**Win Loss Record vs. Against the Spread (“ATS”) Record**

**Win Loss Record** indicates the number of Wins and Losses an NBA team has over a season. Note; some sports can end in a tie, NBA rules do not allow a game to end in a tie so after each contest a team will be rewarded a **win or a loss** dependent on which team scored the most points at the end of the game.

**Against the Spread (“ATS”) Record** indicates the number of Wins (aka “Covers”) and Losses (aka “No-Cover”) an NBA has *not* based on which team scored the most points but based on the final score incorporating a “**spread**”.

Applying the spread to the final score of an NBA game can be done in one of two ways, each having the same result.

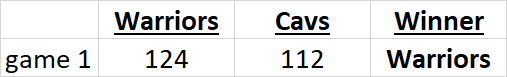
1. Subtract the spread amount from thefinal score of the team that is Favored (aka the **Favorite**), or
2. Add the spread amount to the final score of the team that is the **Underdog**

**Setting** **the spread** is done by the **book maker**, examples of book makers include a casino sportsbook (Westgate Superbook), online gambling app (DraftKings – legal in some states) or your uncle Vinny (not legal anywhere).

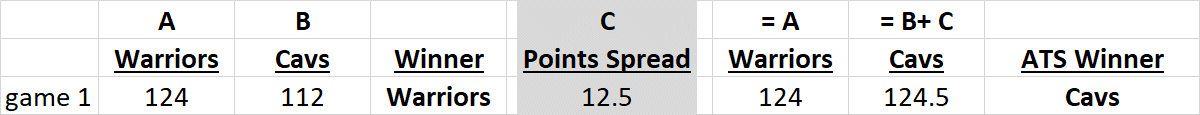
When **setting the spread** the book maker is attempting to **get bettors to bet in total (not individual bettor) an even amount of money on each team**, this reduces the risk / losses a book maker will have to pay when one team wins. Put another way, the purpose of the spread is to **even the odds of between two unevenly matched teams** – which will help the book maker achieve a close to 50/50 betting split among gamblers.

Example using game 1 of the 2018 NBA Finals between the Golden State Warriors and the Cleveland Cavaliers (“Cavs”).

In game 1 the Warriors were the **Favorite** by 12.5 points or they were laying / giving 12.5 points (-12.5) to the **Underdog** Cavs. At the end of the game the Warriors had scored 124 points to the Cavs 112 points meaning the Warriors won the game.



When incorporating the spread (which can be done by taking the spread ***from* the Favorite** team’s final score **or** adding it ***to* the Underdog** team’s final score the Against the Spread winner for game 1 was actually the Cavs example below adds the 12.5 points to the Cavs who are the Underdog):



From a gambling perspective, as a bettor if you took the “Cavs plus the points” you would of won the bet even though the Cavs actually lost the game.

**How can we use ATS records?**

The case can be made that looking at ATS records gives a truer picture of how a team is performing. The spread is intended to even out to unevenly matched team whereas the standard Win Loss record does not.

The spread will incorporate if a team has an injured player, the individual player matchups between the two teams, if a team is on a winning or losing streak, if they just played the night before and their opponent has had 3 days rest, where they are in the standings (on occasion a team will tank in the attempt to better their draft pick the following year), in outdoor sports like football or baseball the spread will even consider weather (if the Miami Dolphins have to travel to Buffalo to play a game in late December with below freezing temperatures and snow).