



INTERPOL

# INTEGRITY IN SPORT

## Bi-weekly Bulletin

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Photos International Olympic Committee

## INVESTIGATIONS

### Serbia

#### Soccer-Games in Serbia under match-fixing scrutiny, says FA

UEFA has asked the Serbian Football Association (FSS) to investigate games in March where match-fixing might have taken place, the Balkan nation's soccer governing body said on Sunday.

Serbia's Sport Klub television said on its website ([www.sportklub.rs](http://www.sportklub.rs)) that it had learned, without naming its sources, there was suspicion that two matches were rigged last month without specifying the competition.

"It is true that we have received certain information from UEFA suggesting possible irregularities pointing to breach of integrity in some games," FSS spokesman Milan Vukovic said in a statement.

"The FSS has opened proceedings but at this time we cannot reveal more details. We will inform the public about our findings in due course."

Sport Klub said monitoring betting patterns in Europe and Asia linked to the games had prompted UEFA to ask the FSS to investigate possible match-fixing.

*Source: 11 April 2021, Yahoo Sports*

*Football*

<https://uk.sports.yahoo.com/news/soccer-games-serbia-under-match-103005013.html>



## United States

### FBI probes match-fixing in Counter-Strike eSports

Authorities in Australia and the US are investigating a handful of gamers over match-fixing and illegal betting in Counter-Strike competitions.

The Esports Integrity Commission is working with the FBI to investigate a "small but significant group".

Allegations include accepting bribes from betting syndicates to fix matches.

Counter-Strike: Global Offensive is a popular competitive title with millions of pounds in prize money.

In an interview with YouTuber and gamer slash32, ESIC commissioner Ian Smith said his organisation was working with the FBI not only to look at "players just doing it off their own bat, opportunistically" but also match-fixing that had been "going on for longer [and is] much more organised".

The more opportunistic cheats, whom Mr Smith described as "idiots", are likely to face bans, and details will be announced shortly, he said.

The second, more serious investigation into organised match-fixing is likely to take longer, in part because the FBI only recently set up a sports betting investigative unit.

"They are good but they are inexperienced because sports betting has never been a big thing in America," said Mr Smith.

Counter-Strike is one of the oldest eSports titles, and its large prize funds make it vulnerable to both match-fixing and the use of software cheats.

In January, the ESIC banned 35 Australian players who breached its anti-corruption code. It follows bans for seven players in 2020.

Also last year, 37 coaches - people who oversee teams of players - were banned for exploiting a bug which gave them an unrestricted view of certain parts of the game's maps.

Research director at Ampere Analysis, Piers Harding-Rolls said the integrity of eSports is "paramount to its commercial potential".

"Any factors that undermine this will have wider commercial ramifications for an industry which often struggles with profitability," he added.

"Clearly, it's positive that law enforcement is getting involved in investigating these match fixing allegations. This is the kind of robust response that is needed to help guide eSports into a place where it can be more directly compared with traditional sports and continue its shift towards the mainstream."

Source: 7 April 2021, BBC

eSports

<https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-56648916>

## SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

### Chile

#### CAS upholds sanction for Juan Carlos Sáez

The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) has dismissed an appeal from Chilean tennis player Juan Carlos Sáez against a disciplinary sanction imposed on 19 August 2019.

The CAS ruling means that the original sanction of an eight year suspension and a fine of \$12,500 remains in place. Mr Sáez was also ordered to pay CHF 3,000 in legal costs.

Details of the original sanction can be found here: <https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/juan-carlos-saez-suspended-eight-years-and-fined-12500-breaches-tennis-anti-corruption-program/>

Source: 12 April 2021, ITIA

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/juan-carlos-saez-suspended-eight-years-and-fined-12500-breaches-tennis-anti-corruption-program/>

## Serbia

### REF JAILED Referee Srdjan Obradovic sentenced to 15 months in jail and given 10-year football ban after awarding scandalous penalty

A SERBIAN referee was slapped with a 15-month jail-term and ten-year football ban after awarding a scandalous penalty.

Srbjan Obradovic gave two highly contentious penalties - both scored - in Spartak Subotica's 2-0 win against Radnicki Nis in the Serbian league in 2018.

