

TEMPLATE: Gambling-Free Event Policy

(Local Organization/Event Letterhead)

Whereas, recent research indicates that among United States youth between the ages of 14 and 21, 68% have gambled in the past year, and 11% have gambled twice a week or more;¹

Whereas, this same research shows that of those youth, 6.5% are at-risk for, or have already developed, a gambling problem;²

Whereas, it is known that the younger an adolescent begins gambling, the more likely he/she is to develop a gambling addiction;

Whereas, underage gambling brings with it a number of negative consequences, many of which are serious, and can be devastating to the youth as well as his/her family and friends, including:

- Increased risk of delinquency and crime,
- Damaged relationships,
- Poor academic performance,³
- Increased likelihood of developing mental health issues including depression and alcohol/substance abuse disorders,⁴
- Attempted suicide,⁵ and
- Overall poor general health;⁶

Whereas, decreasing youth access to gambling activities is shown to decrease the prevalence of underage gambling, and in turn, to decrease the rates of problem gambling in a community;⁷

Therefore, the *(event board)* has decided that the *(event)* on *(date of event)* will be gambling-free in an effort to protect the youth of our community.

Authorized Signature

Date

^{1,2} Welte, PhD, J. W., Barnes, PhD, G. M., Tidwell, PhD, M. O., & Hoffman, MA, J. H. (2009). Gambling, Alcohol, and Other Substance Use Among Youth in the United States. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 134-142.

³ Wynne, H., Smith, G. and Jacobs, D. (1996) *Adolescent Gambling and Problem Gambling in Alberta*. A report prepared for the Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission. Wynne Resources Ltd, Edmonton, Alberta.

⁴ Hardoon, K., Derevensky, J. and Gupta, R. (2002) *An Examination of the Influence of Familial, Emotional, Conduct and Cognitive Problems, and Hyperactivity Upon Youth Risk-Taking and Adolescent Gambling Problems*. Report prepared for the Ontario Problem Gambling Research Centre, Ontario, p. 113.

⁵ Gupta, R. and Derevensky, J. (1998) Adolescent gambling behavior: a prevalence study and examination of the correlates associated with excessive gambling. *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 14, 319-345.

⁶ Potenza, M. N., Fiellin, D. A., Heninger, G. R., Rounsaville, B. J. and Mazure, C. M. (2002) Gambling: an addictive behavior with health and primary care implications. *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, 17, 721-732.

⁷ Messerlian, C., Derevensky, J., & Gupta, R. (2005, January 28). Youth gambling problems: a public health perspective. *Health Promotion International*, 20(1), 69-79.