

Search Strategy

Review: Gamblification, Fintech, and Fan Financial Wellbeing: A Scoping Review Through a Social-Sustainability Lens.

Databases searched: Scopus; Web of Science Core Collection; PubMed/MEDLINE. **Searches run:** 4 August 2026.

The four concept blocks

- **Block 1 — Sport:** sport terms
- **Block 2 — Gambling/betting:** wagering terms
- **Block 3 — Mechanism:** marketing + fintech affordances
- **Block 4 — Outcome:** financial wellbeing / harm

Primary search = Block 1 AND Block 2 AND (Block 3 OR Block 4). **Broad sensitivity check** = Block 1 AND Block 2.

Language (English) and date (2007–present) limits were applied after searching.

1. Scopus (Advanced search box)

Primary search

```
TITLE-ABS-KEY(
  ( sport* OR football OR soccer OR "sporting event*" OR athlet* OR "sports fan*" OR "sport spectator*"
  OR "sports club*" OR league* )
  AND
  ( gambl* OR betting OR bettor* OR "sports bet*" OR wager* OR bookmaker* OR sportsbook* )
  AND
  (
    ( advertis* OR marketing OR sponsor* OR promotion* OR gamblif* OR fintech OR "financial technol
    ogy" OR app OR apps OR application* OR smartphone OR mobile OR online OR "in-play" OR "in play"
    OR inplay OR live OR micro-bet* OR "micro betting" OR "embedded payment*" OR cashless OR gamif
    * )
    OR
    ( "financial harm*" OR "financial well-being" OR "financial wellbeing" OR "financial distress" OR de
    bt OR over-indebt* OR indebted* OR "consumer credit" OR "financial vulnerab*" OR "economic cost*"
    OR "social cost*" OR affordab* )
  )
)
AND PUBYEAR > 2006
AND ( LIMIT-TO( LANGUAGE,"English" ) )
```

Broad sensitivity check

```
TITLE-ABS-KEY(
  ( sport* OR football OR soccer OR "sporting event*" OR athlet* OR "sports fan*" OR "sport spectator*"
  OR "sports club*" OR league* )
  AND
  ( gambl* OR betting OR bettor* OR "sports bet*" OR wager* OR bookmaker* OR sportsbook* )
```

)
AND PUBYEAR > 2006 AND (LIMIT-TO(LANGUAGE,"English"))

2. Web of Science Core Collection (Advanced search; TS = Topic)

Primary search

```
TS=(  
  ( sport* OR football OR soccer OR "sporting event*" OR athlet* OR "sports fan*" OR "sport spectator*"  
  " OR "sports club*" OR league* )  
  AND  
  ( gambl* OR betting OR bettor* OR "sports bet*" OR wager* OR bookmaker* OR sportsbook* )  
  AND  
  (  
    ( advertis* OR marketing OR sponsor* OR promotion* OR gamblif* OR fintech OR "financial technol  
    ogy" OR app OR apps OR application* OR smartphone OR mobile OR online OR "in-play" OR "in play"  
    OR inplay OR live OR micro-bet* OR "micro betting" OR "embedded payment*" OR cashless OR gamif  
    * )  
    OR  
    ( "financial harm*" OR "financial well-being" OR "financial wellbeing" OR "financial distress" OR de  
    bt OR over-indebt* OR indebted* OR "consumer credit" OR "financial vulnerab*" OR "economic cost*" OR  
    "social cost*" OR affordab* )  
  )  
)
```

Then apply the Refine panel: Publication Years 2007–present, and Language = English.

Broad sensitivity check

```
TS=(  
  ( sport* OR football OR soccer OR "sporting event*" OR athlet* OR "sports fan*" OR "sport spectator*"  
  " OR "sports club*" OR league* )  
  AND  
  ( gambl* OR betting OR bettor* OR "sports bet*" OR wager* OR bookmaker* OR sportsbook* )  
)
```

3. PubMed/MEDLINE (search box; [tiab] field tags + MeSH)

Primary search

```
(  
  ( sport*[tiab] OR football[tiab] OR soccer[tiab] OR athlet*[tiab] OR "sports fan"[tiab] OR "sport spectat  
  or"[tiab] OR "sports club"[tiab] OR league*[tiab] ) OR "Sports"[Mesh]  
)  
AND  
(  
  ( gambl*[tiab] OR betting[tiab] OR bettor*[tiab] OR "sports bet"[tiab] OR wager*[tiab] OR bookmaker  
  *[tiab] OR sportsbook*[tiab] ) OR "Gambling"[Mesh]  
)
```

