



**Charlie Baker**  
President

January 31, 2024

VIA EMAIL

Matthew Schuler  
Executive Director  
Ohio Casino Control Commission  
100 East Broad Street  
20th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Matt,

Since the repeal of the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act in 2018, the NCAA has closely monitored the legalized sports betting landscape to understand the impacts it has on intercollegiate athletics. Specifically, the NCAA is deeply concerned about the dangers it poses to the health, safety and well-being of over 500,000 student-athletes and the integrity of NCAA competition.

One particular issue that troubles the NCAA is betting markets that center around many aspects of a student-athlete's individual athletic performance, otherwise known as player prop bets. While these types of bets are prohibited in many states with legalized sports betting, they are offered in Ohio. The NCAA national office contacted several Ohio Division I schools about challenges related to sports betting and their athletics departments. Those schools cited issues surrounding player prop bets, including multiple instances of harassment and other well-being concerns.

Last year, in response to our monitoring, we [announced multistate advocacy efforts](#) that seek to enhance sports betting laws and regulations across the country. We commend the state of Ohio, as much of the framework we are advocating for is modeled within the state, including the novel law that bans bettors who threaten sports participants.<sup>1</sup> Another item we are advocating for that is modeled in the Ohio laws and regulations<sup>2</sup> is the ability for the NCAA and its member institutions to “have a seat at the table” to address concerns around intercollegiate betting markets offered by licensed gambling operators.

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<sup>1</sup> Purdum, D. (2023, July 7). *Ohio law targets bettors who threaten sports participants*. ESPN. [https://www.espn.com/sports-betting/story/\\_/id/37974926/ohio-law-targets-bettors-threaten-sports-participants](https://www.espn.com/sports-betting/story/_/id/37974926/ohio-law-targets-bettors-threaten-sports-participants).

<sup>2</sup> (2022, August 15). *Rule 3775-11-01: Sporting events and wager types*. Ohio Laws & Administrative Rules. <https://codes.ohio.gov/ohio-administrative-code/rule-3775-11-01>.

Therefore, pursuant to Ohio Code OAC 3775-11-01 (D) — Sporting Events and Wager Types, we respectfully submit a request to you as the executive director to prohibit player-specific prop bets on intercollegiate athletics competitions.

The following summarizes good cause to restrict these types of wagers:

- The NCAA has seen a significant increase in reports of student-athletes being harassed by bettors, including reports from our member institutions in Ohio.<sup>3,4</sup> Specifically, in 2023 alone, the NCAA became aware of six Division I student-athletes who reported harassment related to betting activity. The reports came through on-campus sports betting education sessions, which have been conducted at only a fraction of Ohio's college campuses so far. Sadly, this is occurring in many states across the country. In a recent [NCAA survey of NCAA member schools](#), over 30 Division I institutions reported someone with a gambling interest harassing their student-athletes. Player prop bets attach an individual student-athlete's name to a bet and therefore increase the likelihood of betting harassment being targeted toward them.
- Player prop bets increase the risk of insider information being solicited and/or leveraged to manipulate betting markets.<sup>5</sup> Student-athletes, unlike professional athletes, are accessible to other students and members of the public at large.
- Player prop bets may entice student-athletes into engaging in sports betting by ***betting on themselves*** to outperform a player prop bet related to their own game performance.

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<sup>3</sup> Clark, D. (2023, Jan. 18). *Dayton's Anthony Grant sickened by gambling-related threats directed toward players*. Cincinnati Enquirer. <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/sports/college/othercolleges/2023/01/18/dayton-coach-anthony-grant-sickened-by-sports-gambling-related-threats-directed-at-flyers-players/69817189007/>.

The article includes a quote from Dayton men's basketball head coach Anthony Grant: "There's some laws that have recently been enacted, that really to me - it could really change the landscape of what college sports is all about. And when we have people that make it about themselves and attack kids because of their own agenda, it sickens me. They have families. They don't deserve that. Mental health is real."

<sup>4</sup> Kosich, K. (2022, April 18). *Ohio State University asks Casino Control Commission to limit sports betting on colleges*. News 5 Cleveland. <https://www.news5cleveland.com/news/local-news/ohio-state-university-asks-casino-control-commission-to-limit-sports-betting-on-colleges>.

<sup>5</sup> Wile, O. (2022, April 25). *Ohio State voices concerns about roll out of sports betting in Ohio*. Spectrum News. <https://spectrumnews1.com/oh/columbus/news/2022/04/22/osu-concerns-with-sports-betting>. The article includes a quote from Don Emmonds, senior analyst for ohiojets.com: "The scenario that's been brought up to me is, hey if you have a roommate who's a student athlete, you throw that out at them like, 'Hey are you playing or not?' So they don't want those kind of influences involved."

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- Player prop bets increase the risk of “spot fixing,” or would-be match fixers targeting student-athletes and other sporting participants to fix a portion of a contest without having to fix the whole contest.<sup>6</sup>

In addition to these compelling reasons related to intercollegiate athletics, gambling generally — and sports betting specifically — has been shown to be more addictive for college-aged individuals,<sup>7</sup> and player prop bets offer a mechanism for college students to engage in “micro-betting,” a more repetitive form of sports betting.

We appreciate your careful attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Charlie Baker  
NCAA President

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<sup>6</sup> Moorwood, V. & Wysong, D. (2022, April 18). *Sports betting raises harassment concerns for student-athletes. How schools are responding.* Yahoo. <https://news.yahoo.com/sports-betting-raises-harassment-concerns-115830704.html>.

The article, which originally appeared in the Cincinnati Enquirer, includes a quote from Xavier Athletics Director Greg Christopher: "The idea that fellow students can be in the student section betting on their classmates; when a Xavier player goes to the free-throw line, he's got classmates and people he potentially could be living with that can be betting on him. That's concerning."

<sup>7</sup> Staley, O. (2023, Dec. 12). *An Explosion in Sports Betting is Driving Gambling Addiction Among College Students.* Time. <https://time.com/6342504/gambling-addiction-sports-betting-college-students/>.