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Regulation of Online Betting

Currently, the easy access to online betting sites increases the risks of fraud and developing dependencies. When gambling activities are promoted by public figures, their reach to diverse audiences is further amplified. A notable example is the case of the famous Italian footballer, Nicolo Fagioli, who became embroiled in controversy and faced sanctions after incurring significant debts on illegal betting sites. This case highlights the risks associated with inadequate regulation.

Nicolo Fagioli, considered one of the most promising players in his country, admitted to incurring substantial debts on unregulated betting platforms. This scandal has jeopardized his professional career and sparked a debate about the vulnerability of young athletes to addictions and the dangers associated with online gambling. Fagioli's situation underscores the need for greater oversight and regulation in this area, particularly when public figures may engage in behaviors that compromise their integrity and that of their sport.

The Fagioli case has intensified discussions about the responsibility of public figures when engaging in betting. Given their status as idols to millions, their behavior can significantly impact their followers, especially the younger audience.

The case has sparked a global debate on: i) the legality, ethics, and social impact of this practice, ii) the extent to which regulatory protections should be applied in this area, and iii) the responsibility of public figures and the legal implications of their involvement, due to the influence they wield over their followers.

Mexico: In Mexico, betting is primarily regulated by the Federal Law of Games and Raffles (which has not been reformed since its issuance in 1947) and its Regulations (revised in November 2023). Spain: The Law 13/2011, of May 27, regulating gambling, establishes a legal framework for the exploitation and organization of betting in Spain. This law aims to protect users, especially minors and vulnerable people, from the negative effects of gambling.

It is essential to review and keep the regulations in this area up to date to establish responsible gambling provisions (possibly referencing international standards), provide protection to users of betting platforms, define permissible advertising for such activities, and regulate the participation of influential figures, among other issues. The lack of coherent regulation can lead to situations where users engage in potentially risky activities without adequate protection.

At ECIJA Mexico, we offer specialized legal advice to help companies, organizations, and individuals with their projects, aiming to identify the specific regulations and laws they must comply with to operate successfully and within the current legal framework.

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