

# HOW SPORTS BETTING WORKS



## PLAYBOOK

GameSense™

GameSenseAB.ca

## THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS A SURE BET.

People who know a lot about sports may think they can use that knowledge to their advantage for placing bets.

The challenge is that the oddsmakers know a lot too. They have access to detailed statistics that you've probably never heard of and sophisticated systems for generating odds.

They study the players' health, team matchups, the weather and anything else that may influence the outcomes. They then incorporate those factors into the odds of a particular bet.

Don't be fooled, chance still plays a big part, no matter your skill level.

## SOMETIMES YOU NEED TO CALL A TIME-OUT.

For tips on how to take a break and balance your gambling with other activities, visit a GameSense Info Centre to speak with a GameSense Advisor or visit [GameSenseAB.ca](https://www.gamesenseab.ca)

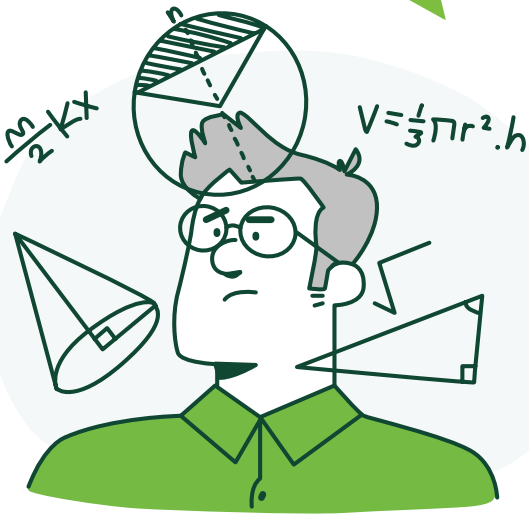
If you think you may need a longer break, speak with a GameSense Advisor or visit [selfexclusion.ca](https://www.selfexclusion.ca) for details about the Self-Exclusion Program.

Are you concerned that you or someone you know may have a gambling problem? Call the 24-hour, toll-free Alberta Health Services Addiction Help line [1-866-332-2322](tel:1-866-332-2322).



**UNDERSTAND  
THE ODDS**

# WHAT ARE DECIMAL BETTING ODDS?



Decimal odds show the amount that your wager will be multiplied by if you win.

## Example:

The odds (2.00) x Your bet (\$10) = Your payout (\$20) Note: Your wager is included in the calculation, so in the above example your profit would be \$10.

*Sports betting odds can also be expressed as **Fractional and American**. Visit [GameSenseAB.ca](http://GameSenseAB.ca) for more information.*

# DYNAMIC ODDS



Depending on a number of factors, such as weather, playing conditions, injuries, previous bets placed, or other unpredictable events, the odds for an event can change at any time until the game starts. When you place your bet, you lock in your odds, someone placing the same bet at a different time could have considerably different odds.

## Example:

If a team's star player is injured right before a game, the odds of that team winning may go down (reflected by a higher payout). While the odds of any outcome occurring may change prior to or during a game, once you've placed your bet you're locked into those odds and payout rate.



**UNDERSTAND**  
**THE BETS**

# MONEYLINE



In a moneyline bet, you simply bet on which team will win. It doesn't matter what the final score is, only who wins. The more likely a team is to win, the lower the moneyline odds.

## Example:

CIN (2.65) vs LA (1.50)

In this case, Los Angeles is the favourite to win the game, betting \$10 on LA would pay out \$15, for a \$5 profit. Betting \$10 on the underdog, Cincinnati, would pay \$26.50 for a \$16.50 profit.



## POINT SPREAD

If you bet on the point spread, you're betting that the result is going to happen by a certain amount. If you pick the favourite, it's not enough that they win—they must win by more than the set number of points. If you pick the underdog, they don't have to win for the bet to be successful, they have to lose by less than the number.

### Example:

TOR (-4.5) vs LAL (+4.5)

In this basketball example, Toronto is the favourite, indicated by the negative number. A bet on Toronto for the point spread would only win if Toronto wins by five points or more. If Toronto wins by four points or less or loses outright, then a bet on the Los Angeles Lakers would be successful.



# OVER/UNDER

With over/under you aren't picking a specific team, instead you are wagering on the total points scored by both teams combined. The sportsbook will predict a number for each game, period or half. You will be betting on whether the combined score is over or under that total.

## Example:

EDM vs CGY (T:5.5)

The "T" (total) number is the over/under line. A bet on the over would win if the total scored by both teams is six or more (4-2, 5-1). If you were to wager the under, you would win if the combined score was less than 5.5 (3-2, 2-1).



# FUTURES

Futures betting is a wager on an event, series or an award that will finish in the future. This is different than a wager on the outcome of a single game. The result of a futures bet is for an event or season that is completed in the future, not the day the wager is placed.

## Example:

Outright winner of the NHL or NFL Championships, regular season, or most valuable player.



# PROPOSITION BETS

Proposition (prop) bets are considered novelty bets since they can deal with events unrelated to the game outcome or with individual player or team milestones. The sportsbook will list the event with the possible outcomes, each with their own odds.

## Example:

First player to score a goal, or the result of the coin toss in football.

**ALWAYS REMEMBER TO  
USE YOUR GAMESENSE.**



**PLAY FOR FUN,** not to make money. If you gamble, the result is never certain and losing is always a possibility. So, look at gambling as entertainment, like catching a concert or a movie, not a source of income.

**KNOW HOW THE GAMES WORK** and what the odds are before playing. The more you know about the games, the better equipped you are to make informed decisions before and while you play.

**SET A BUDGET AND STICK TO IT.** Keeping it fun means playing within your means. When you set and stick to a budget, you spend only money you can afford to lose.

**DON'T CHASE LOSSES.** Accept them as the cost of entertainment. Chances are the more you play, the more money you'll lose. Chasing losses almost always leads to bigger losses.



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