



September 15, 2026

To: State Gaming Commissions and Regulatory Authorities

Re: Call for Regulatory Action to Institute Permanent Sports Betting Bans for Individuals Threatening Athletes

Dear State Gaming Regulators,

On behalf of the five largest professional sports leagues and players associations, we write to you today regarding the escalating threat facing professional players, coaches, and officials: the continued harassment and violent threats from sports bettors.

While the expansion of legal, state-regulated sports betting has brought new ways for fans to engage with their favorite sports, it has also introduced some negative consequences for players and other personnel involved with professional sporting events. Too often, individuals who lose sports bets direct threatening and harassing messages toward players, coaches, and their families via social media and in-person interactions. Threatening the safety of an athlete or their family members over a sports bet crosses a bright ethical and criminal line, and it is entirely unacceptable.

It is critical that state and local leaders safeguard the participants of sports at all levels. While some states like Ohio, West Virginia, Louisiana, and Wyoming already maintain exclusionary lists that ban bad actors from licensed sportsbooks and mobile applications, we call on all state gaming commissions and state policymakers to promptly adopt uniform rules and legislative guardrails to help address this behavior.

Proposed Regulatory Action

- **Mandatory Lifetime Ban:** Establish explicit rules requiring state-regulated sportsbooks and mobile betting operators to permanently revoke wagering privileges for any individual verified to have abusively harassed or issued threats of violence against any professional or amateur athlete, coach, official, team personnel, or their respective families.
- **Streamlined Reporting Mechanisms:** Create a standardized, cross-operator reporting framework allowing sports leagues, teams, players, and Players' Associations to securely

transmit verified evidence of threats to state regulators and law enforcement for possible placement on statewide exclusion lists. Exclusion in one state should be reciprocated in other states.

- **Operator Accountability:** Require commercial sportsbook partners to proactively monitor, flag, and ban accounts linked to abusive behavior toward athletes as a condition of maintaining their state operating licenses.

The safety and well-being of players, coaches, officials and their families must always come before a wager. As game participants do their utmost to protect integrity, abusive and violent threats should not serve as a deterrence from performing to their fullest. We ask for your support in establishing policies that ensure those who threaten athletes or coaches lose their privilege to participate in sports betting forever.

Sincerely,

National Football League

National Football League Players Association

Major League Baseball

Major League Baseball Players Association

Major League Soccer

Major League Soccer Players Association

National Basketball Association

National Basketball Players Association

National Hockey League

National Hockey League Players Association