Online Sports Betting Guide

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What is a Bet in **Sports Betting**?

In its narrowest sense, a bet is a pledge of money that a certain outcome will occur. On a broader level, placing a bet on a sports event is taking some of the risk that the quarterback, the point guard or the pitcher takes himself – it’s one of the ultimate cases of putting your money where your mouth is.

To place a bet, go to the Sports Interaction home page. Choose an event from any of the **sports betting** menu options there, and be taken to a page showing you the sports odds (prices) on any particular event occurring. The greater the likelihood of the event occurring, the lesser the price. The less likely the event is to occur the greater the price, and therefore, the greater the potential return.

What Do Those Numbers Mean?

The sports odds, or price, on a given event can be rendered by an online sportsbook in one of three ways.

**American:** A price listed as +800 means that the bettor will return $800 profit on every $100 wagered, plus the original stake. +500 will return $500 profit every $100 wagered, plus the original stake.

**Fractional:** A price listed at 8/1 means that the event will return $800 for every $100 wagered, plus the original stake. 5/1 means that the event will return $500 for every $100 wagered, plus the original stake.

**Decimal:** A price listed at 8.00 means that the bet will return $800 for every $100 wagered. A price listed at 5.00 means that the bet will return $500 for every $100 wagered.
Types of Sports Bets: Moneyline

When a bettor bets on the moneyline, he or she is betting on the result of a game. They are betting on who will win a game, irrespective of the spread.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay Packers</td>
<td>+130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York Giants</td>
<td>-145</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the above example, the minus (-) sign in front of the price means that the New York Giants are the favorites. The -145 means that the bettor will win $100 for every $145 bet. If the Giants win the game, a bettor with a $10 bet gets a return of $16.90 – the original $10 stake, and $6.90 profit.

The plus sign in front of the Green Bay Packers’ price means that the Packers are the underdog. The +130 price means that the bettor will win $130 for every $100 bet. If the Packers win the game, a bettor with a $10 stake gets a return of $23 dollars – the original $10 stake, plus $13 profit.

Types of Sports Bets: Pointspread

Some games can be mismatches, where everybody knows who’s going to win a particular event. This is not very interesting to bet on, because the return on betting the favorite is not very high, and the underdog is highly unlikely to win in the first place.

The spread is what a sportsbook uses to make an event interesting for bettors. Consider the example below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York Giants</td>
<td>+3.0</td>
<td>-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay Packers</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
<td>-110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the example, the spread is set at three points. The +3.0 after the New York Giants means that the Giants are the underdog in this game; the Giants must either win, or not lose by more than three points, for a bet on the Giants to win.

The –3.0 after the Green Bay Packers means that the Packers are the favorite; the Packers must win by more than three points for a bet on the Packers to win.

If the Packers win by exactly three points, then the bet is said to have fallen on the spread and is deemed a push. All bets are voided and the stakes returned in this instance.

The second number, -110, after each team is the price of a winning bet. A winning bettor will win $100 for every $110 bet.
Types of Sports Bets: Totals Betting

Many players like to place bets on what the total points scored in a game will be, irrespective of who wins or who loses. This is called Totals, or over/under betting.

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over</td>
<td>+48.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under</td>
<td>+48.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the above example, the oddsmaker has decided that the total points scored in a given game will be forty-eight points. If a bettor thinks there will be more than 48 points scored in the game, he or she bets the Over. If a bettor thinks that the there will be less than 48 points scored in the game, he or she bets the Under. If the total is exactly 48 points, then the bet is deemed a push. All bets are voided and the stakes returned in this instance.

The second number, -110, after each term is the price of a winning bet. A winning bettor will win $100 for every $110 bet.

Types of Sports Bets: Parlay, Accumulator and Combination Bets

Many players enjoy the thrill of the parlay bet, where a number of bets are placed one after the other, with the potential return (and the associated risk) multiplying after each event.

