

# ETHICS SPOTLIGHT: GAMBLING AND MARCH MADNESS

March is here! and that means college basketball March Madness is right around the corner. Soon people across the country will be looking to cash in on lucrative and well placed game bets. As ATs, we have a responsibility to follow the NATA Code of Ethics, with the spotlight for this edition on section 4.4 pertaining to gambling:

***"Members shall not, through direct or indirect means, use information obtained in the course of the practice of athletic training to try and influence the score or outcome of an athletic event, or attempt to induce financial gain through gambling."***

## What activities are considered gambling?

- Single game bets and sports wagers
- Fantasy sports
- March Madness brackets
- Online sports betting or apps

## Did you know?

A 2011 study of NCAA Division I ATs found 61.6% admitted to making friendly wagers on sports and 37.8% admitted to making monetary wagers at some point in their life.  
(Mathner et. al, 2013)

**It's so easy to gamble without realizing!**

## Tips to ensure your compliance to the NATA Code of Ethics:

- **Avoid friendly or monetary betting with friends/family and colleagues. You can partake in the pastime of testing your predictive abilities by filling out a bracket, but do so for fun and without the potential for financial or other gain.**
- **ATs who work with teams involved in the Big Dance should maintain patient and team confidentiality. You do not want to be the individual who divulges any privileged information that could assist someone in placing a bet or threatening the integrity of a game.**

## ***Educational Resources/Gambling Help/Citations***

- **NCAA Compliance & sports wagering:**  
<https://www.ncaa.org/sports/2016/4/29/sports-wagering.aspx>
- **The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling:** For help call 1-800-GAMBLER or visit <https://www.mdproblemgambling.com/>
- **National Council on Problem Gambling:**  
<https://www.ncpgambling.org/>
- Mathner, R., Martin, C., & Allen, J. (2013). NCAA division I athletic trainers: Examining sport wagering behavior. *Journal of Contemporary Athletics*, 7 (3), 159-174. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273141382\\_NCAA\\_Division\\_I\\_Athletic\\_Trainers\\_Examining\\_sport\\_wagering\\_behavior](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/273141382_NCAA_Division_I_Athletic_Trainers_Examining_sport_wagering_behavior)

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