Online Sports Gambling Laws

Contributed by Matt Haupt
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I have heard a lot of rumors on whether or not online sports gambling in the United States with legal. There are people that assume that since sports gambling is illegal in certain states that online sports gambling would be in the same jurisdiction.

However, many of my friends use multiple online sports gambling sites across the internet to bet on sports such as football, baseball and basketball, and they never had any problems from the state or the federal government. But, just because they haven't gotten caught doesn't mean that it is legal.

So what are the rules, if any, and where does online sports gambling stand?

Before online sports gambling was started, sports gambling was regulated by individual states. This meant that the federal government left the choice of whether or not sports gambling was illegal or not up to the states that was housing the people and organization in charge of the sports gambling.

However, with the start of the internet and online sports gambling, the states are having trouble deciding what it in the jurisdiction to control. Obviously if a company in charge of online sports gambling was housed in a state that allowed sports gambling, how are the liable for U.S. citizens from other states using their service? Are they in charge of making sure their online sports gambling members are from states that allow sports gambling?

Seems a little hard to control to me.

Although state and federal legislatures have tried their best to come up with bills that can control online sports gambling, all have been rejected, mostly because there are a lot of "gray" areas when it comes to gambling online.

Currently only a couple states have laws that strictly tell their citizens to not gamble beyond the state borders, which would include online sports gambling. These states include California, Nevada and Louisiana.

However, these states only really charge misdemeanors for these crimes and do you think they would go after individuals making even a couple hundred dollars a month when they can go after corporations making thousands? Probably not.

When it comes to online sports gambling laws, there are a few things to think about. Number one, are you in the states of California, Nevada or Louisiana? If you are, how much are you really going to make off of online sports gambling? If it is a couple hundred a month (very doubtful for most of you) then you might want to take precautionary measures to make sure that you are safe from any law restrictions or tracking.

As for the rest of the nation participating in online sports gambling, you are safe. For now. Make sure you watch the news for any changes in the law, and if you really would like to make sure that online sports gambling is here to stay, contact your house of representative or senator and make sure your opinions are known.

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