In this example, the bettor has selected Miami to win the AFC East, Cleveland to win the AFC North, and Kansas City to win the AFC West. Three individual stakes of $10 each would return $40, $35 and $17.70 on each proposition, a return of $92.50 on the $30 wagered. However, the bettor has chosen to combine all three bets into a parlay, and this offers him or her a return of $247.80 on his or her bet of just $10, a considerably improved return. It is important to note, however, that all three individual propositions must win for the bet to win. If one loses, the entire bet is a loser.
Types of Sports Bets: Teaser Bets

Many players like to reduce the risk in a parlay bet by making a teaser bet. A teaser bet is a parlay, or combination, bet placed on pointspreads and/or totals in American Football and basketball only, with the pointspread and/or total adjusted, or “teased,” to give the bettor a greater chance of winning. Consider the example below:

In this example, the bettor has chosen the New York Giants at +9.0 and a total of Under 45 points. This means that, for the bet to win, the New York Giants must either beat Buffalo or not lose by more than nine points, and the total points scored in the game must be under 45. If both these selections are correct, the bet wins and pays out $36.10 on every $10 wagered.

But suppose the bettor wants to give him or herself a better chance of winning, even at a reduced payout? He or she may then chose a 6, 6.5 or 7 point teaser to give the bet a better chance to win. Let’s say he or she chooses the 6 point teaser, and clicks the 6 point teaser option in the betcard.

What has happened is that the bettor now has six more points added to the spread and the total that he or she has to beat for his or her bet to be successful. Instead of New York having to come within 9 points of Buffalo, they now have a 15 point margin of error. Instead of the total points scored in the game having to be 45 points, it’s now 51 points.

In each case, the number that the bettor has to beat has been increased, or ‘teased’ by 6 points because the bettor chose a 6 point parlay. If the bettor chose a 6.5 or 7 point parlay, the numbers would be adjusted by 6.5 or 7 accordingly.

The payout on the teaser bet is reduced to appropriately reflect the bettor’s increased chance of winning.

In this example, the bettor has chosen the New York Giants at +9.0 and a total of Under 45 points. This means that, for the bet to win, the New York Giants must either beat Buffalo or not lose by more than nine points, and the total points scored in the game must be under 45. If both these selections are correct, the bet wins and pays out $36.10 on every $10 wagered.
Types of Sports Bets: Futures Bets

A futures bet is a bet in an event where there are many competitors, sometimes made considerably before the event takes place. Futures are most common in events like motor racing, NASCAR, horse racing, or golf, among others. Futures are also posted in major competitions, like Major League Baseball and the NFL, at the start of the season, where players can get better odds on a team in which they have confidence than they would get later in the season. Because of the number of competitors, futures bets offer larger payouts. The larger payoffs are offset by the increased difficulty of picking a winner.
American Football Betting

Football betting, especially pro football betting, is one of the most popular choices of our players. The main professional league is the National Football League, who’s seventeen-week regular season runs from September to December each year. There follows one month of playoffs until the eventual Champion is decided at the Super Bowl, the single biggest day in American Sports.

The main action on American football games is in pointspread, or line, betting, where the sportsbook decides on a margin of victory for the favorite that will make either team an attractive betting proposition. Consider the example below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York Giants</td>
<td>+3.0</td>
<td>-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Bay Packers</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
<td>-110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the example, the spread is set at three points. The +3.0 after the New York Giants means that the Giants are the underdog in this game; the Giants must either win, or not lose by more than three points, for a bet on the Giants to win.

The -3.0 after the Green Bay Packers means that the Packers are the favorite; the Packers must win by more than three points for a bet on the Packers to win.

If Packers win by exactly three points, then the bet is said to have fallen on the spread and is deemed a push. All bets are voided and the stakes returned in this instance.

The second number, -110, after each team is the price of a winning bet. A winning bettor will win $100 for every $110 bet.

For a football game to have action, the game must be played for at least 55 minutes actual play. Overtime counts if played, and there are a selection of related betting markets to add extra value, choice and excitement, such as totals, moneyline, winning margin betting, and the like.
Baseball Betting

Baseball is the great summer sport of the United States, and the 162 game regular season of Major League Baseball, running from April to September, offers many betting opportunities to the sportsperson. The most important person in a baseball game is the pitcher, which is why no baseball betting line is posted without naming the starting pitcher. Both starting pitchers must make at least one pitch for the game to be considered “action.” If there is a change of one or other of the starting pitchers, all runline and total bets are voided and the stakes returned, while an odds adjustment takes place on the moneyline prices.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Runline</th>
<th>Moneyline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Houston: W Miller</td>
<td>+1.5</td>
<td>-190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Louis: M Morris</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>+160</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the example above, Houston, with Wade Morris as their pitcher, is the underdog, as indicated by the plus (+) sign in the runline. These figures mean that anyone betting on Houston wins if Houston either wins or doesn’t lose to St Louis by more than 1.5 runs. The second number, -190, is the price – this means that if Houston wins or doesn’t lose by more than 1.5 runs the bettor wins $100 for every $190 wagered.

