



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

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Photos International Olympic Committee

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INVESTIGATIONS

F1

FIA President under investigation for interference in 2023 Saudi Grand Prix

In Formula 1, the head of the International Automobile Federation has been accused of using his position to influence and overturn a decision against a driver, and so impacted the final result.

Source: 5 March 2024, *Insidethegames*

F1

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1144078/fia-president-investigation-interference>

Ireland

Gardaí investigating spot fixing attempt in League of Ireland

A League of Ireland player is praised for reporting an attempted spot fixing approach, prompting a Garda investigation, with both FAI and PFAI emphasizing the importance of vigilance and education in preventing such incidents.

Source: 1 March 2024, *The Irish Times*

Football

<https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/soccer/2024/03/01/gardai-investigating-spot-fixing-attempt-in-league-of-ireland/>

Spain

53 members of a criminal organisation arrested for sports corruption in Spain

Led by the Spanish National Police, a total of 53 individuals were arrested in Madrid and Guadalajara for their role in fixing football, tennis, and table tennis matches across 20 countries, resulting in estimated winnings of EUR 2 million. The operation, supported by Europol, INTERPOL and the Spanish Tax Agency, also revealed sophisticated methods of livestream manipulation and money laundering.

Source: 1 March 2024, *Europol*

<https://www.europol.europa.eu/media-press/newsroom/news/53-members-of-criminal-organisation-arrested-for-sports-corruption-in-spain>

Spain

La Fiscalía del 'caso Oikos' solo ve "conjeturas" en las sospechas de amañeos de dos partidos de Primera

In Spain, the Oikos case, in which a plot of corruption in Spanish football has been investigated since 2019, may be dropped due to a lack of hard evidence.

Source: 6 March 2024, *El País*

Football

<https://elpais.com/deportes/2024-03-01/la-fiscalia-del-caso-oikos-solo-ve-conjeturas-en-las-sospechas-de-amanos-de-dos-partidos-de-primera.html>

United States

Iowa State Betting Scandal: Case Against College Athletes Implodes

Felony identity theft charges against four Iowa State athletes were dropped after prosecutors requested dismissal due to evidence obtained through warrantless searches. The athletes allegedly bet using others' accounts, and defense attorneys argued the searches violated their rights.

Source: 3 March 2024, *Casino*

<https://www.casino.org/news/iowa-state-betting-scandal-case-against-college-athletes-implodes/>

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Malta

Match-Fixing Scandal: Ex-Attard FC Member Rudgear Scerri's Sentence Increased on Appeal

Former Attard FC member Rudgear Scerri's sentence for match-fixing in Malta was increased on appeal, emphasizing the country's strict stance against corruption in sports. Initially sentenced to two years in prison, his sentence was adjusted to six months in jail with additional long-term restrictions, highlighting the gravity of sports-related corruption.

Source: 5 March 2024, *BNN*

<https://bnnbreaking.com/sports/match-fixing-scandal-ex-attard-fc-member-rudgear-scerri-s-sentence-increased-on-appeal>

Portugal

CD suspende jogador por envolvimento em apostas desportivas

Daniel Esteves suspended for a season and fined for involvement in sports betting, having placed over 663 bets during the 2021/22 season while playing for Marinhense, leading to a tumultuous relationship with teammates and affecting his performance.

Source: 27 February 2024, *Mais Futebol*

Football

<https://maisfutebol.iol.pt/apostas/marinhense/antigo-jogador-do-marinhense-suspenso-por-apostas-desportivas>

ODDS AND ENDS

Bournemouth University

Avatar manipulation and 'e-doping' perceived as widespread among e-sport participants

Research of Bournemouth University (BU) indicates that the virtual avatars or characters in e-sports can be used to manipulate the course of an e-sports competitions, for example by manipulating the participants bodyweight in the avatar or online character.

Source: 9 March 2024, Bournemouth University

eSports

https://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/news/2024-03-01/avatar-manipulation-e-doping-perceived-widespread-among-e-sport-participants?utm_source=substack&utm_medium=email

Brazil

Welcome to Curaçao: How a Caribbean island facilitates the illegal betting boom

Offshore betting operators exploit Curaçao licenses, facilitating illegal betting in Brazil and beyond, with lax regulations and little recourse for bettors.