The game was a crucial match in the league's play-off stage and the winner would have a key advantage in securing Europa League qualification.

The visitors had also been reduced to ten men while the scores were still level.

Milan Pavkov was sent packing after being handed a second yellow card two minutes after his first.

The striker now plays for Red Star Belgrade and attended the ref's trial as a key witness.

Footage of the second penalty in the 78th minute left onlookers stunned as the ref blew up for a spot-kick with nobody appealing and no sign of a foul.

And almost three years on, the anti-corruption department of the Novi Sad Supreme Court has come down hard on the official.

As reported by Serbian news agency Tanjug, the court has sentenced the man in the middle to 15 months behind bars.

On top of his jail term, Obradovic is banned from any role with the Serbian FA for a decade.

*Source: 1 April 2021, The Sun*

*Football*

<https://www.thesun.co.uk/sport/football/14523388/serbian-referee-15-months-jail-scandalous-penalty/>

## Venezuela

### Venezuelan Roberto Maytín banned for 14 years

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has confirmed that Venezuelan tennis player Roberto Maytín has been banned from the sport for 14 years after admitting multiple breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP) rules. In addition to the ban, Maytín was fined \$100,000, of which \$75,000 is suspended.

The offences took place in 2017 and 2018 and Maytín, who had a highest ATP doubles ranking of 86 in 2015 (current doubles ranking 179) and highest singles ranking of 643 in 2008, is now prohibited from playing in, coaching at or otherwise attending any tennis event authorised or sanctioned by the governing bodies of tennis for a period of 14 years from 29 March 2021.

The case was dealt with under the 2021 TACP 'Proposal for Disposition' framework. This allows for a sanction to be handed down from the ITIA to the player upon admission of guilt, without the need for a hearing.

The breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program rules that Mr Maytín has admitted to are:

Section D.1.d of the 2017 and 2018 TACP: "No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, contrive or attempt to contrive the outcome or any other aspect of any Event."

Section D.2.a of the 2017 and 2018 TACP: "In the event any Player is approached by any person who offers or provides any type of money, benefit or Consideration to a Player to (i) influence the outcome or any other aspect of any Event, or (ii) provide Inside Information, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such incident to the TIU [now ITIA] as soon as possible."

Section D.1.f of the 2017 and 2018 TACP: "No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or accept any money, benefit or Consideration with the intention of negatively influencing a Player's best efforts in any Event."

Section F5 of the 2021 TACP sets out the process and procedures for Agreed Dispositions. Once the disposition has been agreed, the accused accepts the sanction and waives the right to a hearing or any appeal.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency is an independent body established by the International Governing Bodies of Tennis to promote, encourage, enhance and safeguard the integrity of professional tennis worldwide.

*Source: 31 March 2021, ITIA*

*Tennis*

<https://elinku.clickdimensions.com/m/1/84431288/p1-b21090-421c33f8266a4212967b081a0262566b/1/835/0c57aeed-039b-4325-9376-233ffca0174d>

## LEGISLATION

### France

#### French Parliament recognises the national platform against manipulation of sports competitions

On 19 March, the French National Assembly unanimously adopted an article recognising the national platform to combat the manipulation of sports competitions. Recommended in several recent parliamentary reports, this recognition authorises the exchange of information between the members of the platform and with international actors in the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions, including international sports organisations.

Régis Juanico, Member of Parliament, stated that: "This recognition completes three advances made during the previous legislature: the drafting of the Council of Europe's international convention, known as the Macolin Convention; the setting up in January 2016 by Thierry Braillard of the national platform to combat the manipulation of sports competitions, in which the police, the National Financial Prosecutor's Office, the National Gaming Authority, the Ministry of Sport, the French National Olympic and Sports Committee - CNOF -, the National Association of Professional Sports Leagues, the French Anti-Corruption Agency, the Française des Jeux and the integrity delegates participate; the creation of an international network of national platforms in July 2016 in Copenhagen, a group that includes thirty-three countries and continues to grow".

Here is a translation of the adopted text:<sup>7</sup>

National platform for the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions

Art.L.334-1.

