

# Tell Penn State to Stop Advertising Addictive Online Gambling Products to Its Students!



*As part of an ongoing official Blue & White Corporate Partnership, Penn State heavily advertised online lottery gambling at its Sept. 9, 2023 football game against the Delaware Blue Hens at Beaver Stadium.*

**Penn State has partnered with the Pennsylvania Lottery to advertise highly addictive online gambling products to its students - and even to its fans who are still too young to legally gamble (i.e. children). The University is advertising online gambling on smartphones -** including instant games that function similarly to online slot machines, which are **one of the most addictive forms of gambling ever devised**. The Sept. 9th football game included a lengthy announcement explaining how people could claim a “PSU” bonus code by playing Lottery games on their smartphones during the game.

**Penn State is promoting this type of gambling to its students and to children despite knowing the rates of problem gambling associated with online gambling are extremely high.** Penn State is commissioned by Pennsylvania’s Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs to track the impacts of online gambling, including those of the iLottery. The University’s reports to date indicate that 44.6% of people who engaged in online gambling in Pennsylvania 2021 exhibited at least one problem gambling behavior, and this rate remained as high as 36.7% in 2022.

There are several reasons why Penn State’s partnership with the Pennsylvania Lottery is egregious:

- Pennsylvania restricts land-based and online casinos to only patrons who are 21 and older because people who are younger are more susceptible to gambling addiction, but the Pennsylvania Lottery is open to all individuals age 18 and older.
- The Pennsylvania Lottery allows gamblers to pay for their bets using credit cards, which enables them to gamble and lose money they do not have.
- The Pennsylvania Lottery offers referral bonuses as an incentive for gamblers to recruit family and friends into gambling. These programs tend to increase the amount of gambling within vulnerable communities and to keep people in these communities from escaping poverty.
- The promotional bonuses offered by the Pennsylvania Lottery typically require a gambler to place bets that are an order of magnitude larger than the bonus being offered within a short time to be eligible to receive the bonus - inducing bettors who are seeking the bonus to engage in high-frequency betting, which significantly increases their likelihood of betting more than they originally planned, and also of becoming addicted to gambling. The large amount of bets required to become eligible for the bonus also greatly increases the likelihood that a bettor who is seeking the bonus will lose more than the amount of the bonus before ever becoming eligible to receive it.

Please visit <https://saynocasino.org/psu/> for more information and to sign the petition calling on Penn State’s leaders to stop advertising addictive online gambling products to the University’s students. Please also share the petition widely!