

MAY 22, 2018

Media Statement on Behalf of State Gambling Regulators from Four States

STATE GAMBLING REGULATORS EQUIPPED AND READY TO TAKE CHARGE ON LEGAL SPORTS BETTING INDUSTRY

This statement is issued by gaming regulatory leaders from four state gambling jurisdictions in response to the recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling to confirm and assert that states and tribal gaming regulatory agencies have the capacity, resources, and ability to oversee the regulation of legalized sports betting. Sports betting in Nevada has already been regulated with integrity and success, and gaming jurisdictions across the United States, including tribal jurisdictions, have demonstrated their ability to oversee gaming of all sorts while adhering to the highest standards.

Since the opinion in *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Association* was released last week, there has been an overwhelming response by the various interested parties, including states, leagues, federal congressional representatives, responsible gambling organizations, sports betting consumers, and gambling industry operators and affiliates. As we expect the dialogue to continue with substantial actions to be undertaken rapidly, it is important to assert and confirm our support for a rational, state-based and tribal government approach to an expansion of legal, regulated sports wagering in the United States.

For nearly two years, leading regulators from key state commercial gambling jurisdictions have been meeting under the auspices of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas's International Center for Gaming Regulation (ICGR), to dialogue about current issues affecting the gambling industry and to further best regulatory practices.

As experienced gaming regulators who are part of the U.S. State Gaming Regulators Forum, we would encourage jurisdictions to establish and implement regulatory models that are not only adaptive and successful, but that remain flexible enough to be sturdy, yet encourage innovation.

This group looks forward to continuing to collaborate together while serving as a resource as the various states and tribal governments begin implementing sports betting in their jurisdictions. Nevada, having both the depth and experience with legalized, regulated sports wagering, serves as a leader to help guide us and other jurisdictions through this historical time.

As the regulators in different gambling jurisdictions, we have jointly concluded that the following simple guidelines will help with an initial approach to sports betting regulation. While we cannot personally commit our respective jurisdictions to any specific position or practice, we support all of these positions individually, will support them throughout our regulatory agencies, and will help provide guidance to other jurisdictions as to how these guidelines can be implemented.

1. Coordinated action among jurisdictions offering sports betting against illegal bookmaking, illegal gambling activities, and any unsuitable and unlawful associations, along with strong support from federal-level enforcement agencies, is the best way to eradicate illegal activities.
2. Another critical element of legalized sports betting is the establishment of structures and processes that will ensure a high level of integrity in all sports. Therefore, all of our jurisdictions and others that legalize and regulate sports wagering should aim to share real-time betting information, in an effort to detect, prevent, and eliminate match fixing.

3. Measures for responsible gambling in sports betting are important to help protect and maintain the credibility of the activity.
4. The history of legalized sports betting in both Nevada and the United Kingdom indicates that it is a very low-margin business compared to other forms of gambling. Reasonable tax rates and fees are essential for legal sports betting to be competitive until illegal providers can be eradicated.
5. Additional fees, including the so-called “integrity fee,” increase the costs of legal sports betting, siphon much needed tax revenues away from state coffers, and increase state regulatory burdens.

We encourage state legislatures that elect to legalize sports betting to consider these guidelines in order to promote a coherent regulatory environment.

We, as members of the U.S. State Gaming Regulators Forum, will look to immediately develop a Memorandum of Understanding between our jurisdictions to acknowledge support for implementation of these principles. We welcome other jurisdictions’ regulatory bodies sharing these values to join with us.

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