I. - The national platform for the fight against the manipulation of sporting competitions shall:

1° Serve as a centre for the collection, collation and sharing of information and documents useful in the fight against the manipulation of sports competitions by transmitting them, where appropriate, to the competent authorities and sports organisations;

2° Promote cooperation with the national and international actors concerned in the prevention, detection and repression of manipulation of sports competitions, in particular through the exchange of information between them;

3° Raise awareness among sports stakeholders on the subject of the manipulation of sports competitions;

II - The platform mentioned in I of this article is chaired by the Minister for Sport.

III - As part of the task of monitoring gambling operations conferred on it by Article 34 of the 2010-476 Act of 12 May 2010 relating to the opening up to competition and the regulation of the online gambling sector, the National Gaming Authority shall receive, centralise and analyse, for the platform referred to in the present article, reports relating to atypical and suspicious bets taken on sports competitions organised or open to betting on French territory.

IV - A decree in the Council of State shall determine the composition and operation of the platform.

Art.L.334-2.

The members of the national platform for combating the manipulation of sporting competitions may communicate and exchange with the national and international players mentioned in Article L.334-1, under the conditions and according to the procedures laid down by decree of the Council of State issued after consultation with the National Commission for data protection, information and documents that are useful in combating the manipulation of sporting competitions, including those covered by professional secrecy, subject to the provisions of Article 11 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The members of the national platform for combating the manipulation of sports competitions and all natural or legal persons who, in any capacity whatsoever, participate, even occasionally, in the activity of the platform shall be bound by professional secrecy with regard to the facts, acts and information of which they may have become aware by virtue of their duties. Failure to comply with professional secrecy, as established by a final court decision, shall result in the automatic termination of their duties within the platform. This secrecy may not be invoked against the judicial authority.

Art. L.334-2-1.

The members of the national platform for combating the manipulation of sporting competitions may not personally, directly or through an intermediary bets on games or bets offered by online sports betting or gaming operators holding the authorisation provided for in Article 21 of Law n°2010-476 of 12 May 2010 relating to the opening up to competition and the regulation of the online gambling sector and by the company holding exclusive rights mentioned in Article 137 of Law n°2019-486 of 22 May 2019 relating to the growth and transformation of businesses

Source: 2 April 2021, Senat FR

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All Sports

<http://www.senat.fr/dossier-legislatif/ppl20-465.html>

## BETTING

### United States

#### **Bookie with long history of alleged mob links sentenced to more than two years in prison for role in gambling case**

A longtime bookmaker with alleged ties to the Chicago Outfit was sentenced to two and a half years in federal prison Wednesday for his role in an illegal sports betting business, authorities said.

Gregory Emmett Paloian, of Elmwood Park, admitted in a plea agreement with federal prosecutors earlier this year that he ran the operation over a four-year period beginning in 2015. He also pleaded guilty to failing to pay about \$200,000 in state and federal taxes during the length of the scheme.

Preliminary guidelines considered by U.S. District Judge Joan Lefkowitz called for a range of 27 to 33 months in prison.

Prosecutors have said there were at least five other people who worked with Paloian and that the investigation involved wiretaps. Paloian used “a number of agents” to recruit gamblers for his illegal business in Chicago, Melrose Park and Elmwood Park that took in more than \$2,000 on some days and used a foreign website to handle bets and bookkeeping.

Court records show Paloian has a criminal history that includes Outfit connections and friendships with some colorful — and notorious — Chicago characters.

Paloian had links to John “Quarters” Boyle, who pleaded guilty to mail fraud and tax fraud in connection with accepting bribes from trucking companies when he worked for the city’s Transportation Department, the Chicago Tribune reported in 2005. Paloian was removed from the scandal-plagued Hired Truck Program after pleading guilty in another criminal case, the Tribune reported.

His felony record includes a 1980 conviction on charges of extending juice loans to gamblers. Federal prosecutors said in one court filing Paloian had dozens of other arrests on his record, including one in 1995 when Chicago police spotted him writing down suspected wagers at a basketball facility in Elmwood Park.

When officers approached, Paloian shoved bunches of paper in his mouth and “fell to the ground and rolled around” until he was able to swallow them, prosecutors said.

