

NEWS:

**Delaware
Sports
Betting
Launches
Tuesday**



JUNE 1, 2018 -- Full-scale sports betting at all three

Delaware racinos will launch on Tuesday -- just over three weeks after a U.S. Supreme Court decision cleared the way for states to engage in sports wagering.

A 2009 state law already permitted the practice and Delaware was better positioned than most to get out of the blocks fast. It was one of four states exempted under the federal Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act of 1992 -- the statute the High Court struck down as unconstitutional on May 14th. Under the exclusion, which was based on Delaware having once operated a pro-football lottery, The First State was limited to offering pro-football parlay bets.

Those restrictions will be a thing of the past as the governor and other state officials officially hold a ceremony Tuesday afternoon marking the commencement of sports gaming operations at Delaware Park, Dover Downs, and Harrington Raceway. Betting offered will include single-game and championship wagering on professional baseball, football, hockey, basketball, soccer, golf, and auto racing. No bets will be taken on Delaware-based teams.

"We have worked closely with Delaware's three casinos to train lottery and casino staff in preparation for a launch of expanded sports betting," said Delaware Finance Sec. Rick Geisenberger.

State Rep. Steve Smyk, R-Milton-Lewes, says Delaware's three racinos collectively provide jobs supporting thousands of citizens, while also delivering tens-of-millions of dollars annually to the state's coffers.

"No one with whom I have spoken believes sports betting will provide a windfall," Rep. Smyk said. "In Las Vegas, such wagering only accounts for about two-percent of casino revenue. Delaware Park, Dover Downs, and Harrington



State Rep. Steve Smyk

Raceway have been struggling to maintain viability, in part, due to growing competition from new casinos in Maryland and Pennsylvania. Our racetracks have little choice but to offer full sports betting, since their competitors in neighboring states eventually will do so."

The move into sports betting is not anticipated to impact the consideration of [Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 144](#), which seeks to provide racino tax relief. The measure has already passed the Senate and is pending action in a House committee.