

FAQ | SPORTS WAGERING

A resource for Advisory Neighborhood Commissions and Community Groups



Q. WHO REGULATES SPORTS WAGERING IN DC?

A. The Office of Lottery and Gaming (OLG) autonomously issues and enforces all Sports Wagering Operator licenses.

The Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration (ABRA) issues, and renews alcohol licenses of qualified business to sell and serve alcoholic beverages, and enforces District regulations regarding those licenses. ABRA does not influence the issuance or enforcement of Sports Wagering Operator licenses.

Q. WHAT ARE THE RULES GOVERNING SPORTS WAGERING?

A. OLG is charged with developing and implementing regulations. Proposed regulations were published in the D.C. Register on June 14, 2019, and can be viewed at dclottery.com/sports-betting.

Q. WHY IS AN ABC-LICENSED ESTABLISHMENT ADDING SPORTS WAGERING CONSIDERED TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE?

A. Because sports wagering is just now legal in the District, the activity would not have been included in the licensee's previously approved Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) license application. Under § 25-762, proposed changes to a licensee's normal operation are evaluated on a case-by-case basis to determine if the change is substantial enough to be of potential concern to the community. Other examples requiring approval include increasing occupancy and creating an area for live entertainment.

A legal analysis from the District's Office of the Attorney General concluding that adding sports wagering devices to any ABC-licensed establishment would constitute a substantial change and require advance ABC Board (Board) approval is available at: abra.dc.gov/OAGadvisory

Q. WHEN CAN AN ESTABLISHMENT SUBMIT A REQUEST TO ADD SPORTS WAGERING?

A. Requests to add sport wagering can be submitted to ABRA at any time.

Q. WHO CAN PROTEST AN ABC-LICENSED ESTABLISHMENT'S REQUEST FOR A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE TO OFFER SPORTS WAGERING?

A. Persons and entities with standing to file a protest petition — including affected Advisory Neighborhood Commissions (ANC) — are detailed in § 25-601.

Q. HOW DOES THE ABC BOARD ASSESS APPROPRIATENESS?

A. The appropriateness standards are detailed in § 25-313 and consider the effect of the establishment on — including but not limited to — real property values; peace, order, and quiet, including noise and litter; and residential parking needs and vehicular and pedestrian safety.

(Over, please)

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