In 2002, Paloian pleaded guilty to federal racketeering charges alleging he’d been running an illegal gambling ring under the protection of West Side Outfit boss Rocky Infelise that raked in millions of dollars over at least two decades.

Source: 7 April 2021, Chicago Tribune

All Sports

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/news/criminal-justice/ct-prem-mob-gambling-sentencing-paloian-20210407-nlckb3puvrcx7olipdcggwc2z4-story.html>



## DOPING

### United States

#### Behind new law, the FBI is getting into anti-doping, but not everyone wants the help

Behind a new law it intends to wield like a “massive hammer,” the FBI is viewing this summer’s Tokyo Olympics as the first opportunity to expand its efforts to probe corruption in sporting events around the world. But given the reception the law received internationally when it was signed in December, the Summer Games instead might test whether U.S. investigators can expect cooperation or resistance from their global counterparts.

The Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act gives American prosecutors the ability to pursue anyone who conspires to cheat in major sporting events. Even before the law passed, Joseph Gillespie, the FBI’s unit chief overseeing transnational threats, launched the Sport and Gaming Initiative, focusing more attention and resources on investigating sports-specific crimes. He said investigators have met with Department of Justice officials and begun outreach with foreign law enforcement agencies and sports organizations to discuss ways to better police sports internationally.

“We have this massive tool where it’s a codified thing that we can use to go after people,” Gillespie said. “You see lots of legislation come in, and sometimes it’s very loose and vague and not very expansive. This particular one, because of the elements, their definition of a major international sports competition, it’s quite expansive.”

Born out of the Russia doping scandal, the law easily passed through Congress last year. But some international sports officials felt the United States was granting itself gratuitous powers, expanding its jurisdiction to any international sports event that includes an American athlete, is broadcast in the United States or features a sponsor that does business in the United States.

The World Anti-Doping Agency railed against the bill, warning jurisdictional issues will complicate and undermine existing anti-doping efforts.

For many U.S. Olympic hopefuls, Tokyo preparations include vaccine shots

The Tokyo Olympics could provide the first glimpse of how the law might be implemented, revealing the willingness of U.S. authorities to apply it, the level of cooperation they’ll receive from outside agencies and the hurdles inherent with enforcing extraterritorial laws.

“These types of laws are helpful in terms of creating some kind of definition of the crimes. But their bark is often way worse than their bite,” said Mark A. Drumbl, director of the Transnational Law Institute at the Washington and Lee School of Law. “You can’t bring a case if you don’t have evidence. Without the transfer of people, information, witnesses, it leads to nothing.”

The bill’s namesake, Grigory Rodchenkov, the whistleblower who helped expose the depths of the Russian scandal, said it will be needed in Tokyo, where Russia has been formally barred but dozens of Russian athletes will be allowed to compete as “neutral athletes from Russia.” In an email to The Washington Post, he said Russians “keep using doping as a weapon to test whether the international community will ever hold them to account.”

“The Rodchenkov Act is now the ‘doping sword of Damocles’ hanging over the heads of the doping orchestrators who know that sooner or later they will be punished,” he said. “I do firmly believe that this law, and the U.S. Department of Justice and FBI, will bring a new day of real change, deterrence and justice to world sport.”

‘Absolutely inevitable’

Unique in the sports world, the Rodchenkov Act could be similar in practice to other extraterritorial laws, such as the RICO Act. The law equates doping with a form of fraud, victimizing athletes, sponsors and audiences who expect clean and fair competition. While the courts have helped define the reach and limits of other transnational laws, Congress tried to make the scope and reach of the Rodchenkov Act immediately clear.

Paul Massaro, a policy adviser for the Helsinki Commission and a key architect of the legislation, has a background in anti-corruption, finance and trade and wanted a law that was practical and gave authorities proper guidance. In other sports-related cases — the FIFA investigation, for example — prosecutors have had to hunt for applicable pieces of the RICO and Travel acts. This law codifies the anti-doping crimes.

“It is the real deal,” Massaro said. “It has real teeth, and we expect real enforcement. We expect real deterrence, and we have the capacity to do so. We’ve seen exactly this happen with all sorts of extraterritorial criminal law.”

