

HOW TO SPORTS BET: AMERICAN FOOTBALL

POINT SPREADS

- Betting the point spread, often referred to as the “line” in American football is a popular way of betting where a team is either given (+) points or laying (-) them. Determined by the predicted winner of a given matchup, the favorite team will have to win by an established number of points in order to “cover the spread,” while an underdog would have to keep the score within the given points for the bet to hit.
 - Washington (-6.5) is playing against Cleveland (+6.5) in a Sunday night matchup. If you bet Washington (-6.5), then they would need to win by 7+ points to cover the spread and for your bet to win; Conversely, if you were to bet Cleveland (+6.5) and they win, or if they lose by 6 or fewer points, they will cover the spread and the bet will win.
- This is a way of creating more even betting matchups between teams that may be playing different levels of football, so that you can receive a fair price.

MONEYLINE

- Betting the moneyline is straightforward – You are betting on who you think will win the game, plain and simple. In every game there are favorites and underdogs which is reflected in the moneyline price. The bigger the favorite, the more expensive the price will be, leading to a lower payout. In turn, though, larger underdogs will have higher odds and a much higher payout.
 - Let’s say Philadelphia (-200) is playing Minnesota (+175). A \$100 wager on Philadelphia would pay out \$150, while a \$100 bet on Minnesota would return \$275.
- All they have to do is win; which side are you going to back?

TOTALS

- When betting a total, you are placing a wager on whether the sum of the teams’ points will be over or under the determined number. This can be broken down into a variety of timeframes – Full game, halves, quarters, and more.
 - In a matchup between Las Vegas and Arizona, the Total Line is set at 41.5; This means for any score in which the sum is larger than 42 (such as 27-21), the ‘over’ wins. If this sum is 41 points or less, then the under hits.

PLAYER PROPS

- Player props are determined based on a given player’s performance in the game – Do you think your running back will rush for more or less than 67.5 yards? Will your quarterback throw an interception? How many receptions will your star receiver haul in?
- The possibilities are endless with 22 players on the field on every play.

HOW TO SPORTS BET: BASKETBALL

POINT SPREADS

- The point spread is a way of creating a level playing field between two teams. In a basketball game, lines are determined by the market to adjust for the predicted winner, or favorite's, advantage over their opponent.
 - For example, Phoenix (-7.5) is playing Milwaukee (+7.5) in an NBA matchup. Oddsmakers predict that Phoenix is a 7.5-point favorite so, in order for them to win 'against the spread,' Phoenix will have to win by 8+ points. For Milwaukee to cover the spread, however, they only need to keep the score within 7 points.
 - In this example, a score of PHX 110-100 MIL, would win for Phoenix (-7.5) but a final score of PHX 110-105 MIL would lead to Milwaukee covering the spread and MIL (+7.5) bettors winning.

MONEY LINES

- When betting a moneyline, you are simply picking the winner of a selected game. The odds price of either side will be reflective of whom oddsmakers have determined as the favorite and underdog in a given match. Favorites will have shorter odds, which are more expensive and have lower payouts compared to underdogs with long odds.
 - In the example of Phoenix vs Milwaukee, the moneyline price has been set at Phoenix (-175) and Milwaukee (+160). At these odds, a \$100 wager on Phoenix would pay out \$157.14, while the same \$100 wager on Milwaukee would return \$260 if they win.

TOTALS

- Oddsmakers will establish "totals" for a given matchup; this is a prediction of how many points will be scored in a given competition. Based on the established total, it is up to the bettor to predict whether the sum of the score will be greater or less than that number.
 - Kansas is playing against West Virginia in an NCAA match. The total is set at 145 points for the game, and you have the opportunity to wager if the sum of the final score will be higher or lower than 145. A score of 80-70 will cash the over, while any sum totaling less than 145 will be a winner for under bettors. Should the final score equal exactly 145, the total will push, and bets are refunded.

PLAYER PROPS

- Betting player props is placing a wager on the performance of a given player in a game. As it pertains to basketball, you may bet on the number of points, assists, rebounds and other stat lines that a player can accrue over the course of a game. Like totals, you have the chance to bet the over or under for a given market at a total set by oddsmakers.
 - Do you think your point guard has a good matchup tonight? You can bet them to have 9+ assists. Is your lockdown defense going to keep the opponent's top scorer at bay? Maybe you should consider the under for that player's points.

