If you've ever remembered betting a team at -2.5, only to find your notes say -3, you already know why a betting receipt matters. A useful receipt records the exact wager and the price you accepted—not just who you picked. That gives you a reliable history, helps you compare prices before placing future bets, and lets you measure closing line value without relying on memory.

The key is consistency. Record your odds at the moment you place the bet, make sure you're comparing the same wager across sportsbooks, and keep the receipt even if the line later moves. A screenshot can help, but it doesn't reserve a price or prove by itself that a bet was accepted. Your sportsbook's bet confirmation is the primary record; your own tracker is the searchable backup.

What a betting receipt should include

Think of a receipt as a compact record of what you actually bought. The team or player is only one part of the bet. The market, period, line, odds, stake, and book all matter. If any of those details are missing, later comparisons can become misleading.

- **Date and time:** Include the time zone, especially for live bets or games near midnight.
- **Sport, event, and market:** For example, NFL, Bills at Dolphins, full-game spread.
- **Selection and line:** Such as Bills +3, or Under 47.5.
- **Odds taken:** Record the price exactly as displayed, such as -110 or +105.
- **Sportsbook:** Note where the wager was accepted.
- **Stake and potential return:** Use the amount risked and the payout shown on the bet confirmation.
- **Market period and rules:** Full game, first half, regulation time, or another period—and whether extra time is included where relevant.
- **Bet ID or confirmation:** Save the sportsbook's confirmation number if available.
- **Closing price:** Add this later, with the time and source used for the comparison.

For a parlay or accumulator, record each leg and its exact price, plus the combined odds and stake. Don't treat a multi-leg ticket as if it were one simple selection. Every added leg changes the payout and adds another condition that must win.

Make sure you're comparing the same bet

Market matching is where many tracking records go wrong. A spread at one sportsbook is not automatically comparable to a spread shown somewhere else. First confirm that the wager is identical: same event, same selection, same line, same period, and same settlement rules.

Spreads

A spread gives a team a points advantage or handicap. In an NFL game, "Team A -3" means Team A must win by more than three points for the bet to win; depending on the sportsbook's rules, a three-point win may be a push. The opposing side would be Team B +3.

Keep the number and price together. Team A -3 at -110 is a different offer from Team A -3.5 at -105. At -3, a win by exactly three may push; at -3.5, it cannot. Comparing only the prices ignores the change in the bet itself. A receipt should look like "Team A -3 (-110), full game," not just "Team A, -110."

Moneylines

A moneyline bet is on the winner, with odds reflecting how much you risk or can win. Negative odds generally show the amount you need to risk to win $100 in profit; positive odds show the profit on a $100 stake. For example, -125 and +115 are not interchangeable prices for the same side. Record the selected team and exact odds.

Also check the market rules. A moneyline might include overtime, while another market or sport-specific listing might be limited to regulation. Don't compare them until you've checked the period and settlement terms.

Totals

A total, sometimes called an over/under, is a bet on whether the combined score lands above or below a number. "Under 44.5 (-110)" is not the same wager as "Under 45 (-105)." The half-point can determine whether a particular final score wins or loses, and a whole-number total may allow a push. Write down both the side and the number, along with the odds.

Time and period matter

Games can have full-game, first-half, quarter, or other period markets. In soccer, check whether the market is for 90 minutes or includes extra time. In other sports, overtime treatment can vary by market and sportsbook. A full-game price and a regulation-only price may look similar on an odds board, but they are not the same bet.

Use odds boards to shop before you bet

Line shopping means checking more than one sportsbook for the best available price on the same wager. A small odds difference can matter over many bets, but the comparison only helps if you match the market correctly. Check the line first, then the odds. A more attractive price on a worse number may not be the better offer.



Odds boards can make that check faster. OddsTrader, Oddschecker (US edition), and Action Network provide odds information that can help you compare sportsbook markets. Their odds boards can display spreads, moneylines, and totals, and may show an opening line alongside the current price. Use those screens as a comparison tool, then confirm the final offer in the sportsbook where you plan to bet.

Before placing a wager, check:

- Is the event and market correct?
- Are both quotes for the same side and period?
- Is the spread or total number identical?
- Are the odds current, and when were they last updated?
- Does the sportsbook's bet slip still show the price you intended to take?

