Addiction is a primary, chronic disease. Pathological gambling has been reclassified from an impulse control disorder to an addictrion. This change was made due to the high rates of co-occurring substance use disorders and the significant harm caused by gambling.

Christina Carter, the associate athletics director for compliance at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, shared her expertise on how to prevent and address gambling issues in college sports.

"Experts share their secrets to getting student-athletes and coaches talking about gambling," said the campus-wide seminar. "It's not just about reading people the names of all the guests that our student-athletes invite through a request ticket for guests on a "pass list." Toliver advises knowing who those folks are. Many coaches as part of their salary agreements include a clause that requires them to report any gambling activities to the compliance office.

"What's the No. 1 threat these days?" Clayton asked. "People need to see that you care. It's not just about reading people the names of all the guests that our student-athletes invite through a request ticket for guests on a "pass list." Toliver advises knowing who those folks are. Many coaches as part of their salary agreements include a clause that requires them to report any gambling activities to the compliance office.

Gambling is a clinical concern. Clinics provide some type of education to students, coaches, and staff, but also on residence halls and Greek life. Gambling education is wrapped in with education about student wellness (such as tobacco, alcohol, and drug use). Universities and colleges have a responsibility to offer resources and support for those struggling with gambling issues.

The athletics compliance staff at Missouri has taken a clinical approach to gambling prevention. "We have to get the students to see it as a problem," said one presenter. "We can't just rely on the athletic department to handle it. Everyone needs to be involved." The staff has implemented a "no-name" policy, where anyone can report a suspected gambling issue to the compliance office without fear of retaliation. This has helped build a culture of trust and support.

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Eric Toliver, senior associate athletics director for compliance at the University of Oklahoma, added that a campus-wide approach helps because every campus department can be an entry point for a person needing help. Clayton agreed, saying, "Assemble a campus-wide group," she said. "You'll be surprised who those folks are."

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Mitzi Clayton advises a collective approach. For schools looking to enhance their educational efforts, Clayton said, "You don't throw away a criminal implications. Betting on sports for money was impermissible. The activity was permissible, or no, it was not. Responses to the 15 questions were either yes, the staff had no idea, or not."

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