

Gambling policy for elite sport

Sport and sports betting go hand in hand and elite athletes therefore typically find themselves in a culture of sports betting. It is therefore important that the elite sports environment creates a framework for a balanced gambling culture, as uncontrolled gambling has major consequences - for the athlete and for sport. Uncontrolled gambling may have consequences for sporting progress and for the team's progress and performance and it may be a downward slope with regards to match fixing.

Team Danmark, the NOC and Sports Confederation of Denmark (DIF) and Anti Doping Danmark, together with a number of national governing bodies including the Danish Football Association (DBU), Danish Handball Federation (DHF), Badminton Denmark, Danish Table Tennis Union (DBTU), Danish Icehockey Union (DIU) and Danish Tennis Federation (DTF) have therefore developed a gambling policy with guidelines for a balanced gambling behaviour in elite sport valid for all elite sports federations in Denmark.

*A balanced gambling behaviour is to be understood as "controlled gambling not exercised at the cost of social, workplace and family values and obligations"
(WHO ICD-10 01.01.1994).*

Especially for athletes under 18 years of age

Children and youth under the age of 18 must not participate in gambling in relation to their sport

Since 2012 it has been illegal for children under 18 to participate in gambling. Therefore athletes under 18 must not participate in gambling in relation to their sport.

Gambling is particularly problematic for children and youth as uncontrolled gambling can influence the development of their identity and social competences in the formative years. Young people are also more vulnerable in relation to advertisements.

If a sports club becomes aware that its athletes are gambling it should inform and include the parents with regards to supporting a gambling-free environment for young people under 18. If the club perceives that an athlete has an uncontrolled relation to gambling it should react and inform the parents about their concerns.

For all athletes

Trainers and coaches should never encourage gambling

This goes for both gambling together with your athletes and in front of your athletes. The coach is a role model and a culture carrier and should accordingly contribute to the support of a balanced gambling behaviour.

In addition, the coach should contribute to a nuanced debate when the theme "gambling" is brought up.

Continues 

Gambling is inappropriate in relation to competition

Gambling in relation to competition takes away the athletes' focus, and therefore athletes should not be gambling in relation to competition. This includes gambling during transportation to competition and the time between competitions, as the mental restitution could otherwise be negatively impacted.

Together we are responsible for helping each other with keeping focus on the competition and the sport instead of losing the focus to gambling.

Promote a healthy sports environment in relation to ordinary training and training camps

➤ It is the club's responsibility to ensure that gambling does not become a restriction for the sporting progress of the athletes. This includes being aware of signals of risk behaviour of the individual athlete and being aware of the group structures related to gambling.

Therefore the club should try to minimize gambling in relation to training and training camps. If a gambling culture prevails it should be addressed collectively. If an individual athlete develops a gambling problem, the club should take action and offer the athlete relevant support.

Addiction is hard to acknowledge and thus we must work together to create of a balanced gambling culture.