# Online Gambling Safety

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Betting on sporting events can bring excitement – the possibility of financial reward and loss–and cybersecurity risks.

You might be wondering, what does cybersecurity have to do with online sports betting? Due to the popularity of online betting, online gambling sites have become an attractive target for cybercriminals. This is because these sites collect and manage large amounts of financial and personal information that cybercriminals can sell to buyers in underground digital marketplaces. This means online gambling companies need to have many layers of defenses to protect themselves. Even with all these layers of defense, cyber threats are an ever-present risk to the industry and the millions of people accessing these sites every year.

Online sports betting wouldn't be possible without collecting Personal Identifiable Information (PII). Bettors are often required to create accounts that ask for:

- Full name
- Age and/or Date of Birth
- Phone Number
- Social Security Number (SSN)
- Mailing Address
- Email Address
- Banking and/or Credit Card Information

Cybercriminals view sports betting websites as an attractive target because they can steal large amounts of valuable information, all from one source. Untrustworthy sites can mimic popular sporting and betting sites to get people to click on a link and share their personal and financial information with a cybercriminal.

So, what can you do to protect yourself?

- Only use trustworthy online gambling sites that have good cybersecurity and privacy practices, such as enforcing strong passwords, multi-factor authentication, and more
- Use a strong and unique password
- Use Multifactor Authentication (MFA)
- Review the privacy terms of online gambling sites before providing any personal information

- Watch out for phishing emails and smishing texts
- Do not open attachments or click on links in emails if you're unsure of the sender
- If you're using an app, make sure you have installed the latest software updates
- Watch out for fake apps
- Keep your devices up to date with antivirus and advanced threat protection software
- Set up monitoring and alerts on your bank accounts

Betting on your favorite sports teams can be exciting, but don't let your thrill of the game or the win cause you to lose to a cyber incident.