TEMPLATE: Gambling-Free Event Policy

*(Local Organization/Event Letterhead)*

Whereas, recent research indicates that among New York State youth between the ages of 12 and 17, 39.5% have gambled in the past year. Nearly 30% of those youth stated that they began at age 10 or younger. NYS Youth who gamble reported higher past 30 day rates of alcohol use, marijuana use, consumption of energy drinks and incidents of being drunk than non-gamblers;1

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,2
* Increased likelihood of developing mental health issues including depression and alcohol/substance abuse disorders,3
* Attempted suicide,4 and
* Overall poor general health;5

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;6

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.

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*Authorized Signature Date*

1. New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.. Youth Development Survey 2014-2015 Report. Retrieved from <https://www.oasas.ny.gov/prevention/documents/nysyds_2014_final51116.pdf>. Accessed on March 1, 2018.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

5 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.

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