



NEW JERSEY

# Association of State Colleges and Universities

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## **Student-Athletes Attending New Jersey's Colleges and Universities Stand to Lose – Again – if Sports Gambling is Legalized in Our State**

December 26, 2017

**NJASCU Executive Director Michael Klein submitted the following Letter-to-the-Editor of *The New York Times* in response to a story about the legalization of sports betting.**  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/18/opinion/legalize-sports-betting.html>

To the Editor:

Student-athletes attending New Jersey's colleges and universities stand to lose – again – if sports gambling is legalized in our state.

When New Jersey legalized sports wagering in 2012, the NCAA moved three regional and two final championship events out of the state the following year, including the Division I Women's Basketball Regional scheduled for Trenton. The NCAA prohibits postseason games from being played in a state with legal wagering on single-game outcomes "of any event (i.e., high school, college or professional) in a sport in which the NCAA conducts a championship."

The NCAA policy comes down especially hard on students at Division III institutions. Division III usually awards championship-hosting privileges to higher-seeded teams. Athletes compete hard during the regular season to have the postseason home-field advantage. If they must always compete on the road in the postseason, they are not only at a competitive disadvantage, but their institutions incur greater travel expense.

A federal injunction against New Jersey's sports-wagering law in February 2013 brought NCAA postseason games back to our state, but the NCAA may again prohibit championships here if New Jersey "wins" in the Supreme Court.

The "gambler's conceit" is the belief in being able to quit when you're ahead. For the sake of its student-athletes, New Jersey should have quit pursuing legalized sports gambling five years ago.

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