In the second line St Louis, with Matt Morris as their pitcher, must win by more than 1.5 runs for the bet to win. In this event, the bettor wins $160 for every $100 wagered.

Baseball betting offers markets in the moneyline, runline (the same principle as pointspread betting) and totals. The game must go to the losing team’s 5th inning at least for the moneyline to be considered “action.” In runline or totals betting, the game must go to nine innings (or 8.5 if the home team is ahead) to be considered “action.” Extra innings will count in the final result for all bets.
Basketball Betting

Basketball is the third biggest sport in the United States, and the College Basketball Championship Tournament played every March is one of the biggest events in the sports betting year. Basketball betting is offered as pointspread, moneyline and totals markets. In the NBA, the game must last for 43 or more minutes to be considered “action.” College basketball games must last for 35 or more minutes to be considered “action.” Overtime counts in the settlement of all basketball bets unless otherwise stated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Detroit</td>
<td>+3.0</td>
<td>-110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LA Lakers</td>
<td>-3.0</td>
<td>-110</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the example, the spread is set at three points. The +3.0 after the Detroit Pistons means that the Pistons are the underdog in this game; the Pistons must either win, or not lose by more than three points, for a bet on the Pistons to win.

The –3.0 after the LA Lakers means that the Lakers are the favorite; the Lakers must win by more than three points for a bet on the Lakers to win.

If Lakers win by exactly three points, then the bet is said to have fallen on the spread and is deemed a push. All bets are voided and the stakes returned in this instance.

The second number, -110, after each team is the price of a winning bet. A winning bettor will win $100 for every $110 bet.

Hockey Betting

The National Hockey League’s season runs from October until early June, when the eventual Champions of the NHL are awarded the Stanley Cup. The puckline is the most popular form of hockey bet, which is itself hockey’s version of pointspread betting. Hockey betting also offers the “Grand Salami” Bet, a totals bet where players bet on the total number of goals scored on that particular day. NHL games must go to the second period to be considered “action.” To understand puckline betting, consider the example below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Spread</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
<td>+1.5</td>
<td>-240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>-1.5</td>
<td>+195</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the example above, Philadelphia is the underdog, as indicated by the plus (+) sign in the puckline. These figures mean that anyone betting on Philadelphia wins if Philadelphia either wins or doesn’t lose to Toronto by more than 1.5 runs. The second number, -240, is the price – this means that if Philadelphia wins or doesn’t lose by more than 1.5 runs the bettor wins $100 for every $240 wagered.

In the second line Toronto must win by more than 1.5 runs for the bet to win. In this event, the bettor wins $195 for every $100 wagered.
Golf Betting

Golf is a favorite sport for bettors the world over. A game with truly international appeal, different tournaments are played every week over a season lasting from February until September. The most important tournaments to win are the four “Majors”: the US Masters, the US Open, the British Open, and the US PGA. The US Masters is the only Major that’s played at the same course every year. Every two years a representative team from the United States takes on a representative from Europe in the Ryder Cup, a friendly competition that can generate huge interest in the betting public.

Bettors can bet on the outright of any tournament, but there are also a range of other popular golf betting options. Players can bet on group betting, where the different players in a particular competition are played into different groups by the sportsbook, and the players can bet on who will have the best result in the tournament from any particular group. There are also matchup betting propositions, where different golfers are matched against each other, the winner being whoever of them does better in a particular tournament.

Motor Racing Betting

Motor Racing betting, especially NASCAR betting, has never been more popular, with NASCAR quickly becoming one of the most watched sports in the United States, especially for showpiece races like the Daytona 500.

Bettors can bet on the outright of any race, but there are also a range of other popular betting options. Players can bet on group betting, where the different drivers in a particular race are played into different groups by the sportsbook, and the players can bet on who will have the best result in the race from any particular group. There are also matchup betting propositions, where different drivers are matched against each other, the winner being whoever of them does better in a particular race.

