



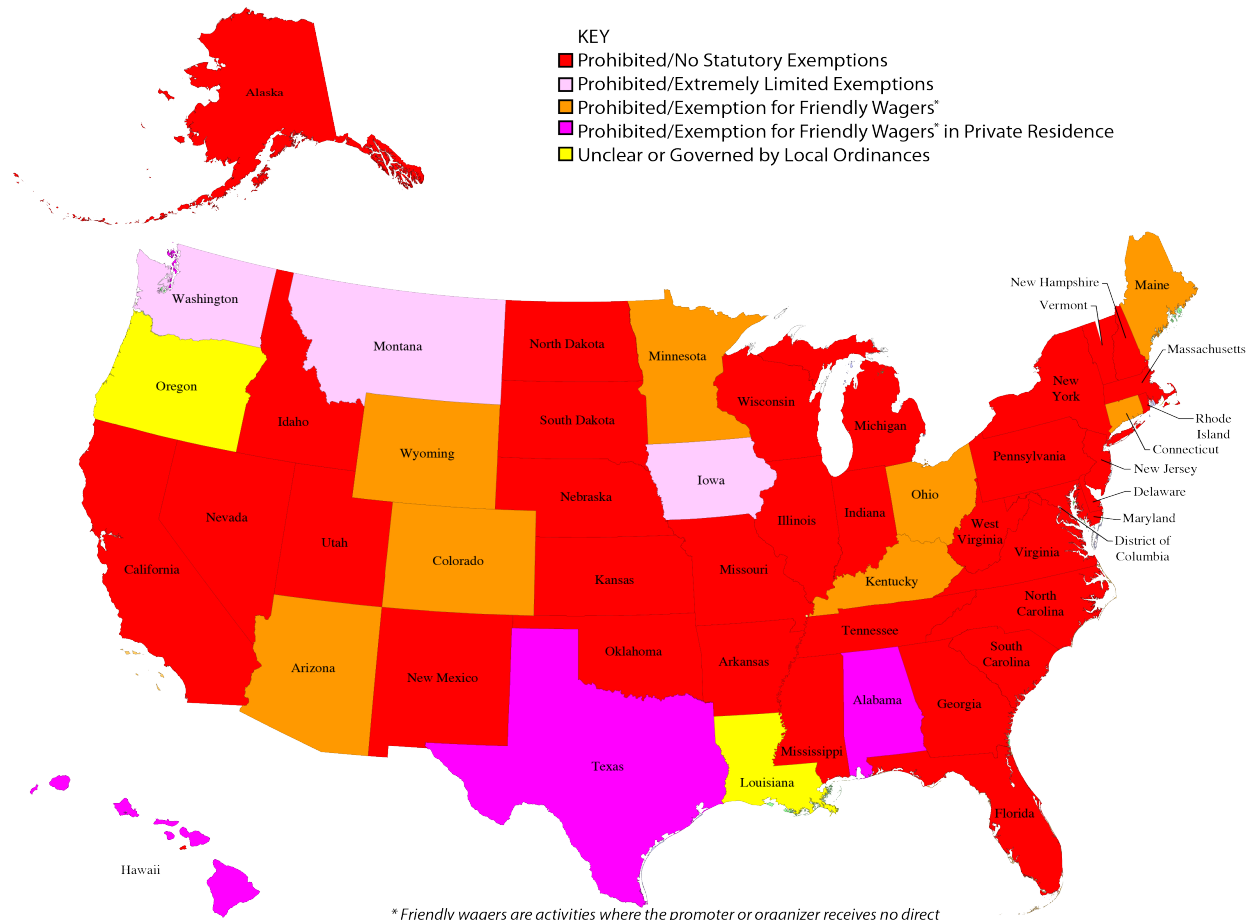
AMERICAN GAMING ASSOCIATION

In 2018 the AGA commissioned a legal analysis of real-money sports “pool” betting. Among other types of bets, pool bets can include casual sports bets between friends, certain types of fantasy leagues, certain types of office pools between colleagues – and yes, competitions based on March Madness brackets.

As the map below illustrates, even when a) a bet transpires among friends, b) nobody other than the bettors are involved in the bet, and c) nobody takes any kind of fee or gets any benefit related to the activity, **such pool betting is generally illegal in 37 of the 50 states.**

The remaining 13 states either have some exemptions for friendly wagers in which no one profits, or allow for individual counties to develop ordinances to govern pool betting.

The analysis found no states that allow sports pool betting – including stake-holding, bookmaking, or earning any other benefit – to take place as a for-profit business in the absence of appropriate licensure.



Disclaimer: This is not legal advice and the American Gaming Association does not give legal advice. If you have any legal issues or seek to understand the risks of a game, tournament or prize event, please seek legal counsel in the jurisdiction in which you and your planned activity will occur.