

Glossary of Problem Gambling Terms

Behavioral health is full of acronyms and buzzwords that can be confusing. The Parents' Place of Maryland has created this guide to help you better understand these terms.

Acronym	What it stands for	Meaning
AGA	American Gaming Association	National group representing casinos and promoting responsible gambling.
GA	Gamblers Anonymous	Peer-led 12-step support group for people with gambling problems.
GAM-ANON	Gam-Anon Family Group	Support group for family and friends of people with gambling issues.
GamTalk	Online Support Forum www.gamtalk.org	24/7 moderated online community for those affected by gambling.
MARG	Maryland Alliance for Responsible Gambling	Statewide group offering counseling and exclusion programs.
MLGCA	Maryland Lottery and Gaming Control Agency	Regulates gambling and runs the Voluntary Exclusion Program.
NAADGS	National Association of Administrators for Disordered Gambling Services	Coordinates state-funded gambling treatment programs.
NCPG	National Council on Problem Gambling	A nonprofit organization that advocates for problem gambling prevention, treatment, and recovery services across the U.S.
PGSI	Problem Gambling Severity Index	Screening tool to assess gambling risk and severity.
TIP	Treatment Improvement Protocol	Guidelines published by SAMHSA to improve treatment practices for behavioral health conditions, including co-occurring disorders like problem gambling and substance use.
VEP	Voluntary Exclusion Program	Allows people to self-ban from casinos and sports betting.
800-GAMBLER	The Maryland Center of Excellence on Problem Gambling's Helpline	Free, confidential 24/7 support and referrals for gambling issues.