
CASINO CONTROL COMMISSION

Promotional gaming credits in sports gaming

- Requires, if a sports gaming proprietor provides promotional gaming credits that are advertised as “free” or “risk-free,” the gaming credits must not require a person to incur any loss, deposit any funds, or risk the person’s own money to use or withdraw winnings from the wager.
- Prohibits promotional gaming credits from restricting a person from withdrawing the person’s own funds or withdrawing any winnings from wagers placed using the person’s own funds.
- Provides that an advertisement or promotion is false, misleading, or deceptive, for the purposes of sports gaming restrictions, if the advertisement or promotional credits violate this provision.
- Permits the Ohio Casino Control Commission (OCCC) to restrict or prohibit a sports gaming proprietor from providing promotional gaming credits to patrons if OCCC determines that the sports gaming proprietor offered a promotional gaming credit in violation of this provision.

Sports gaming involuntary exclusion list

- Allows OCCC to prohibit a person from participating in sports gaming in Ohio if the person has threatened violence or harm against a person who is involved in a sporting event, where that threat was related to sports gaming with respect to that sporting event.

Promotional gaming credits in sports gaming

(R.C. 3775.10)

The bill prohibits sports gaming proprietors, if offering promotional gaming credits described as “free” or “risk-free,” from requiring a person to incur any loss, deposit any funds, or risk the person’s own money to use or withdraw winnings from the wager.

The bill also prohibits promotional gaming credits from restricting a person from withdrawing the person’s own funds or withdrawing any winnings from wagers placed using the person’s own funds.

Sports gaming became legal in Ohio on January 1, 2023. Continuing law permits sports gaming proprietors to provide promotional gaming credits to patrons, subject to oversight from OCCC.

The bill specifies that any advertisement or promotion that violates these prohibitions, for instance an advertisement for “free” promotional credits that require a person to risk the person’s own money, or a promotional credit that restricts a person from withdrawing the person’s winnings, is considered false, misleading, or deceptive to a reasonable consumer for the purpose of determining violations of sports gaming provisions, and imposing penalties and fines.

The bill additionally empowers OCCC to restrict or prohibit a sports gaming proprietor from providing promotional gaming credits to patrons if OCCC determines that the proprietor offered a promotional gaming credit in violation of these provisions.

Sports gaming involuntary exclusion list

(R.C. 3772.01 and 3772.031; Section 737.20)

The bill allows OCCC to prohibit a person from participating in sports gaming in Ohio if the person has threatened violence or harm against a person who is involved in a sporting event, where that threat was related to sports gaming with respect to that sporting event. The bill states separately, in uncodified law, that this provision applies to any threat, attempted threat, or illegal activity that impacts the integrity of sports gaming, regardless of whether it occurs before, during, or after a sporting event.

For purposes of the provision described above, a person is considered to be involved in a sporting event if the person is an athlete, participant, coach, referee, team owner, or sports governing body with respect to the sporting event; any agent or employee of such a person; or any agent or employee of an athlete, participant, or referee union with respect to the sporting event. This is the same as the list of persons who, under continuing law, may not participate in sports gaming because of their involvement in sporting events.¹⁴

Under continuing law, OCCC may add a person to its sports gaming involuntary exclusion list for a number of reasons, including past gaming law violations, a reputation for dishonest gaming activities, or posing a threat to the safety of a sports gaming facility's patrons or employees. A person who is added to the involuntary exclusion list is entitled to notice and an opportunity for a hearing before being excluded.

¹⁴ R.C. 3775.13(F), not in the bill.