

# FAQ | SPORTS WAGERING



## 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. Final rules implementing provisions of the Sports Wagering Lottery Amendment Act of 2018 were adopted on August 30, 2019 and are available at [dclotterysportsbetting.com](http://dclotterysportsbetting.com).

## Q. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION PROCESS?

A. Current and prospective Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) licensees that want to add sports wagering devices or kiosks to their premises must secure advance approval from the ABC Board.

Prospective licensees may request to offer sports wagering in their initial ABC application. Current licensees must submit a Sports Wagering Substantial Change Application for consideration.

Additionally, all persons must secure a Sports Wagering Operator license through OLG.

## Q. WHAT IS THE APPLICATION FEE?

There is currently no fee to submit a Sports Wagering Substantial Change Application to ABRA. Fees for a Sports Wagering Operator license are set and collected by OLG.

## Q. CAN A SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT RESTRICT AN ESTABLISHMENT'S ABILITY TO ADD SPORTS WAGERING?

A. The terms of every Settlement Agreement are unique. Before submitting an application, persons are encouraged to consult their Settlement Agreement, if one has been executed. Settlement Agreements can be located online using our record search tool at [abra.dc.gov/node/682522](http://abra.dc.gov/node/682522).

## Q. WHY IS ADDING SPORTS WAGERING CONSIDERED TO BE A SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE?

A. Because sports wagering is just now legal in DC, the activity would not have been included in a licensee's previously approved 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 approval is available at: [abra.dc.gov/OAGadvisory](http://abra.dc.gov/OAGadvisory). *(Over, please)*

## **Q. WHO CAN PROTEST AN APPLICATION?**

A. Persons and entities with standing to file a protest petition 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.

## **Q. WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR PROTESTING AN APPLICATION?**

A. A protest roadmap detailing the potential steps including a Roll Call Hearing, Status Hearing, and Protest Hearing that a standard protest can take can be downloaded at [abra.dc.gov/node/899852](http://abra.dc.gov/node/899852).

## **Q. HOW WILL I KNOW IF AN ESTABLISHMENT IS APPLYING OR HAS BEEN APPROVED TO ADD SPORTS WAGERING?**

A. Notice of new ABC license applications requesting a Sports Wagering Endorsement and those that the ABC Board considers to be a substantial change will be given to the parties outlined in § 25-421 including affected Advisory Neighborhood Commissions.

Applicants are required to post two placards in a conspicuous place on the outside of the establishment during the 45-day protest period.

ABC Board Order determinations are available on ABRA's website.

## **Q. WHERE CAN I DIRECT ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS?**

A. To learn more about:

- Sports wagering licensing, visit [dclottery.com/sports-betting.aspx](http://dclottery.com/sports-betting.aspx) or call 202.645.8000
- ABC licensing, visit [abra.dc.gov/page/licensing](http://abra.dc.gov/page/licensing) or call 202.442.4423
- ABC license protest process, visit [abra.dc.gov/page/protest-resources](http://abra.dc.gov/page/protest-resources) or call 202.397.3971