Odds pages can update at different times, and a displayed quote can change before you submit. A screenshot is a useful snapshot of what you saw, not a reserved price. The sportsbook's accepted bet slip or confirmation is the record of the price you actually got.

Track opening line, current price, and closing line separately

The opening line is the price or number first posted for a market, though the exact timing can vary by sportsbook and event. The current price is what a board or book shows at the time you check it. Your taken price is the offer accepted on your ticket. The closing line is the market price near the start of the event, using a consistent source and time definition.

These are different data points. Don't overwrite the price you took when the market moves. Keep it as the original receipt, then add the later prices in separate fields. For example, if you take a team at +3 (-110), and the market later closes at +2.5 (-110), your record should preserve both entries. That movement may be relevant to closing line value, but it doesn't change what your ticket says.

Opening line and current price displays are useful context, not proof of the quality of a bet by themselves. A market may move because of new information, changing demand, or differences between sportsbooks. Record the source of your comparison so you're not comparing a price from one book at close with a different market or timestamp later.

How to measure closing line value

Closing line value (CLV) is a way to compare the price you took with the market's closing price on the same wager. It can help you evaluate whether your timing and price shopping have been effective over a meaningful sample. It does not guarantee that a particular bet will win, and one result is not a full measure of decision quality.

For a clean CLV check, compare like with like: same team or selection, same spread or total, same market period, and the same settlement rules. If your wager was Team A -3, but the closing market is Team A -2.5, note the number difference rather than comparing only the odds. When the line number is unchanged, compare the prices as well. Your method should be consistent from bet to bet.

For example, suppose you bet Over 44.5 at -110. Later, the market closes at Over 45 at -110. Record that the total moved from 44.5 to 45, while keeping your original odds intact. Don't label it simply "better" or "worse" without accounting for how the number affects the wager. When there are multiple closing prices available, choose a reliable source or a consistent market reference and document it.

Choose a bet tracking app or a simple spreadsheet

A bet tracking app can make it easier to search your history, calculate results, and review prices. A spreadsheet works too, especially if you want control over the columns and formulas. The tool matters less than whether you

record the same details every time.

Field Example Why it matters Event and market NFL, Team A vs. Team B, full-game spread Identifies the wager and period Selection and line Team A -3 Preserves the exact point number Odds and stake -110, $25 risked Records the price and amount accepted Book and confirmation Sportsbook name, bet ID Connects your notes to the accepted ticket Opening and taken price Open: -2.5; taken: -3 (-110) Shows how the market changed before your bet Closing price and source Close: -3.5 (-110), chosen reference Supports a consistent CLV review

Keep sensitive account information out of a shared tracker. You usually don't need login details, full payment information, or other private data to track a wager. If you store screenshots, label them with the event and date, and keep the accepted confirmation separate from a pre-bet odds-board screenshot.



A quick routine for every bet

1. **Shop the same market.** Check multiple books or odds boards for the identical selection, line, and period.
2. **Open the sportsbook bet slip.** Confirm the current line and odds in the place where you'll submit the bet.
3. **Place the bet and verify acceptance.** Check the confirmation for the accepted price, stake, and market.
4. **Record your odds immediately.** Enter the details in your bet tracking app or spreadsheet before relying on memory.
5. **Save the confirmation.** Keep the bet ID or a screenshot of the accepted ticket if useful.
6. **Add the closing comparison later.** Record the closing number, price, source, and time without changing the original entry.
7. **Review in batches.** Look for patterns across a meaningful number of wagers, not conclusions from a handful of outcomes.

Keep the receipt, not the memory

The best betting receipt is simple, complete, and created while the details are in front of you. Record the number and odds together, identify the sportsbook and period, and preserve the accepted confirmation. Then use odds boards for spreads, moneylines, totals, opening line, and current price display to shop and compare—while verifying the offer in the sportsbook before you submit.

Most important, keep your taken price separate from later market prices. That small habit makes it possible to review your decisions honestly, calculate closing line 100percentsurewins value consistently, and avoid treating a stale screen or screenshot as a guaranteed quote.