



Even Online, *Always* Use Protection

Ensuring Your Online Security

By Hansel Wei

If you're even slightly worried about your online security, you're certainly not alone. One of the greatest fears in this young century has to be identity theft or other circumstances of online fraud. I remember when I signed up for Ebay and reluctantly put in my credit card number for PayPal. I was almost certain that there were going to be dozens of "Hansels" running around using credit cards with my name and information on them in no time.

Luckily no such thing happened. However, as a sports bettor, you owe it to yourself to be aware of what security measures a sportsbook has in place to protect you from such situations. Every sportsbook you even consider using should have a section devoted to Privacy or Security, explaining what they do to keep you and your information safe. (See the "**Privacy**" section on GoSportsbet.com.) The current industry encryption standard is the SSL Protocol, a 128-bit encryption that ensures both you and the sportsbook are authenticated during every transaction through encrypted algorithms. Make sure the sportsbook accepts some standard secure methods of payment. These include Visa, Mastercard, Bank Wire, Electronic Checks, Firepay, and Neteller. GoSportsBet shows they make security a top priority by accepting these and more.

Here's why you shouldn't lose sleep over your credit card number being online: sportsbooks have a **lot** more to lose than you do. If someone has the technology to hack the SSL protocol (doubtful) and access your information, then they can access the same information *for the sportsbook!* Why drain *your* account when an entire sportsbook's account is there for the taking? The sportsbooks trust their security, and so should you.

In general though, it is a good policy to question these things and create contingency plans. I recommend opening a new bank account specifically for online transactions, including online shopping, sports wagering, or any other instance you need to give a credit card number online. Although I stress that it is **HIGHLY UNLIKELY** anything will ever happen, put no more money in the account than you are willing to lose. Keep this account topped up as necessary.

In addition to their being a limit of how much you can lose to fraud, this kind of system gives you an effective way to control your losses as well. If you know you only have a limited amount in your "betting" account, you won't wake up one day to find your

house being dragged away by the IRS and realize you've drained your only bank account. I feel that money management is an important issue and I will devote an entire article to it in the near future.

Until next time, do yourself a favor...

Keep doing things Hansel's Wei.