Source: 29 February 2024, Play the Game

<https://www.playthegame.org/news/welcome-to-curaçao-how-a-caribbean-island-facilitates-the-illegal-betting-boom/>

Global

UFDS Annual Report: Betting Corruption and Match-Fixing in 2023

UFDS Annual Report: Betting Corruption and Match-Fixing in 2023. Sportradar Integrity Services' report into match-fixing and betting corruption in 2023 highlights the extent of match-fixing and the steps being taken to address it.

Source: 1 March 2024, Sportradar

https://goto.sportradar.com/533382/2024-03-01/7p9m9d/533382/170929916597HjWoHQ/Betting_Corruption_and_Match_Fixing_in_2023.pdf

IBIA

The availability of sports betting products: an economic and integrity analysis

A new IBIA and H2 Gambling Capital study looks at the impact of a wide availability of sports betting products in jurisdictions on sports integrity, consumer protection and tax revenue.

Source: 4 March 2024, IBIA

https://ibia.bet/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/IBIA-Report-2024_FINAL-TEXT_SINGLE_AW.pdf

IOC

A Practical Guide to the Prosecution of Cases of Competition Manipulation

A new IOC and UNODC guide on the prosecution of cases of competition manipulation, looks at the challenges relating to prosecuting cases of competition manipulation, and sets out a recommended framework for doing so.

Source: 28 February 2024, IOC UNODC

https://www.unodc.org/documents/Safeguardingsport/Publications/GUIDE_PROSECUTION_COMPETITION_MANIPULATION_NOV23_compressed.pdf

UCI

The UCI launches its Fair Cycling campaign

The international cycling federation (UCI) launched a campaign aimed at cycling stakeholders to raise awareness on all forms of competition manipulation.

Source: 4 March 2024, UCI

Cycling

<https://www.uci.org/pressrelease/the-uci-launches-its-fair-cycling-campaign/6bzX69DDUxJieNinMlvBkk>

INTEGRITY IN SPORT EVENTS

CSCF Sport Integrity Group

CSCF Foundation for Sport Integrity and Ministry of Youth and Sports of Bulgaria jointly hosted a landmark conference on combating sport and esports crimes in Sofia

The CSCF Foundation and Bulgaria's Ministry of Youth and Sports hosted a key conference in Sofia, uniting stakeholders to combat sports and esports crimes under the Integrisport 3.0 project. With extensive participation, including from sports federations, international bodies and INTERPOL, the event focused on strategic planning to address challenges and uphold sports integrity through collaboration and dialogue.

Source: 7 March 2024, Sport Integrity Group

<https://cscfsport.com/2024/03/07/integrisport3-0-awareness-raising-practical-session-bulgaria/>

MATCH FIXING

Global

Ksa match-fixing trends 2023; suspicious sport contest reports down 85%

The Dutch gaming authority reports an 85% decrease in suspicious sports competitions reported by operators in 2023, potentially due to operators' unawareness of reporting procedures.

Source: 29 February 2024, *Gambling Insider*

<https://www.gamblinginsider.com/news/24345/ksa-match-fixing-trends-2023-suspicious-sport-contest-reports-down-85>

India

'I LEAGUE IS FIXED': Ranjit Bajaj makes sensational claims about match-fixing in Indian football

Former Punjab FC owner Ranjit Bajaj alleges widespread match-fixing in Indian football leagues, pointing to shared ownership among clubs and offers to manipulate matches.

Source: 4 March 2024, *Firstpost*

<https://www.firstpost.com/sports/football-news/indian-football-match-fixing-i-league-ranjit-bajaj-13744837.html>

United States

Temple University reviewing reports of potential match-fixing of men's basketball game

In the United States, a university basketball team said it is reviewing a game following reports of suspicious betting on the point spread or point difference.

Source: 9 March 2024, *First investors Europe*

<https://firstinvestorsusa.com/2024/03/09/temple-university-reviewing-reports-of-potential-match-fixing-of-mens-basketball-game/>

CORRUPTION

Brazil

Bribery conviction of Rio 2016 organiser overturned

In Brazil, the court overturned a prison sentence for bribery and corruption involving the president of the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games, on grounds of incompetence.

Source: 9 March 2024, *Insidethegames*

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1144147/rio-2016-organiser-conviction-overturned>

Spain

Spain prosecutors seek jail for Real Madrid coach Ancelotti over tax

In Spain, prosecutors want the head coach of the Real Madrid team jailed for not declaring earnings to the tax office.

Source: 7 March 2024, *France 24*

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20240306-spain-prosecutors-seek-jail-for-ex-madrid-coach-ancelotti-over-tax>

