

THE BASICS OF Sports Betting



aka “Turnover” or “Drop”: The total amount of money bet on a game or event. Handle does not represent the amount won by the house, or the public.

A sportsbook or casino’s winnings after payouts to successful bettors, but before taxes and other deductions.

aka “The Line”: The predicted scoring differential between two teams in a game, used by bettors to pick a side in a game. Bettors will traditionally bet either on the point spread or the moneyline odds.

A number representing the odds that a team will win a contest as well as the amount that a bet on that team will pay out.

aka “Total”: The predicted total amount that two teams will score in a game, combined.

The regulated, legal market consists of sportsbooks that are licensed in the U.S. on a state-by-state basis.

The amount you choose to risk on a single bet. To keep betting fun, it’s important to establish an overall budget at the outset and only wager a small percentage on each bet.

Moneyline v. Point Spread Betting

A point spread is expressed in plus (+) or minus (-) with the favorite, the team “giving” the points expressed as “-” and the underdog, the team “getting” the points expressed as “+”. For example, in this line New England is favored by 7 points over Oakland:

**New England (-7)
Oakland (+7)**

A bet on New England would pay out if they won by more than seven points, while a bet on Oakland would pay out if Oakland won, or if they lost by fewer

than seven points. If New England won by exactly seven points, the bet would be a push.

While point spread bets require a certain margin of victory, money line bets are straight bets on the winner of the contest. For example if Boston were listed as -200, a player would have to bet \$200 on the favorite, Boston, to win \$100. Meanwhile, if the underdog New York were listed at +185, a \$100 bet would pay out \$185. In some locations, most notably Europe, moneyline odds are expressed as fractions or decimals.

