

A Guide to Understanding Esports Betting

Over the past centuries, the snapshot of the sports world has evolved drastically, with betting always following in its footsteps; where viewers and potential money is found, it's only natural for betting sites to appear.

In recent years, the latest leap has been taken by the world of Esports betting, which revolves around the world of video games.

What is Esports betting and why is it growing?

Esports was once a small group of friends putting together a tournament for people living in their area, with prize pools barely existing and the only betting being small wagers between comrades. This has swiftly grown to an industry that regularly fills massive sports arenas and amasses tens of millions of viewers on single matches.

The number of gamers around the world is growing at a steady pace and, because of this, the number of viewers for Esports is following closely behind. With clear team allegiances being formed, it was a perfect avenue for betting sites to venture down and capitalise on.

While there used to be a mass of unknown, shady sites floating around, the market has now seen a surge of reliable and popular sports betting sites flocking to the Esports betting scene, such as Sky Bet, Betway, and Betfair.

Is Esports betting different from "normal" sports?

With what is often seen as a very unconventional betting topic, Esports betting is surrounded by rumours and speculation of complexity or immaturity. In reality, the premise is no different than that of a normal sport, such as football.

Just as you can elsewhere, you can wager bets on the outcome of matches and certain occurrences within them. You can choose your winner for a major tournament, just as you would if you were betting on the World Cup, or for a certain player to do something within the match time.

The major difference comes from the variety found within video games themselves. If you were to compare two betting sheets from a football game in the Bundesliga and another in the Premier League, the options would likely be exactly the same. This is because the game they are playing is exactly the same, in that the rules function in the same way and the objectives are the same.

Esports is an umbrella term that encompasses a huge number of games and, to compare it to more traditional sports, it would be like placing football, rugby, hockey and swimming under the term "sports betting". The objectives of each of them are completely different and, because of that, the potential bets you can place will also vary.

Understanding and picking the right game within the Esports category is just as vital as the bet you make, as in some choices, a split-second decision can change the entire flow of the match, just as a penalty in a football match would.

How do I choose the right Esports betting category for me?

This is a question that, unfortunately, could be answered in multiple thousands of words, with varying opinions deciding different things. In reality, it is up to you and depends entirely on the style of sports you are used to.

In games such as the extremely popular League of Legends, a major target for Esports betting sites, the tide of play can be very close, but in the majority of situations, the winner of the game will be decided fairly early on. If a team performs well at the start, they gain more momentum and power to perform better and better. It would be like betting on a swimming race, in which the leader is given more energy as he gains more of a lead.

The other side of Esports betting is games such as Counter Strike: Global Offensive, in which the entire tide of the game can flip in a single press of a button.

If your nerves can take a beating, betting on games such as Counter Strike or Overwatch can be extremely rewarding and fun, but also incredibly difficult to watch. For a more easy-to-watch and less stressful experience, games such as League of Legends and Dota 2 will likely be more your speed.

What are the best bets in Esports?

This will depend highly on your understanding and knowledge of the scene. As with any new venture, starting small and working your way up is normally the best approach. We would recommend that you aim to start with final result bets, using match history to check the potential of each team.

As you grow more confident, you can start looking into individual players, their history in different teams and what things they might be more likely to do or not do in certain games. Just as in things like football, there are aggressive and defensive teams, so doing research on the plethora of Esports news sites will help your decision making in the betting process massively.

It is also hugely helpful to stick to bets that are based on standardised leagues with ranking systems, such as the Overwatch League.

Conclusion

Can I make money from Esports betting?

Of course!

Make no mistake, venturing into a completely new sports world can be a massively daunting task and, without the proper research, you will likely find yourself feeling out of your depth; however, if

you pay attention to our advice and stick to smaller bets while you get a feel for the scene, you will find massive potential in this ever-growing business.