HOW TO SPORTS BET: HOCKEY

PUCK LINE

- Betting the puck line is the equivalent to taking the spread in sports like basketball, but it will always be set at (+/-1.5). This is a wager on the margin of victory when there is a perceived favorite in the matchup. The favorite will be shown as (-1.5) and the underdog (+1.5). Note, if you believe 1.5 is not a valuable line, there are "alternate lines" available at other spreads. These wagers are based on the final score after OT and shootout periods, unless otherwise stated.
 - For example, if the Blackhawks and Lightning are playing and you wager the Blackhawks puck line of (+1.5), the Blackhawks must either win outright or lose by 1 goal in order for the bet to win. Conversely, if you wager the Lightning (-1.5) the Lightning must win by 2 goals or more in order for the bet to win.

MONEY LINES

- The money line in hockey is a wager on which team is going to win the game. This will apply to a victory in regulation, OT, or a shootout; so long as the team wins, the bet will cash. The moneyline is priced to reflect perceived favorites in any given game – Favorites will have lower payouts compared to an underdog.
 - Say the Capitals are playing the Flyers, and the moneyline price is set at Capitals (-175) vs Flyers (+160). At these odds, a \$100 wager on the Capitals would pay out \$157.14, while the same \$100 wager on the Flyers will return \$260, should they win.

60-MINUTE LINE (REGULATION LINE)

- The 60-Minute line is similar to a moneyline wager where you are betting on a team to win, however, the victory must occur in regulation time. In a 60-Minute Line (also called the Regulation Line), the bettor will choose between Team A, Team B, or Tie to be the result at the end of the 3rd period.
 - If the Blackhawks are playing the Lightning, and the Lightning are perceived as a significant favorite. You may wager for the Lightning to win on the 60-Minute Line to receive better odds than simply taking the money line.
 - If the Lightning win in regulation, then the bet will hit. But if the Lightning trail or the game is tied at the end of the 3rd period, then the bet will lose regardless of the OT outcome.

TOTALS

- Betting totals in hockey is a wager on the combined number of goals scored between both teams in the game, including OT. The total is adjusted for the teams' style of play, and goalies among other factors. To win, you must decide if the final sum of goals scored will be greater than or less than the established total.
 - In a game between the Oilers and Maple Leafs, the total is set at 6 and you decide to wager over 6 goals; the teams must combine for 7+ goals for the bet to hit.
 - So, if the game is tied 3-3 at the end of the 3rd period, the wager would win on the final score of 4-3. If the final score were 3-2, however, the bet would lose. And in the event that the final score equals exactly 6 (i.e., 4-2) the wager would count as a push and be refunded.
 - It is worth noting that in the event of a shootout, the winning team receives 1 goal. So, if a game above were to enter a shootout at 3-3 and the lightning win, the final score would be 4-3 regardless of how many goals were "scored" in the shootout.

(CONT.) HOCKEY

PLAYER PROPS

- Another popular hockey bet is player props: Wagering a specific player to go over or under an established stat line during the course of a game. You may wager on Shots on Goal, Goals, Assists, and more. A 'point' in hockey refers to either an assist or goal recorded by the player.
 - Betting Patrick Kane to go over 1.5 points would mean that he needs to combine for 2+ goals and or assists. Player props do include stats recorded in OT; however, they will exclude goals scored in a shootout.

FUTURES

- Future bets are your prediction for an event that will occur at a future time – These may be on a team to win the Stanley Cup, to win a Conference or Division, a playoff series – You could even bet on the total number on wins in a season. Another spin on futures is betting specific players to win awards or hit benchmarks.
 - Do you think that Ovechkin will score 50 goals this season? Will the Flyers record over or under 40 wins? Could the Lightning win the Championship?
 - By placing wagers in advance, you will receive longer odds than when the event is about to occur, however, there is a lot of time for variability to derail the wager's chance of winning.

HOW TO SPORTS BET: SOCCER

MONEY LINE + DRAW (3-WAY LINE)

- When betting a soccer match, there are 3 outcomes to choose from: Team A, Team B, and Draw. These wagers apply to the 90 minutes of regulation play plus stoppage time. In the event of extra time (such as knockout rounds in the Euro Cup), the bet will be settled based on the result at the end of regulation time and not include the extra period, unless explicitly stated.
 - In a Man City v Arsenal regular season match, any of the 3 results are possible at the end of 90 minutes: Manchester City to win, Arsenal to win, or for the match to end in a draw.

