

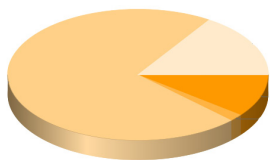
Touchpoint

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NSGF Informal Online Polls Explore Current Issues

Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation (NSGF) informal online polls help fulfill the Foundation's commitment to balanced dialogue by providing an informal arena in which stakeholders can have their voice heard, and learn what other Nova Scotians are thinking. Following the release of the Winter Issue of 'Dialogue', which explored advertising and the normalization of gambling in contemporary culture, the NSGF asked, "*how do you feel about the amount of advertising promoting gambling in Nova Scotia?*"



The majority of poll respondents (71.93 %) believe that there is too much advertising promoting gambling in Nova Scotia. In contrast, 10.53 % believe there is not enough advertising promoting gambling in Nova Scotia. 15.79 % indicated they were unsure/undecided at the time of the poll.

HOT TOPIC: Problem Gambling in Professional Sports

On December 21, 2009, Washington Wizards' National Basketball Association (NBA) player Gilbert Arenas allegedly pulled a gun on teammate Javaris Crittenton over a gambling debt. While the case remains under investigation, it has been reported that the dispute between Arenas and Critterton began during a card game on a team plane.

In the wake of this event, the popularity and prevalence of gambling among players in professional sports leagues is under scrutiny. Some NBA teams, including the New Jersey Nets, have since banned gambling among players to avoid similar incidents, while others support a league-wide ban. It has long been a common practice for professional sport players to wager on card games during long bus and plane trips, and many coaches and players defend this practice, claiming the Wizards' event is an isolated incident.

Those who are against gambling amongst professional sports players indicate concern on many levels. Some cite the potential for this behaviour to impart damaging messages to youth who consider professional spots players to be role models. Others point to the potential for crime and strife among teammates. Still others believe it simply complicates the industry unnecessarily, and has the potential to damage public opinion of the league when incidents like the Arenas-Crittenton confrontation occur.

In an effort to stimulate balanced dialogue on this timely issue, the Nova Scotia Gaming Foundation's latest informal website poll asks:

Do you believe gambling is a problem among professional sports players?

To take the poll, please visit www.nsgamingfoundation.org.

Until next time,
Jen Wheatley

