of *gambling*

is risking something of value on a game of chance not knowing if you're going to win or lose. The leading online fantasy sports sites say that sports' betting is a game of skill as opposed to a game of chance; they would, therefore, not be governed by the same gambling laws as a casino would.

A skill is something that is developed and can be improved upon by practice. Chance, on the other hand, is risking something of value on an uncertain outcome. Many of the fantasy sports' avid participants say that knowing the team players and their stats is a skill that can be developed by following each team's successes and losses, as well as the player's personal developments in each game. However, placing a monetary bet online on the players and the game's outcome is taking a chance as there is no guarantee that your player or team is guaranteed to win. Is it a game of chance or skill?

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Continued...

### The GIANTS of fantasy sports sites

Draft Kings and Fan Duel are the two leading sites for fantasy sports in the U.S. with reported combined revenue of nearly 1 billion dollars, quadrupling their earnings since 2013. A new Canadian media company called TheScore Inc. wants a piece of that economic pie; they have developed an app named “QuickDraft” to try and keep up with the leading competitors.

The Fantasy Sports Trade Association estimated that close to 57 million people now play fantasy sports games in North America. That is up from 41.5 million people in 2014, with the average player spending \$467 each year. Keep in mind that the bets increase during playoffs, as does the frequency of betting.

### Winners and losers

Give this scenario some thought...

Your favorite sports team is playing tonight and you’re feeling lucky. You place your bet of \$500 on your favorite fantasy sport site. You’ve been keeping track of stats and think you have a real good chance of winning this time. As soon as the game is over, you check your standings online and realize that you’ve lost. This is the second time you’ve placed a larger than normal bet online this month. The next morning you wake up to knocking at your door. It’s the landlord asking you for the rent. You just gambled away half your rent money on that sports game last night. *What do you do?*

When you start to sacrifice valuables that will have a negative impact on your life (such as your rent money), it should be a clear warning that you may have a gambling problem. This risky behaviour is even more prevalent for at home online gamblers.

They don’t have to leave the comfort of their own home, it’s easier to lose track of time and because they are gambling alone, no one is around to suggest that they’ve gambled enough.

### What can you do to prevent this from happening to you?

Here are some tips in staying safe when sports gambling:

- Avoid gambling alone
- Don’t use gambling as a way to support your favorite team
- Budget your money and never take any extra out in hopes of winning it back
- Use a trusted website when giving out personal information
- Know the rules of the website that you are using. Don’t forget to read the fine print!

Sports betting can be an exciting means of entertainment. Having a competition against family or friends to see whose players will come out on top is a good challenge and can be rewarding. Remembering to play safely and responsibly online is the key to a good time!

- About 67% of all college students bet on sports.
- Sports’ betting is second to poker in popularity of gambling games among college students.
- Upwards of 80% of high school students report having gambled for money.

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BASEBALL  
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HARM  
HOCKEY  
HORSE  
LOSS  
LUCK  
PRO-LINE  
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