TOTALS

- Betting on a goal total in soccer is an exciting way to predict how many aggregate goals will be scored in the match. Typically set around 2.5, you are placing a wager on whether there will be more or less goals scored than the selected total – These wagers apply to the score at the end of regulation time, unless otherwise stated.
 - In the event you wager o2.5 goals – A result of a 1-1 draw at the end of 90 minutes + stoppage time would lose. Even if the game enters extra time and the final result is 3-1, the wager will be settled based on the stoppage time.

PROPS

- Prop bets in soccer go beyond the player props offered in other sports. Because of the nature of the sport, there are many nuances that you can wager on. These include but are not limited to: For both teams to score, Time of the first goal, Double result (i.e., Team A OR Draw), Draw no bet, Number of corner kicks, and much more.
 - These expanded line offerings allow bettors to wager on more than just the moneyline result – If you don't have confidence that your team that will get the result in regulation, there are many ways to limit your risk by betting on the variations of outcomes.

ASIAN HANDICAP

- Special to soccer wagering, the Asian handicap is a way for you to split your wager between 2 lines, mitigating risk. Asian handicap lines will end in .25 or .75, such as o2.75 (-110) in Arsenal vs Manchester City.
 - In the example of o2.75 (-110) in Arsenal vs Manchester City, the wager is effectively split between o2.5 and o3; both wagers are placed at the same price, and you only have to place a single wager.
 - So, a \$110 wager on this line is really \$55 on o2.5 and \$55 on o3, both at the (-110) price. In the event that the total is 3 goals: o2.5 would win and o3 would push, returning \$160. Should the final score equal 4 goals, both o2.5 and o3 would win, returning \$210. If the final score is only 2 goals, however, then the whole wager would
 - Likewise, a spread of Arsenal (+1.25) would be splitting the wager between Arsenal (+1) and Arsenal (+1.5).

HOW TO SPORTS BET: GOLF

OUTRIGHT WINNER & FINISHING POSITIONS

- Prior to the start, and throughout a golf tournament (4 rounds equaling 72 holes), you will be able to wager on whom you believe will win as well as the players' finishing placement. Picking an outright winner will offer the highest returns, however, you could also select golfers to finish in the top 5, 10, or 20 positions.
 - In the event of a wager on a golfer to finish top 10, and there are multiple players tied for 10th at the end of the 4th round, a dead heat rule will apply to the wager.

MATCHUP (ROUND & TOURNAMENT)

- An exciting way to pick sides in golf, bettors can wager on head-to-head matchups that may last the duration of the tournament or for specific rounds. You can leverage who is the best fit for the course, who is in good form and more. Do you think Brooks will finish above Bryson in the US Open? Will Morikawa come out strong in the first round Wolff struggle?
 - You can wager on who you think will win with the money line, where a draw voids your bet. Or, if you are confident, you can wager on the 3-way line with the possible outcomes: Golfer A, Golfer B, or Draw.
- Another spin on matchup betting in golf is to bet groups – Picking a winner out of 3+ golfers who are paired together. In the event that multiple golfers 'win' the group, dead heat rule will apply.

PLAYER PERFORMANCE (ROUND & HOLE)

- Betting on hole performance is a wager for how you believe a golfer will do for a designated stretch of the round, or for the round itself. Say par for the course is 71 and you believe that Justin Thomas is due to shoot -6 in the third round. You may place a wager for u66.5 strokes on the round.
 - An exhilarating way to live bet golf is to wager on hole, or multiple hole performance for the round. Say Brooks Koepka is heating up heading into the 9th hole – You may wager for him to birdie hole #10, or even to shoot over/ under par on holes 10-15. As the round unfolds, bettors can identify who is primed to make a push and who is ready to fall apart.