Massaro and Rodchenkov appeared this week on the “Helsinki on the Hill” podcast, one of the rare times Rodchenkov, the former head of Russia’s national anti-doping laboratory who now lives incognito in the United States, has spoken publicly. In the interview, he likened doping to a cancer that has metastasized over several years and said the world has “no remedy, no tool, no cannon or rifle to kill everything at once.”

“Look, why Rodchenkov Act was inevitable? Because sport corruption and crime, they have close-link relations,” he said. “And if you take a helicopter view, what would we have in sport, we have several issues. It’s betting/gambling, sexism and doping. The first two issues, there are criminal laws and criminal things. So it was absolutely inevitable to bring criminal law enforcement into sport.”

Passing a law and enforcing one are different matters. Extraterritorial criminal laws require cooperation at almost every level, Drumbl said, and even if the U.S. law is clearly defined, American authorities might need foreign support to vigorously pursue investigations.

“Without the cooperation of other states — if the harm occurred somewhere else, if the information you need is somewhere else, if the wrongdoers are somewhere else — it’s just going to be hard in a practical, logistical sense to bring a case,” he said. “You need a lot of cooperation for this to work in a legal system. That’s the stuff that law makes more complicated. It’s not just politics. You’ve got to adhere to a whole set of standards.”

Tokyo Olympics organizers ban spectators from outside Japan in pandemic-control measure

Gillespie, too, says the FBI has had lengthy discussions with entities such as Interpol and the Council of Europe’s Network of

National Platforms, in which more than 30 countries work together to probe sports competition. Known as the Group of Copenhagen, the multinational entity has relationships with organizations such as FIFA and the International Olympic Committee, and the FBI was among the agencies on-site at the 2019 Women's World Cup, aiding real-time investigative efforts. "We need to increase our rapport and cooperation with the sporting organizations, those integrity elements," Gillespie said. "And so to a certain extent, we have to kind of drop the FIFA in the past. That happened. We're done. We're not coming at you. We want to work with you to make sure that doesn't happen within those organizations."

It's not clear how much international sports organizations will welcome American authorities. WADA met with U.S. lawmakers last year to point out what it sees as problems with the legislation, and a spokesman said the organization's position has not changed.

"WADA as well as several governments and international sports organizations remain concerned that the Act could have a number of negative unintended consequences for the fight against doping in sport around the world," WADA's James Fitzgerald said in an email. "WADA continues to be ready and willing to assist the U.S. authorities in devising how best to implement the positive aspects of the Act without destabilizing the harmonized global anti-doping system."

Massaro said U.S. authorities won't necessarily need the aid of organizations such as WADA to bring charges against bad actors. He notes that the Russian scandal unfolded under the watch of WADA and the IOC yet Russian athletes are still allowed to compete internationally.

"The necessity will be minimal," he said, "and honestly, in my opinion, it should be kept to a minimum. These organization are compromised, and they are part of the problem."

#### A test in Tokyo

The FBI has been active in sports investigations in the past, but in establishing the Sport and Gaming Initiative last year, Gillespie said the agency was realigning resources, educating field offices and firming up relationships with sports organizations. In addition to international doping, he said, the FBI will have an interest in potential match-fixing and gambling-related crimes. He added the college sports arena could be especially vulnerable to corruption.

He wants domestic and international leagues to know the FBI intends to be active in this space and hopes the network of extraterritorial laws discourages wrongdoers. He said the Justice Department's Organized Crime and Gang Section has indicated an interest in pursuing cases built off the Rodchenkov Act. Justice Department officials did not respond to requests to comment. "Obviously, the application of it will be key," Gillespie said of the new law. "The first couple of cases that come under it are going to be very key for setting a precedent on the interpretation of it."

The Olympic Training Center is state-of-the-art, but some athletes train in a nearby Macy's

It's not clear what the FBI presence might be at the Tokyo Games. At the Women's World Cup, the Group of Copenhagen operated a mini command post, which included the FBI and other agencies, and Gillespie said, "We want to see if we can apply that towards the Olympics and these other major institutions.

"We feel that it would be a good selling point for the International Olympic Committee for them to advertise that there's an integrity element as part of those Games," he said. "... We'll have to present that under the international umbrella because they may be fearful of us coming at them directly."

