



Reading Football Supporters' Society Limited,  
Registered Office: c/o Vale & West, Victoria House  
26 Queen Victoria Street, Reading. RG1 1TG.

[www.star-reading.org](http://www.star-reading.org)

## **POLICY ON GAMBLING RELATED TO FOOTBALL**

<b>Date of Review</b>	<b>Reason for review</b>	<b>Amendments</b>
12/03/2020	New Policy Approved	Not Applicable
13/03/2020	Adjustments	Amended following the Review
09/04/2020	Final Review	Updates and new Title

### **1. Introduction**

This document is drafted in accordance with the Rules of Reading Football Supporters' Society Limited and sets out the Policy towards gambling related to football adopted pursuant to a resolution at a Board Meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> April 2020.

### **2. Definitions**

Definitions of the terms used in this policy are laid out in a separate Definition of Terms document, which should be read in conjunction with this policy.

### **3. Introduction**

In 2020, there are an estimated 1.7m young men aged 16-34 who gamble regularly on football, mainly online. Some of these will be included in the 340,000 young problem gamblers in Great Britain.

STAR recognises that a large majority of those who gamble on football do so without harm, but that there is a significant number of people for whom gambling on football is causing serious financial, mental health and other problems.

The Football Supporters' Association (FSA) has partnered with GambleAware, the independent charity tasked with reducing gambling harms in Great Britain, to support the campaign and promote safer gambling. The numbers data quoted above is from the FSA web-site.

This document suggests how STAR can support the FSA and GambleAware to assist in the GambleAware Vision "that fewer people suffer from gambling-related harm".

#### **4. Policy**

STAR's policy towards gambling in relation to football is as follows:-

**4.1** STAR recognises, that gambling on football is legal in the UK for those aged 18 and over.

**4.2** STAR will not promote any activities to stop people gambling, except where it is harmful.

**4.3** STAR has concerns with the proliferation of gambling advertising at football grounds and will suggest that Reading FC reduces or eliminates it at the Madejski Stadium and in any media emanating from the Club.

**4.4** STAR is concerned at the level of ownership and sponsorship of football clubs and other bodies in the game by gambling companies and will encourage Reading FC to not associate itself with gambling companies and to seek to persuade the organisations with which it has membership or affiliation to do likewise.

**4.5** STAR will collaborate with the FSA and support its initiatives.

**4.6** STAR acknowledges the FSA/Be Gamble Aware Safer Gambling hub and will encourage the use of the materials that it provides to Reading FC to gain support for safer gambling initiatives.

**4.7** STAR will not promote gambling and will not permit the direct promotion of gambling on any of its media.

**4.8** STAR will not knowingly accept or pass on messages on behalf of gambling companies.

#### **5. Process**

STAR will review the related FSA and Gambling Aware materials and determine what will be used by itself and what it will be recommending to be used by Reading FC.

## **6. Review**

This policy will be reviewed by STAR's Board, initially on at least an annual basis, but members may call for it to be reviewed at any time by contacting the Secretary.