Soccer Betting

Soccer is the most popular field sport in the world, drawing players and fans from all parts of the planet. No other single game has more extensive coverage in Sports Interaction’s sportsbook than soccer, as we offer soccer betting odds on games played from France to Finland, from Germany to Guyana, and from Los Angeles to Washington, DC. Soccer bettors and fans can bet on their team to win, lose or draw. The choice of the draw is important, as all soccer bets, unless stated otherwise, are over ninety minutes only. Extra time and penalty shoot-outs do not count unless otherwise stated.
Cricket Betting

The baroque rules and rich history of cricket make it a sport beloved by its initiates, and a mystery to those unfamiliar with the sport. For those interested in gambling, cricket betting can offer very rich pickings indeed. As well as betting on outrights cricket offers a wealth of individual markets, such as top batsman, top bowler, highest innings, and the like. There are two forms of cricket, the traditional Test match format played over five days and the new limited overs version.

Novelty, Special and Entertainment Bets

People bet to win of course, but sometimes people like to bet just for the fun of it. As such, Sports Interaction’s sportsbook is pleased to offer odds of events that have nothing to do with Sports, but that are things that people discuss at the water cooler or in the bar after work. We offer entertainment bet markets on who will be the next James Bond, what are the odds on man walking on Mars, and its reverse, the odds on an extra-terrestrial visit to the White House (you win $250 for every dollar you bet when it happens).
# Glossary

**Action**

A *bettor* who has placed a *bet* is said to have “*action.*” Slang term for *bet*.

**American Odds**

The price is given in the form +600, +800, etc.

**Bet**

A pledge of money that a certain event will occur.

**Bettor**

One who bets.

**Book**

The record of all bets wagered on a particular event.

**Chalk**

Slang for *Favorite*.

**Decimal Odds**

The price is given in the form 6.00, 8.00, etc.

**Event**

Any happening, either in sports or in reality, on which people can *bet*.

**Favorite**

The team or person most likely to win a particular event.

**Fractional Odds**

The price is given in the form 6/1, 8/1, etc.

**Futures Bet**

A futures bet is a bet in an event where there are many competitors, such as a golf tournament or horse race, and is often made considerably before the event takes place – a bet placed on who’ll win the Super Bowl in January that’s placed in September, for instance.

**Futures Betting**

Betting on who will win a particular event, be it the Super Bowl, the US Masters or the Daytona 500.

**Grand Salami**

A Hockey *totals bet* where players bet on the number of goals scored on a particular day.

**Line**

See *Pointspread*.

**Odds**

The price a *sportsbook* offers on the occurrence of a particular event.

**Outright Betting**

See *Futures Betting*.

**Outsider**

See *Underdog*.

**Placing a Bet**

The act of pledging money that a certain event will occur.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Player</strong></th>
<th><strong>Bettor</strong>; one who bets.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pointspread</strong></td>
<td>The amount of points an <em>underdog</em> team is given at the start of a game to even the betting and make it more interesting. The <em>underdog</em> must win or not lose by more than the <em>spread</em> for a bet on the <em>underdog</em> to win. The <em>favorite</em> must win by more than the <em>spread</em> for bets on the <em>favorite</em> to win.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Puckline</strong></td>
<td>Hockey’s version of the <em>pointspread</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Punter</strong></td>
<td>British slang for <em>bettor</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Push</strong></td>
<td>A <em>push</em> occurs when an event falls on the <em>spread</em>. All wagers are voided and the stakes are returned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Return</strong></td>
<td>The bettor’s stake, multiplied by the offered price, gives the return. A $10 bet on an event priced at 4.00 returns $40.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Runline</strong></td>
<td>Baseball’s version of the <em>pointspread</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sportsbook</strong></td>
<td>A licensed and regulated operator that offers prices on given events occurring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spread</strong></td>
<td>See <em>Pointspread</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Stake</strong></td>
<td>The amount of the <em>bet</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Teaser Bet</strong></td>
<td>A <em>pointspread</em> bet where the <em>pointspread</em> has been adjusted or &quot;teased&quot; to give the bettor a greater chance of winning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Totals Bet</strong></td>
<td>A bet placed on the total points scored by both teams in a particular game.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Underdog</strong></td>
<td>The team or person less likely to win a particular event.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Vig, Vigorish</strong></td>
<td>A sportsbook’s commission, or profit margin, for making a <em>book</em>.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Wager</strong></td>
<td>See <em>Bet</em>.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>