With competition schedules scuttled and training upended during the coronavirus pandemic, drug testing has been inconsistent throughout the sports world for more than a year, ramping up fears that the Tokyo Games will be ripe for abuse. Massaro said these Olympics amount to a "very, very serious test" and everyone will be looking to see if the United States is serious about assuming a role as a global watchdog.

"If Russia is going to test the waters and do in Tokyo what they're doing in Ukraine right now — testing the Biden administration by heating up conflict — they'll want to test it in Tokyo, and we'll have to be ready to push back with this law," Massaro said.

Source: 9 April 2021, Washington Post

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/sports/2021/04/09/fbi-sports-corruption-rodchenkov-act/>

## GOOD PRACTICES

### Netherlands

#### Sportradar strikes integrity agreement with NOC\*NSF

Sportradar Integrity Services has added the Netherlands Olympic Committee\* Dutch Sports Federation (NOC\*NSF) to its extensive portfolio of sports authority clients.

The new partnership will see Sportradar utilise its expertise gained from over 15 years of monitoring global betting markets for irregularities to assist with safeguarding the integrity of over 1500 football, basketball and darts events in the Netherlands over the coming year.

In addition to supporting the NOC\*NSF with its bet monitoring services, Sportradar will provide the authority with ‘the most complete picture’ of well established international betting markets on Dutch sporting events.

“By signing this agreement, the NOC\*NSF have shown their crucial proactivity in protecting sports competitions in the Netherlands from integrity risks such as match manipulation,” remarked Andreas Krannich, Managing Director of Sportradar Integrity Services.

“Alongside bet monitoring of key sporting events in the Netherlands, our integrity experts will provide on-going support to NOC\*NSF through the analysis of betting market trends and developments, and any risk factors we identify will be discussed in our regular reviews.”

Furthermore, Sportradar will provide risk analysis reporting to the Dutch authorities, including data driven insights to inform and shape strategic decisions against integrity risks and betting-related corruption.

The NOC\*NSF will utilise Sportradar’s sports integrity and bet monitoring services to carry out its role as the National Platform for the Netherlands under the Council of Europe’s Macolin Convention initiative.

“In order to work in line with the Macolin Convention, this pilot agreement with Sportradar Integrity Services is an essential project in understanding the betting exposure that is afforded to Dutch sport,” said Gerard Dielessen, Chief Executive Officer at NOC\*NSF.

“Through ongoing bet monitoring of our domestic sports competitions, and analysis of the latest betting trends surrounding them we will have insights that will help inform what the most effective and efficient long-term strategy is to protect against integrity risks.”

Krannich added: “This is the first project of its type within the structure of the Council of Europe’s Macolin Convention, and it should be viewed by other nations as a blueprint of what bet monitoring looks like at a national, multi-sport level.”

Sportradar maintains a range of betting integrity partnerships throughout Europe, having last month added the Swedish Football Association (SwFF) to its list of clients in the continent.

The deal will see the company monitor over 2,000 professional football matches in the Scandinavian country using its Fraud Detection System.

Outside of Europe, the company solidified its position in the burgeoning Chinese sports sector, striking a data agreement with the country’s CBA League football tournament.

Source: 8 April 2021, SBC News

All Sports

<https://sbcnews.co.uk/sportsbook/2021/04/08/sportradar-integrity-agreement-nocnsf/>

## Sweden

### Swedish FA calls in Sportradar to boost fight against match-fixing

Swedish football that has been rocked by match-fixing scandal and saw criminal charges issued against five individuals last December, has moved to beef up its integrity operations via an increased betting monitoring deal with Sportradar.

The Swedish Football Association (SvFF) has agreed that Sportradar will monitor more than 2,000 matches from the Swedish Ettan, Division 2, U21 Allsvenskan, U19 Allsvenskan, and club friendlies involving Swedish teams during the 2021 season using Sportradar's Fraud Detection System (FDS).

Sportradar has previously supported the SvFF with its ongoing investigation into a former Allsvenskan player, and under this agreement, the SvFF will be able to call on Sportradar's Intelligence & Investigation Services division.