HOW TO SPORTS BET: BASEBALL

RUN LINE

- The Run line in baseball is the equivalent of betting the spread. The run line, however, will be set at +/-1.5 for all games due to the low-scoring nature of baseball, and the prices will shift based on the matchup. The underdog can either win outright, or only lose by 1 run in order for the bet to hit. The favorite, on the other hand, must win by 2 runs or more to cover the spread and cash the wager.
 - For example, the Chicago White Sox (-1.5) are playing the Chicago Cubs (+1.5). If the White Sox win by 2 runs or more then CWS (-1.5) will win.
 - The run line applies to the final score of the game, including extra innings.

MONEY LINES

- Betting the money line is a wager on which team is going to win the game. This can occur in regulation or extra innings. The moneyline price will reflect a favorite and underdog, based on who oddsmakers believe has the matchup advantage. A standard game must complete 5 innings, or 4.5 if the home team is in the lead, to be ruled official.

TOTALS

- Betting a baseball total is a wager on the aggregate number of runs scored in the game or designated timeframe. Based on the established total, a bettor must decide whether the teams' combined score will go over or under the number. This total is often influenced by pitchers, lineups and weather.
 - In a game between Oakland and Washington, the total is set at 8.5. In this instance, for any final score of 9+ runs (i.e., 6-3), the over will win. For any combined score equaling 8 or fewer runs, the under is going to win.

PLAYER PROPS

- Depending on a team's daily lineup, a bettor may believe that their stud batter is going to have a great day, or that the ace pitching will throw a great game. With player props, you can wager on the performance of a given player.
 - Number of hits, total strikeouts, to hit a homerun – There are many ways to back players that you think have the edge in a given game.

HOW TO SPORTS BET: TENNIS

MONEYLINE

- Tennis is an exciting sport to bet as the match can take many turns as momentum swings from game to game. Betting the moneyline is wagering which player/ pair will win the match, simple. A tennis match is played best 2 out of 3 sets for most tournaments and best 3 of 5 in Grand Slams. To win a set, the player must win 6 games following the "win by 2" rule.
- Tennis is a sport with significant mismatches, which are best reflected in the moneyline prices.

SPREADS (GAME, SET)

- In tennis, you have the option to bet spreads, or the margin of victory, broken down into number of sets and games won for each player relative to their opponent. For both sets and games, the aggregate number of games or sets is handicapped, (-3.5) games for example, and that is the index that is used for the margin of victory.
 - In Federer vs Nadal, Nadal may be a (-3.5) game favorite. Meaning that at the end of the match, he will need to have won 4+ more games than Federer to cover the spread and for the bet to hit.
 - The same goes for set spreads, where a (-1.5) set favorite will have to win 2+ more sets than the opponent in order to cover and win the bet.

TOTALS (GAMES, SETS)

- Similar to other sports, totals are a wager on the number of games or sets played in a match. Since players can break service and wrap the match up quickly, there is no such thing as a guarantee. If you think it will be a close match and both players will do a good job holding service, then you may expect the match to run longer and contain more games.

HOW TO SPORTS BET: FIGHTING

WINNER/ MONEYLINE

- Wagering the moneyline in fighting sports such as MMA and Boxing, is a bet on who will win the bout – regardless of the method of victory. MMA fights may end by KO/ TKO/ DQ/ Submission/ Decision. Boxing fights may end by the same methods, excluding submission.
- MMA fights are typically scheduled for 3 5-minute rounds with championship bouts going 5. Boxing consists of 12 3-minute rounds, or less, depending on the skill level of the fighters.

FIGHT DURATION

- With MMA fights scheduled for 3 or 5 rounds, and boxing set to go 12 or less, bettors may wager on how long they think the fight will last, or if it will go the distance. If you are expecting an early knockout, wagering on the “under” for fight duration may pay out, whereas even matchups without a clear favorite could last the majority of the scheduled rounds.
 - In an MMA championship fight, scheduled for 5 5-minute rounds, the o/u may be set at 2.5 rounds. This means that if a fighter were to win before the 2:30 mark of the 3rd round, then the “under” would hit. If the fight continues beyond the 2:30 mark of round 3, then the o2.5 rounds will cash.

WINNING METHOD

- The multitude of possible endings in combat sports allows bettors to wager on how the fight will specifically end. Meaning that if you believe a fighter will win by KO/ TKO/ DQ you can place a wager on it and get better payouts than simply playing the moneyline. Think the fight will go the distance but one fighter has the edge and will raise their hand at its conclusion? Wagering on the fighter to win by decision may be a smart play.