

Saul Malek – The voice of modern gambling

Saul Malek is a sought-after speaker and advocate specializing in gambling addiction prevention and education. His personal story of struggling with a devastating gambling addiction as a college sophomore, losing money, time, relationships, and nearly his life, serves as a powerful warning to others.

Since entering recovery in 2019, Saul has become a leading voice in the movement to address the growing epidemic of youth gambling addiction. With the rise of online betting and the proliferation of sports betting apps, the statistics are alarming: adolescents and young adults are now more likely to develop a gambling problem than any other age group, with 2% of teens already struggling with a severe gambling addiction (NCPG). The ease of online betting has led to a 500% increase in 18-24-year-olds seeking help for gambling problems (Gamblers Anonymous).

Saul has shared his story and expertise with a wide range of audiences, including schools (both high school and college), athlete mental health organizations, suicide prevention groups, parent groups, and popular news outlets such as The New York Times, National Public Radio, Public Broadcasting Service, and the Dallas Morning News. He has keynoted conferences including the Connecticut Council on Problem Gambling annual conference, the Wisconsin Council on Problem Gambling annual conference, and Mental Health America Greater Dallas Adolescent Symposium. Saul has also appeared on Dr. Phil Primetime and will be a TEDx speaker at the University of Alabama at Birmingham in late March.

Through his work, Saul aims to educate and empower young people, parents, educators, and community leaders to recognize the warning signs of gambling addiction, to promote healthy attitudes towards gambling, and to advocate for policies and programs that protect vulnerable populations.