AND

(
 advertis*[tiab] OR marketing[tiab] OR sponsor*[tiab] OR promotion*[tiab] OR gamblif*[tiab] OR finte
 ch[tiab] OR "financial technology"[tiab] OR app[tiab] OR apps[tiab] OR application*[tiab] OR smartpho
 ne[tiab] OR mobile[tiab] OR online[tiab] OR "in-play"[tiab] OR inplay[tiab] OR live[tiab] OR micro-bet
 [tiab] OR "micro betting"[tiab] OR "embedded payment"[tiab] OR cashless[tiab] OR gamif[tiab]
 OR "financial harm"[tiab] OR "financial well-being"[tiab] OR "financial wellbeing"[tiab] OR "financial
 distress"[tiab] OR debt[tiab] OR over-indebt*[tiab] OR indebted*[tiab] OR "consumer credit"[tiab] OR "f
 inancial vulnerability"[tiab] OR "economic cost"[tiab] OR "social cost"[tiab] OR affordab*[tiab]
)

Then apply Filters: Publication date from 2007, and Language: English.

Broad sensitivity check

((sport*[tiab] OR football[tiab] OR soccer[tiab] OR athlet*[tiab] OR "sports fan"[tiab] OR league*[tiab]
) OR "Sports"[Mesh])
AND
((gambl*[tiab] OR betting[tiab] OR bettor*[tiab] OR "sports bet"[tiab] OR wager*[tiab]) OR "Gamblin
g"[Mesh])

Records retrieved

Database	Date run	Records retrieved
Scopus	4 Aug 2026	897
Web of Science Core Collection	4 Aug 2026	1,314
PubMed/MEDLINE	4 Aug 2026	381
Total (databases)		2,592

Supplementary searches

Because the SPORTDiscus, and PsycINFO (EBSCO) databases were not accessible to the review team, two supplementary searches were undertaken to reduce the risk of omission.

Hand-searching. The tables of contents of four leading sport-management and gambling-studies journals were screened by hand: Sport Management Review, European Sport Management Quarterly, International Gambling Studies, and Journal of Gambling Studies. Issues published between January 2020 and August 2026 were examined. The hand-search identified no additional eligible records beyond those already retrieved by the database searches.

Google Scholar. A supplementary Google Scholar search was run in 5 August 2026. Because Google Scholar does not support the full Boolean syntax used in the bibliographic databases, the search combined the review's core concepts in simplified form — sport and betting/gambling together with financial-wellbeing and harm terms (for example, “sports betting”, “gambling”, “financial harm”, “debt”, “financial wellbeing”). As the Google Scholar sweep was a supplementary safeguard against omission rather than a primary search, screening was limited, by prior agreement among the team, to the first 200 results ranked by relevance. Of these 200 results, 186 were duplicates of records already retrieved from the databases and 14 were new; on full assessment, one new study met the inclusion criteria (Newall et al. [86]).

De-duplication of supplementary records. Records from the hand-search and the Google Scholar sweep were imported into the same reference manager as the database records and checked against the existing library; duplicates (including the 186 Google Scholar overlaps) were removed before screening, so that each record was screened only once.

Reports sought but not retrieved, by source journal. Of the 552 reports sought for retrieval, 55 could not be obtained in full text through the review team's library consortium, being published in subscription or access-restricted journals. Their distribution by source journal is given below. Because their full texts were unavailable, their eligibility could not be determined.

Several of these journals are hybrid or only partly open-access: where an article was openly available it was retrieved and assessed in the normal way, whereas other articles in the same journals lay behind subscriptions or paywalls not covered by the consortium and could not be obtained in full text. The reports listed below are therefore the specific access-restricted articles that could not be retrieved — not entire journals; open-access articles from the same titles were retrieved and screened like any other record.

Source journal	Reports not retrieved (n)
<i>International Gambling Studies</i>	13
<i>Gaming Law Review</i>	5
<i>Journal of Gambling Issues</i>	9
<i>Journal of Addictive Diseases</i>	4
<i>Sport, Ethics and Philosophy</i>	4
<i>L'Encéphale</i>	2
<i>Canadian Journal of Science, Mathematics and Technology Education</i>	4
<i>Journal of Sport Management</i>	6
<i>International Journal of Sport Policy and Politics</i>	8
Total	55

Several of these journals are hybrid or only partly open-access: where an article was openly available it was retrieved and assessed in the normal way, whereas other articles in the same journals lay behind subscriptions or paywalls not covered by the consortium and could not be obtained in full text. The reports listed below are therefore the specific access-restricted articles that could not be retrieved — not entire journals; open-access articles from the same titles were retrieved and screened like any other record.