



NCPG Work on Internet Gambling, Social Gaming & Fantasy Sports

April 2016

Expanding internet gambling poses one of the most profound challenges in the responsible gaming and problem gambling fields. Technology has revolutionized gambling participation, regulation and operation. It also provides both new threats and new opportunities for problem gambling advocates. NCPG has been at the forefront of these issues for more than a decade.

- **Federal Advocacy:** NCPG Executive Director Keith Whyte has testified on internet gambling issues before Congress five times since 2001. He stays in regular contact with Congress and Federal agencies on this issue to ensure concerns about gambling addiction are addressed in any national legislation or programs. NCPG will provide a statement at the House hearing on fantasy sports and sports gambling next month in Washington, DC.
- **Internet Responsible Gaming Standards:** NCPG staff worked with advocates, operators and regulators from around the world to compile internet gambling regulations in existing jurisdictions, benchmark their responsible gaming requirements and develop the first internet responsible gaming standards for the US. First published in April 2012, the Standards include sections on policy, staff training, age verification, player limits, game features, self-exclusion, advertising and data transparency.
- **GRADE Social Gaming Guidelines:** NCPG released the world's first social casino gaming consumer protection guidelines in 2013. GRADE stands for Gambling-like monetized games; Responsible gaming; Age controls; Data-driven research and Education of players.
- **Fantasy Sports Consumer Protection Guidelines & CARE Amendments:** Beginning in 2013 NCPG engaged with operators, regulators and legislators regarding our concerns and urging them to develop responsible gaming. At the state level NCPG has cooperated with numerous legislative, law enforcement, regulatory and consumer protection agencies. Our December 2014 Guidelines include basic responsible gaming, age verification, data and player education provisions. These guidelines will provide players and the public with clear guidance from NCPG about concrete steps to protect consumers and reduce risk of gambling addiction. Companies will be encouraged to adopt them; regulators and legislators will be encouraged to incorporate them into any proposed regulations.

- **CARE Responsible Play Amendments for Fantasy Sports Legislation:** The CARE Amendments are the absolute minimum responsible play provisions for state fantasy sports legislation and are designed to complement the Fantasy Contest Act template. CARE stands for Consumer protection; Age & identity verification; Rule making authority; and Evaluation. They were developed in conjunction with major DFS companies and associations in March 2016.
- **Board Resolution:** On Oct 8, 2015 the NCPG Board of Directors passed a comprehensive resolution on fantasy sports summarizing our concerns and urging the adoption of consumer protections. The Resolution has been widely cited for its reach and impact, including by the *New York Times* Editorial Board on Nov 12, 2015.
- **Education:** Through our conference and presentations across the country and around the world NCPG has been an important forum for discussion of internet gambling issues over the past decade.
- **Compliance Assessment of State Internet Gambling Regulations:** In 2014 NCPG hired GamblingCompliance to compare the responsible gaming regulations for legal internet gambling in Delaware, Nevada and New Jersey against the IRG Standards. However, the report established the first US responsible gaming regulatory benchmarks and led directly to the adoption of new state regulations.
- **iCAP Internet Responsible Gambling Compliance Assessment Program:** In August 2014 NCPG contracted with Gambling Integrity to perform independent evaluation of online gambling site compliance with our Internet Responsible Gambling Standards. So far three US operators and vendors have applied for and received certificates of compliance and two additional applications are pending.
- **Helpline:** Access to the National Problem Gambling Helpline Network (800.522.4700) has been enabled through text and chat (www.ncpgambling.org/chat) since March 2015. This allows internet gamblers to access help the same way they play online.
- **Media:** NCPG continues to raise awareness of internet gambling issues proactively and in response to media requests. Staff have conducted numerous print, radio and TV interviews in the prominent media outlets, including with the *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, PBS Frontline, ESPN. We have also worked with Affiliates to help connect individuals in recovery with media to share their stories and “put a human face” on the negative impacts of internet gambling while emphasizing the hope and help available to gambling addicts through NCPG and the state chapters.

NCPG will continue to work with all stakeholders—including researchers, regulators, operators, legislators, advocates, healthcare providers and recovering gamblers—to minimize gambling-related harm. The internet provides both potential problems for gambling addicts and powerful possibilities for responsible gaming. For more information and materials:

www.ncpgambling.org/responsible-gaming