Know the Stakes: Glossary

Gambling is full of confusing terms. So that you know what you’re dealing with if you come across them, here’s a quick guide:

**Correct score betting:**
Where a person bets on the score of a sports match.

**Esports:**
Esports, or electronic sports, are competitive video games, such as Fortnite and Counter Strike, played at a professional level.

**Fixed-odds betting:**
A form of gambling where the player bets in the hopes of winning a fixed multiple of their stake, so they know the best-case scenario if they win.

**FOBT:**
Another name for the electronic gaming machines that are only available in bookmakers and casinos; it actually stands for Fixed-Odds Betting Terminals.

**Gambling ads:**
Gambling companies are not allowed to target under-18s with gambling ads online – but televised football often features ads for in-game betting that younger viewers may well see.

**House edge:**
Games of chance are designed to take more money from players than they give back – this is known as the house edge.

**In-game betting:**
Players bet as sports matches are in progress. The odds can change throughout the match according to how the game is going.

**Loot boxes:**
Treasure chests in online games may – or may not – contain items of value to players, who will not usually know what’s inside. They have some similarity to a lottery and scratchcards but are not classed as gambling in the UK.

**Pool betting:**
Where the sum of stakes is divided between the winners. There’s no way of telling in advance how much might be won.

**Self-exclusion:**
One way for people who suffer from gambling disorder of regaining control of their finances: it involves excluding themselves from gambling premises and websites. Tools like Gamstop and the Multi Operator Self Exclusion Scheme can help regulate both online gambling and betting shop gambling.

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Skin gambling:
A form of online – often unregulated – gambling. Players gamble with ‘skins’ (costumes, camouflages etc.) from video games on casino-like websites and cash in their winnings on third-party websites.

Spread betting:
Players estimate whether a match score will be higher or lower than a range of possible outcomes, called the ‘spread’. There’s no way of telling how much they stand to win or lose.

Want to speak to someone about gambling?
If you are looking for help, advice or support in relation to your or someone else’s gambling, please go to BeGambleAware.org or call the National Gambling Helpline on 0808 8020 133.