

MARCH MADNESS AND PROBLEM GAMBLING

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Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling

ARE PEOPLE ADDICTED TO BRACKETOLOGY?

Each year, millions of people in the United States fill out brackets to pick the winner of the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. The brackets can be found on ESPN.com, inside sports sections of newspapers and on many other websites on the Internet.

It seems like more and more companies and media outlets have contests each year that people can join to challenge others in deciding who can pick the winners... Capital One, Fox Sports, ESPN, CBS Sports are just a few that are touting their contests. Even Warren Buffet is at it again this year offering one million dollars a year for life to any of his employees who correctly pick the Sweet Sixteen teams that will be left standing.

Offices around the country have pools for their employees during March Madness with prizes ranging from cash and other perks.

But wait, is this legal? Sports betting is illegal in most states but this practice has always been not only allowed, but heavily advertised all over the US.

The American Gaming Association's CEO Geoff Freeman says that "the Federal ban on sports betting is a utter failure". He also shared some staggering stats on this years gambling activity citing that 70 million brackets will be filled out with a total of 10.4 BILLION dollars wagered. Of that amount, only 295 million is wagered legally in Nevada which means that 97% of that total is wagered illegally.

Taking a step away from the legality of this type of gambling, the FCCG also has vested interest in assisting those that are negatively affected by gambling whether it is legal or not. This is a difficult time of the year for people that are in



recovery and for those that are at -risk or have a gambling problem. The temptation to place a bet can be too much for some to turn away from as it is so prominently talked about on TV, radio, and the Internet.

The FCCG wants to make sure that you gamble responsibly and know your limit.

There are a variety of resources available to anyone that is affected by a gambling addiction. Free counseling, peer support, group meeting referrals, literature, budget assistance and much more are just a phone call, text or chat away...

HELP STARTS HERE

If you or someone you know is having a gambling problem, call **888-ADMIT-IT** today!

For Professionals working with members of the military, the Combat: Gambling Addiction toolkit is available to download at the following link:

<http://www.gamblinghelp.org/resources/toolkits>

You may also be interested in information on our free online training module for certification as a Compulsive Gambling Counselor. Contact us now for more information!

Contact us today for assistance!

- ◆ **1-888-ADMIT-IT**
- ◆ Live Chat at **www.gamblinghelp.org**
- ◆ Text to **321-978-0555**
- ◆ Email to **fccg@gamblinghelp.org**

The Florida Council on Compulsive Gambling—888-ADMIT-IT

Instilling Hope and Providing Help for Those Impacted by a Gambling Addiction