

## North American Association of State & Provincial Lotteries

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[www.naspl.org](http://www.naspl.org)



### **March Is Problem Gambling Awareness Month NASPL and NCPG Partner Again to Promote “Awareness + Action”**

Concord, Ohio – This March, in recognition of Problem Gambling Awareness Month (PGAM), the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries (NASPL) is again partnering with the National Council on Problem Gambling (NCPG) to provide educational resources and training to members, retailers and players.

The theme for the 2020 PGAM, “Awareness + Action,” is all about taking action and having conversations about problem gambling issues and directing people to the help they may need. Using the tagline #AwarenessPlusAction, the national campaign, which is in its seventeenth year, aims to increase public awareness of problem gambling, as well as the availability of prevention, treatment and recovery services. A toolkit guide, graphics downloads, and additional information and resources are available to PGAM participants on the NCPG [website](#).

According to NCPG, research indicates that most adults who choose to gamble are able to do so responsibly. Approximately 85% of U.S. adults have gambled at least once in their lives; 60% have done so in the past year. Of those U.S. adults, about 1% meet the diagnostic criteria for pathological gambling.

This month and year-round, NASPL and NCPG are working together to improve responsible gambling education and practices within the lottery industry. “We at NASPL value our longstanding relationship with NCPG, and we’re encouraged by the ongoing improvements and increased participation made possible by our combined responsible gambling efforts,” said NASPL Executive Director David Gale.

Beginning in 2014, in collaboration with NCPG and the North Carolina Education Lottery, NASPL worked to create comprehensive responsible gambling (RG) training materials for both lottery employees and retailers; the group effort culminated in the release of specialized training videos to be shared among the membership. From then on, NASPL has continued to grow and evolve its RG efforts and related training components to better serve the evolving industry. Recently, in light of the widespread legalization of sports betting in the U.S., NASPL has updated its Guidelines for Responsible Gambling to include RG protocols specific to sports betting.

NASPL and the NCPG also worked together to establish a Verification Program for lotteries seeking to create or improve responsible gambling programs within their jurisdictions. By the start of 2020, nearly half of the lotteries in the U.S. had achieved official verification. Responsible gambling resources, including Verification Program information, employee and retailer training videos, and a downloadable RG Toolkit are available to NASPL members on the NASPL Matrix.

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When help is needed, the NCPG operates the National Problem Gambling Helpline Network, which provides resources and referrals to all fifty states, the District of Columbia, Canada and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Communication is 100% confidential, and help is available 24/7 by calling or texting 1-800-522-4700 or by accessing the Helpline Chat at [ncpgambling.org/chat](http://ncpgambling.org/chat).

### **About NCPG**

The National Council on Problem Gambling is the national advocate for programs and services to assist people and families affected by problem gambling. NCPG is neutral on legalized gambling and works with all stakeholders to improve health and reduce social costs by developing comprehensive policy and programs for all those affected by problem gambling.

### **About NASPL**

The North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries was founded in 1971. Evolving from an informal exchange of information among three pioneering lottery directors, the organization has grown into an active association representing 53 lottery organizations. NASPL's basic mission is to assemble and disseminate information on the lottery industry through education and communications, and where appropriate publicly advocate the positions of the Association on matters of general policy.

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