# Lower-Risk Gambling Guidelines

These guidelines were developed using the most current and highest quality scientific evidence available.

To reduce your risk of experiencing harms from gambling, follow all three of these guidelines:



**HOWEVER,** these limits may not be suitable for you. You should consider gambling less than these guidelines recommend or not at all if you ...  Experience problems from alcohol, cannabis or other drug use

Experience problems with **anxiety** or **depression**  Have a **personal** or **family history** of problems with gambling

## SAFER GAMBLING TIPS

- Try to **limit your consumption of alcohol**, cannabis and other drugs while gambling. This will make it easier to stick to the guidelines.
- Try to **limit your access to money**. Consider leaving credit and debit cards at home. There are also apps that can prevent your phone from making payments.
- Try to schedule activities right after gambling sessions, which can set a limit on the amount of time way have to gamble

### WHAT ARE THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES (HARMS) RELATED TO GAMBLING?

**Losing money** is the gambling harm that first comes to mind. But gambling can lead to other harms:

- Relationship conflicts, such as neglect of relationship, social isolation, arguing with your spouse
- Emotional distress, such as feelings of guilt, loneliness and isolation.
- you have to gamble.
- Gambling with other people can affect how you gamble. Think about how having gambling companions or gambling alone might impact you.
- **Entertainment money**. It is important to keep in mind how much money you are able to spend on entertainment when deciding how much to gamble.
- **Set limits**. If you have a big trip or special event coming up where you'll be gambling, plan ahead, remember the guidelines and set limits.

Visit www.gamblingguidelines.ca for more information.



 Health problems, such as problematic use of alcohol or other drugs

Following these guidelines can help reduce your risk of gambling harms.

#### THINK ABOUT YOUR REASONS FOR GAMBLING

**Is it for fun?** If you're gambling to escape problems, you're more likely to experience harm from gambling and might find it harder to stick to the suggested limits.

These guidelines were developed for people of legal gambling age who want to make more informed choices about their gambling.



Evidence, Engagement, Impact,

#### IF YOU THINK YOU ARE NOT IN CONTROL OR FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE WITH YOUR GAMBLING, PLEASE VISIT WWW.GAMBLINGGUIDELINES.CA/GETTING-HELP FOR A LIST OF RESOURCES IN YOUR REGION.