

FAQs on Virginia Sports Betting

For citizens:

Q: Can I place a legal sports bet today?

A: No, in Virginia you cannot place a legal sports bet until such time as sports betting platforms have been granted permits to operate in the Commonwealth.

Q: When will I be able to place a legal sports bet?

A: Legal sports betting in Virginia will not be available before January 2021, at the earliest.

Q: Where will I be able to place a legal sports bet?

A: All legal sports betting in Virginia will be conducted through the internet only.

Q: What can I place bets on?

A: When legal sports betting commences in the Commonwealth, wagers will be permitted on professional sports, certain college sports, and other sporting events, as well as wagers on the individual performance statistics of athletes in such sports and events.

Q: What types of bets will I be able to place?

A: "Sports betting" includes any system or method of wagering approved by the Lottery, including single-game bets, teaser bets, parlays, over-under, moneyline, pools, exchange wagering, in-game wagering, in-play bets, proposition bets, and straight bets.

Q: Are there any categories of sports on which betting will be prohibited?

A: Yes. Betting will be prohibited on youth sports, in-game/proposition bets on any college sports, on any Virginia college sports, and the Olympics.

The prohibition against betting on Virginia college sports is limited to the single game or match in which a Virginia college sports team is a participant. It does not prohibit betting on other games in tournament style events in which a Virginia college is a participant, like the NCAA Division I Men's Basketball Tournament aka March Madness.

A sports governing body, like a professional sports league, may request to restrict, limit, or prohibit sports betting on its sporting events, or restrict the types of bets that may be offered, by providing notice to the Lottery. Such requests must be approved by the Lottery.

Q: Is anyone prohibited from placing bets?

A: Yes. The following persons are prohibited from sports betting: employees and Board members of the Lottery and any employee working on a contract with the Lottery related to sports betting.

Any permit holder including their employees and relatives living in the same household are prohibited from placing a bet on their own platform but can place bets with other permit holders.

Any competitor, coach, trainer, employee, or owner of a team in a professional or college sports event, or any referee for a professional or college sports event, shall be prohibited from placing a bet on any event in a league in which such person participates.

Q: How will I know which sports books are authorized to operate in Virginia?

A: You can consult the Lottery's website for a list of authorized operators.

Q: Is there an age restriction for placing legal sports bets in Virginia?

A: Yes. You must be 21 years of age or older.

Q: Will my winnings be taxed?

A: Operators will be required to issue applicable tax forms to persons who meet the reporting threshold for income from sports betting.

Q: Do I have to go to a land-based facility to sign up for a sports betting account?

A: No, there is no in-person registration requirement to set up a sports betting account in Virginia. Sports betting in Virginia will be conducted through the internet only.

Q: What tools will be available to assist problem and compulsive gamblers?

A: The law establishes provisions for self-exclusion programs and funding for the state's new Problem Gambling and Treatment and Support Fund. If you need assistance with a gambling problem, please call the Virginia Problem Gambling Helpline, 888-532-3500 (toll free).

Q: Will the Lottery maintain a list of sports leagues upon which bets can be placed?

A: Yes. The list will be available on the Lottery's website.

Q: Is there a process for adding a sports league to the approved list?

A: Any sports betting operator holding a permit in the Commonwealth of Virginia may submit a request to add a league under a process that will be established by regulation. The request will be subject to approval by the Lottery.

For potential licensees:

Q: What happens after the Lottery Board approves initial regulations?

A: The Lottery will begin accepting applications for sports betting permits, licenses, and registrations in mid October.

Q: Will the Lottery meet with permit applicants prior to submitting their application?

A: Yes, all applicants are encouraged to schedule a meeting with the Lottery's Licensing and Investigations Division prior to license submission so that individuals and entities requiring licensure can be identified. A meeting may be scheduled by calling the Licensing and Investigations Division at 804-692-7165 or by sending an email to gaminglicensing@valottery.com.

Q: Are applications paper or electronic?

A: All permits, licenses, and registrations will be completed online through an automated system. Resource guides and sample applications can be found at www.vagamingregulations.com.

Q: How many permits will be issued?

A: Enabling legislation dictates that the Lottery shall issue no fewer than four permits and no more than 12.

A permit shall not count toward this minimum if it (i) is issued pursuant to an applicable major league sports franchise or to the operator of a major league facility or (ii) is issued to an applicant that operates or intends to operate a casino gaming establishment.

A permit shall not count toward this maximum if it is issued pursuant to an applicable major league sports franchise or to the operator of a major league facility.

Q: What is the timeframe for the issuance of a decision on a sports betting permit?

A: The Lottery will issue a permit decision within 90 days of receipt of a completed application.

Q: What level of personnel licensing will exist, and what qualifications will be required for each?

A: Permit holders, and those that meet the definition of a supplier, vendor, principal, or employee will require some form of license or registration. The definition of each licensure category can be found at www.vagamingregulations.com.

Q: Will the sports betting operator's platform undergo a certification process before go-live in Virginia?

A: Yes, proof of platform testing and certification will be required before a permit holder is issued its permit.

Q: What licensing requirements will apply to the entities involved in sports wagering and supporting services?

A: Permit holders, key personnel, and supporting services will undergo thorough financial and character background investigations to ensure suitability to operate a gaming platform in Virginia.

Q: What is the tax rate imposed on adjusted gross revenue from sports betting?

A: There shall be imposed a tax of 15% on a permit holder's adjusted gross revenue. The tax revenue will be distributed as follows: 2.5% to the Problem Gambling Treatment and Support Fund; the remaining 97.5% to the Commonwealth's general fund.