

When it comes to betting totals, those half-point differences—like a total of 47 vs 47.5—might seem trivial at first glance. But for bettors who line shop totals and want to maximize their edge, understanding how that half point impacts your wager and combined with the price (juice, vig) can be the difference between winning and losing in the long run.

As someone who's spent over a decade writing about sports betting and working inside sportsbooks, I can tell you these nuances are where recreational bettors often make what I call *self-inflicted wounds*. This post will unpack the key factors you need to weigh when choosing between a total 47 and 47.5, along with why price matters just as much as the pick itself.

Understanding the Difference: Total 47 vs 47.5

At its core, the difference between a total 47 and 47.5 is the opportunity to get a **push** on your bet.

- **Total 47:** If the combined final score equals exactly 47, your bet results in a push—meaning you neither win nor lose, your stake is returned.
- **Total 47.5:** There is no possibility of a push. You either win by going over or under, or you lose, because a half point eliminates the tie.

To illustrate:

Total Line	Final Score	Adds Up To	Outcome
47	47	Push	- bet refunded
47.5	47	Under	wins
47.5	48	Over	loses

Some bettors prefer the peace of mind that comes with the push, while others prefer the definitive outcome of no-push lines. But there's more to consider than just this.

Price Matters As Much As the Pick

It's a common pitfall to focus solely on the "over" or "under" side of a bet without paying close attention to the price—or juice—you're getting. Many sportsbooks price totals at *-110*, meaning you have to risk \$110 to win \$100.

Let's say you see total 47 at *-110* and total 47.5 at the same price:

Total Line	Price	Risk	Potential Win
47	-110	\$110	\$100
47.5	-110	\$110	\$100

Since the prices are the same, the difference comes down to your edge proposition. However, if one sportsbook offers 47 at *-110* and another 47.5 at *-105* or even *-108*, that difference can add up over time.

Why Does Juice (Vig) Matter?

The juice, or vig (vigorish), is how sportsbooks make money. With standard *-110* pricing, the sportsbook collects about 4.76% on each wager. That may not sound like much, but over thousands of bets, it compounds. If you consistently accept worse prices, you're effectively paying a loyalty tax to that sportsbook.

What Is Sportsbook Loyalty Tax?

Sportsbook loyalty tax occurs when bettors stick to a single sportsbook and accept worse prices instead of shopping around for better odds. Let me ask you: **At what price?** Do you really like a "team" or side when you're

paying -110 juice on a pick someone else offers at -105? Those five points may not seem like much, but in the long run they cost you.

Here's a simple break down of vig math between -110 and -105 pricing:

Price Implied Win Probability Vig Percentage -110 52.38% 4.76% -105 51.22% 2.44%

By consistently chasing -110 prices, you pay roughly double the vig compared to -105 lines, and that eats your bankroll over time.

Line Shopping Basics for Totals

Effective line shopping is the hallmark of a sharp bettor. In totals markets, that means:



1. **Comparing Total Lines:** Find whether the line is set at 47 or 47.5 and weigh the possibility of a push.
2. **Comparing Prices:** Check if the sportsbook is offering -110, -108, -105 or something else.
3. **Evaluating Market Signal:** Sometimes early lines move after sharp money or injury news; understanding why the line differs might inform your bet.
4. **Using Multiple Sportsbooks:** Accessing two or three sportsbooks gives you the flexibility to key on the best total and price combination.

Example: You like the under on 47.5 at -110 sportsgamblingpodcast.com at Book A, but at Book B you see the under 47 at -111. Is the risk of push worth the better total and slightly worse price? Your edge estimate and personal risk tolerance decide.

Leveraging Sportsbook Apps and Tools

For line shoppers, modern sportsbook apps are essential. Here's how you can use them to your advantage.

Push Notifications for Line Moves and Offers

Good sportsbook apps let you set push notifications for line moves or new offers on games you're tracking. This means the moment the total changes from 47 to 47.5 or prices improve, you get alerted immediately instead of refreshing pages incessantly.

- **Example:** You receive a notification that Book C dropped the juice on a total 47.5 from -110 to -107. Knowing this in real time helps you lock in better prices.

Same-Game Parlay Offers for Customized Totals

Many sportsbooks now feature same-game parlay (SGP) promos with boosted odds and flexible total options. These can be a two-edged sword:

- **Pros:** You might combine over/under totals with spreads, player props, and get enhanced juice or cashback if the parlay loses narrowly.
- **Cons:** The pricing is often worse than standard totals bets, so always check the math behind the promo.

When comparing 47 vs 47.5 totals, an SGP offer could let you hedge or tailor your risk exposure more precisely, but never accept promo pricing blindly. I keep a running *"self-inflicted wounds"* note of errors people make by chasing juicy parlays without proper line shopping.

Summary: How to Decide Between Total 47 vs 47.5 and Which Sportsbook to Use

In short, your choice should be driven by a combination of:

- **The exact total line:** Would you rather risk a push or go all-in on the half point?
- **The price (juice):** -110 is standard, but even a few ticks difference (like -108 or -105) greatly impacts your expected value.
- **Your betting goals and bankroll:** Are you a risk-averse bettor who prefers less variance or a sharp who wants the best line no matter what?
- **Available sportsbook tools:** Using apps with real-time notifications and same-game parlay offers smartly can improve your overall profitability.
- **Habit and loyalty tax avoidance:** Don't fall into the trap of sticking with one sportsbook just for convenience. Shop lines and prices regularly to avoid paying unnecessary juice.

Final Thoughts

The difference between a 47 and 47.5 total line matters more than it initially seems. Factor in the juice and your risk tolerance before placing a bet. As the old saying goes, "The best bet isn't always the pick you like, but the pick you like at the right price." Line shopping totals, understanding juice math, and leveraging sportsbook apps are critical for turning winning picks into consistent bankroll growth.

Remember: always ask yourself, **at what price** you really like that total, and be prepared to shop around. It's the single best habit you can build to improve your sports betting results.

