

# GLOSSARY SPORTS BETTING TERMS

**Action** - A wager of any kind.

**Book** - An establishment that sets lines, odds or prices and accepts wagers on events

**Cover** - This means a team you have bet on has won versus the point spread.

**Favorite** - Sometimes referred to as the "chalk", the favorite is the team believed to be more likely than its opponent(s) to win an event.

**First half bet** - A wager placed on the result of the first half of a game.

**Handle** - Sometimes called the "write" or "turnover", it's the total amount wagered at a Book over a given time period.

**Hedge** - when a bettor has placed a wager on one side of an event and then bets on the opposite side in order to guarantee some level of profit or to mitigate a loss.

**Hold** - The percentage of the value of bets written that the house wins.

**In-Play** - Sometimes called "live betting", in-play betting allows bettors to wager on sporting events after they have started at odds, point spreads

or totals that are adjusted from their starting numbers for the current circumstances of the event. Since in-play wagers are based on live events, they are constantly changing during the game.

**Juice** - Also called the "vig" or "vigorish", it is the book's commission on a given wager. For straight point spread wagers, players will generally have to wager somewhere between \$105 and \$110 to make a profit of \$100 which accounts for the book's commission.

**Laying the points** - Also called "giving the points", it's when a bettor wagers on the favorite winning by more than the point spread.

**Line** - The stated spread or odds on an event.

**Longshot** - A team or event with typically high odds that is considered unlikely to win.

**Middle** - When a bettor wins bets on both sides of a game by wagering on the favorite at one point spread and the underdog at a different point spread. For example, if the bettor wagers on the favorite when the point spread is 3 1/2 points, then the underdog if the point spread has moved to 4 1/2 points and the favorite wins by 4 points, both bets will be winners and the bettor will have "middled" the game.

**No Action** – A wager in which no money is lost or won and the original bet amount is refunded.

**Off the board** – An event where bets are no longer being accepted. Games can remain off the board temporarily or permanently.

**Opening line** – This is the original line, spread, odds or total established for a given event.

**Over** – A wager where the bettor wagers that the combined number of points in an event will exceed an established total.

**Pick 'em** – a game where there is no point spread as neither team is favored.

**Price** – The odds or point spread offered on a potential result.

**Puck line** – When a point spread is used on hockey instead of a money line.

**Push** – A bet that ends in a tie for wagering purposes. For example, if New Orleans is a 7-point favorite and wins the game 28-21, the game results in a push. If it's made as a straight bet, the amount originally bet on the point spread will be refunded.

**Run line** – When a point spread is used in baseball instead of the money line.

**Second half bet** – A wager placed on an event's results after the first half is complete.

**Straight-up** – Betting on one side to win a game on the money line regardless of the point spread.

**Take the points** – When a bettor makes a point spread wager on the underdog.

**Under** – A wager where the bettor wagers that the combined number of points in an event will be less than an established total.

**Underdog** – Sometimes called a "dog" for short, this is the team seen as more likely to lose.