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**Online Sportsbook Smarts**

**By Sebastien Veilleux**

Far too many people are extremely casual when it comes to betting online. Do you gamble online?

There's a common and false thinking pattern that's emerged. Many people believe that if a website looks respectable then it must be ok. This is a recipe for disaster. Many crooks abound on the Internet and online gambling is the playground of choice for a large number of scam artists.

Are online sportsbooks safe and secure? The short answer is yes and no. There are a good deal of online sportsbooks that are indeed completely legitimate, but there are also many that will suck your money right out of your pocket. So how does one ensure safety? Being smart is the first line of defense. I am going to share with you three quick tips to help reduce the likelihood of being ripped off.

The first of the three steps is deposit methods and amounts. Any reputable sports book will offer a wide variety of depositing methods. Most importantly, they will take deposits from third party services, like NETeller, and in almost any amount. Stay away from places that force you to deposit large amounts of money. A good sportsbook will take very small deposits—perhaps as little as \$5.

The second of the three steps involves checking references out. This can be a bit tricky, but it's well worth your time. Any sportsbook, even a criminal one, can provide stellar customer service. What you want to find out is their payout service. Do they payout fast? Are they nasty? It's important to find references from those that have won a good deal of money. Even scam sportsbooks pay. The idea is to pay many little guys to get the word out and then strip the big fishes of the money that's due them.

This step can be carried out by visiting your local search engine and typing in the name of the place in question. Try adding words like forum, talk, chat, scam, ripoff and so forth to the name and url in the search box to see what comes up. I recommend trying at least two different search engines. Don't settle for the first thing you see. Many scam sportsbooks post positive comments around the Internet.

Finally, the last step is licensing. Never play at any gambling destination that's not licensed. Furthermore, you want to double-check the license. Don't just assume they are licensed, because they say so on their website. Spend a little time doing some homework on them. Again, the search engines can be a big help.

If you follow these steps well, you will greatly eliminate your chances of being ripped off by a rogue sportsbook. Don't assume that being ripped off only happens to other people. It happens all day long, and it probably will happen to you if you are not careful when selecting a new online sportsbook. However, don't let fear keep you from playing. Online sportsbooks provide an unmatched convenience. Unlike sportsbooks in Las Vegas, online sportsbooks usually give you money for simply playing.

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Sportsbook Reviews:

<http://www.sportsgamblingreview.com/sportsbook-reviews.htm>

### **What Makes A Great Online Sportsbook**

**By Sebastien Veilleux**

All sportsbooks were not created equal. The Internet has given us unprecedented choice when it comes to betting on sports online. I am going to list a few of my must-have items for online sportsbooks. Does your current sportsbook have these features? If not, perhaps it's time to check around for a new sportsbook.

#### Feature One: Security

It all starts and ends with security. If an online sportsbook is not secure, there's nothing else to talk about. For security, I look at a couple things. Is the online sportsbook licensed and regulated by a government entity? I want to make sure there's some sort of bond backing up the actions of the sportsbook. Another key point is Internet security. Is the sportsbook using the latest and greatest in security methods? I certainly don't want to deposit my money just to find all my personal financial information spread around the Internet a week later.

#### Feature Two: Depositing Methods

An online sportsbook absolutely must have many depositing options. For me, the critical one is 3rd party options, like NETeller. Using a 3rd party depositing service like NETeller or FirePay should be like second nature for anyone gambling online. Rather than spreading your vital financial information to many parties around the web, use one source to handle your money. Once you have money in NETeller or FirePay, you can simply send money back and forth to many online sportsbooks. As far as

I am concerned, you should never do things any differently.

### Feature Three: Action

You might be surprised to learn this, but not all sportsbooks have the same events up for betting. Take horse racing for instance. Many sportsbooks fall short in this category. Another area where sportsbooks vary is prop bets. If you love prop bets or future bets, it's best to shop around for multiple sports books. It's very rare to find one sports book that has it all. Usually, you think they have it all until you find another sportsbook with other options. In the old days, Vegas sports bettors would have to drive around town looking for a good deal. Today, you can just click over to multiple online sportsbooks and find the deal you want.

These are three very important features. They are must-have features for me. Online sportsbooks come big and small. The competitive winning sports bettor will want to have accounts at a few or more to get the best deals and the most action. Before jumping into any online sportsbook, do your research, and make sure the online sportsbook is reputable. Research is becoming very easy these days as there are sites setup specifically for this purpose.

These links must be included and work when clicked to use this article.

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