

FOOTBALL

The most frequent and basic way to wager on football is a straight bet on the point spread. Whichever team the bettor wagers on must cover the spread in order for the bettor to win the bet. It means the favorite must win by at least a specified amount or the underdog must lose by no more than that amount (or win the game outright).

EXAMPLE:

	Team	Spread	
September 24	Georgia	-2.5	-110
1:00 PM	Oklahoma	+2.5	-110

In this example, Georgia (-2.5) is favored by 2.5 points. Georgia must win the game by more than 2.5 points in order for someone to win their point spread bet on Georgia. If the bettor wagers on Oklahoma (+2.5), Oklahoma must win the game outright or lose by fewer than 2.5 points for the bettor to win. The -110 next to each indicates the bettor must wager \$110 to win \$100 regardless of who they make a point spread wager on.

THE MONEY LINE – Bettors can also wager on the winner of the game regardless of the point spread. All the team they select has to do is win the game outright. The money line is based on a \$100 base amount with the minus (“-”) indicating the favorite and the (+) indicating the underdog.

EXAMPLE:

	Team	Spread		Money Line
September 24	Georgia	-2.5	-110	-120
1:00 PM	Oklahoma	+2.5	-110	+105

In the same game as above, Georgia is -120 on the money line which means they are the favorite. Anyone wagering on Georgia would be proportionally wagering \$120 to profit \$100 (meaning they could wager \$240 to profit \$200, \$60 to profit \$50, etc.). Anyone wagering on Oklahoma would be proportionally wagering \$100 to win \$105 on Oklahoma winning the game outright.

Another wager the bettor can make is on the total for the game (also sometimes referred to as the point total or over/under). It means the bettor can wager on whether the total number of points will be more or less than a given number. Points scored in overtime will count in the final score.

EXAMPLE:

	Team	Spread		Money Line	Total	
September 24	Georgia	-2.5	-110	-120	60.5	O -110
1:00 PM	Oklahoma	+2.5	-110	+105		U -110

Once again, in the same game, the number in the righthand columns under the "Total" header of 60.5 is the point total the bettor will be wagering on. If a bettor wagers on the "over", Georgia and Oklahoma must combine for more than 60.5 points for the bettor to win their bet. If they wager on the "under", the teams must combine for less than 60.5 points. The -110 to the right of the "O" and "U" indicates the player must wager \$110 to profit \$100 on either the over or under.

PARLAYS - Bettors are also allowed to combine multiple wagers into a single bet known as a parlay or combination. Point spread, money line and totals may all be used in parlays with the payout of the parlay dependent on the odds of the individual events the player chooses. In order for a bettor to win a parlay,

they can not lose any of the events it contains. If there is a push on any of the events contained in the parlay, that event is removed from the parlay and the wager continues without it included.



EXAMPLE:

	Bettor's Selection	Final Score
Game 1	Pittsburgh (-3) over Cleveland	Pittsburgh - 27 Cleveland - 14
Game 2	New Orleans (-4) over Los Angeles (NFC)	New Orleans - 31 Los Angeles - 21
Game 3	Miami (+14.5) over New England	New England - 28 Miami - 17
Game 4	Philadelphia (-7) over Washington	Philadelphia - 24 Washington - 17

In the above example, a bettor has played a 4-team parlay. They have won the first three games as Pittsburgh and New Orleans have both covered the spread as favorites, as did Miami, losing by only 9 as a 14.5 point underdog. Game 4 is a push however, which does not mean the bettor loses the entire parlay, but they instead have won a 3-team parlay instead of a 4-team parlay since the one push is removed.

