

## Arbitrage

What if I told you there was a way to make risk free money! There is and it is called arbitrage, or “arbing” in the sportsbook world!

Arbing is where you find mismatches between different sportsbooks in their odds pricing. In general sportsbooks set the odds with a spread (see our article on sportsbooks) that gives them a mathematical advantage to generate return. However, each sportsbook sets their odds differently and this opens the door to arbitrage opportunities.

Consider the following situation:

- “Fantasy Bet” sets the odds at -150 for a team “Mythical” to beat their rival “Unreal”, while offering +130 if Unreal wins.
- “Fiction Bet” may set the odds at -180 for Mythical, and +160 for Unreal.

In each individual sportsbook there is a 20 point spread. However, if we take Mythical at -150 from Fantasy Bet and Unreal at +160 from Fiction Bet, we can guarantee a return! For example, if you bet \$1,000 on Mythical and \$641 on Unreal. If Mythical wins, you earn \$667 and lose \$641 for \$26. If Unreal wins, you earn \$1,026 and lose \$1,000 for \$26. Using the same math that sportsbooks use for their spread, you have guaranteed \$26 in profit from \$1,641 or a 1.6% return. I know that does not sound like a lot, but you may find these opportunities several times a day and you only have the money tied up in the bet for a few hours in some cases!

StatsHood has tools to find these arbing opportunities. Beyond that we will provide you with the amounts to bet so you do not have to worry about the math. We even have tools to help you stay under the radar so sportsbooks are less likely to limit you (see our article on sportsbooks).

However even with the best tools there are still issues that may arise. Here are a list of things to keep in mind while arbing:

- In general, the sum of the odds need to add to be positive. For example, -150 and +160 as noted above sum to +10. If you get 0, then you can break even (which you may want if there is opportunity to earn free bets or bonuses). If you get a negative number, you will not make money betting both sides.
- Make sure that you are betting on the same thing. For example, a point spread for Mythical at +5.0 is not opposite of Unreal at -5.5. In this case if Mythical wins by 5 exactly, you would push one and lose the other which would give a net loss. Make sure the point spreads or over/under lines are opposite values. Double check your bets!
- Make sure you selected the correct games before finalizing the bets! Check both team names match on the bet slip. User error by misclicking can happen. Double check your bets!
- Lines move at sportsbooks! You may have placed a bet on one side and the line moves before you can place the other side to guarantee a return! The best strategy is to pull them up both at the same time and try to send them both at the same time, or as close together as possible. If it is a live game the lines will move faster, so consider waiting for

a timeout to reduce the risk. Even with the best strategy, you still may have occasional bets reject. Don't worry, instead be patient. The line may come back to where you can hedge the bet. Or you can always just let it ride!

- If you are suspected of arbitrage or other advantage betting strategies, the sportsbooks will add additional limits to your account. To prevent this you can use our recommended bets which may not produce exact returns, but will make it less likely you will have these limits applied to your account.

Plan. Bet. Track.

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