Sweden's public prosecutor charged five people with match-fixing offences at the end of last year. One case involved a player in Division 3 team Södra Götaland, who on six occasions from April to August 2019 received bribes from a person betting on the team losing. Two people were charged with breaking the Swedish Gambling Act.

Another case involved a match in Sweden's First Division (Allsvenskan) in May 2019, where an IF Elfsborgs player received a yellow card in a 1-1 draw with FF Kalmar. After the match, the player received money from people who had bet he would receive a yellow card. The Swedish player and two people were charged with violating the Gambling Act.

Johan Claesson, SvFF Integrity Officer, said of the new Sportradar deal: "We are taking all the necessary steps to safeguard our game, and by bringing Sportradar Integrity Services on board to monitor our competitions, we now have valuable global oversight of betting markets through their integrity specialists. By also adding their Intelligence & Investigation Services to our integrity programme, we are confident that we will gain an extra layer of visibility and insight into potential integrity risks, as we have already witnessed through collaboration on a current investigation."

Sportradar Integrity Services Managing Director Andreas Krannich added: "We have witnessed growing integrity issues across global football at lower levels of competition – including youth football – in recent years, and we believe that it is vitally important to have integrity oversight over all levels of the beautiful game."

*Source: 31 March 2021, Inside World Football*

*Football*

<http://www.insideworldfootball.com/2021/03/31/swedish-fa-calls-sportradar-boost-fight-match-fixing/>



## ODDS AND ENDS

### United States

#### Profit motives make fixing college sports nearly impossible

The start of March Madness kicked off with critiques from student-athletes regarding their inability to market their own likenesses. Criticism of the NCAA intensified when the stark difference in treatment between the male and female athletes became public. Both demonstrate a vivid reality about the NCAA: With more than a billion dollars on the line, it has long operated as a business that is shielded by its nonprofit status.

And yet, since their introduction to college campuses, sports and athletics have courted scandal and generated controversy. Calls for reform have been repeatedly ignored or at best partially implemented. Indeed, the core issues — lack of collegiate and NCAA oversight, investments in and revenue from athletics, allegations of cheating and misconduct and no clear definition of what it means to be a student-athlete — have remained relatively consistent across the decades and continue today.

Yale and Harvard established rowing teams in 1843 and 1844, respectively; their first annual regatta was held in 1852, and it is the oldest still-held collegiate sporting event. This inaugural competition immediately revealed the potential profitability of college sports, as a railroad official sponsored the event. The dollars weren't great enough to invest in facilities or equipment. Instead, the money was used to cover the pub tabs for the athletes. Nonetheless, this first event set a precedent that intercollegiate athletics would never just be about pure competition.

AD

By 1892, the concept of professional coaches took hold when the University of Chicago hired Amos Alonzo Stagg to coach its football team. He then used his connections to the board to have personal sponsorships, endorsements and moneymaking opportunities approved. Stagg's role was a new concept in higher education; he negotiated a full-time, tenured (yes, tenured) position that focused on coaching, as well as the monetization of his own brand and secondarily the sport.

By the turn of the 20th century, intercollegiate athletics had shifted from sport-based competition to a commercialized spectacle. As then-Princeton President Woodrow Wilson noted, "So far as the colleges go, the sideshows have swallowed up the circus and we in the main tent do not know what is going on." While the reference was generally about student behavior, the comment also applied to growing disregard within athletic departments for university rules and values, and highlighted the growing prevalence of scandalous behavior and illegal activities such as academic cheating and misuse of university funds.

President Theodore Roosevelt convened college and university presidents in 1905 to discuss changes in intercollegiate athletics amid calls to reduce the violence inherent in them following the death of 19 collegiate football players. The presidents of the three most prominent colleges at the time, Harvard, Yale and Princeton, declined to attend the summit, and their absence set the tone for prominent university leaders sidestepping future calls for reform. However, athletic directors and coaches from the three institutions did attend, and they led the charge for safety reforms and the retention of amateur status for collegiate athletes.

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Based on the forward momentum stemming from the meeting with Roosevelt, the Intercollegiate Athletic Association of the United States (IAAUS) was formed in 1905 and ratified in 1906, changing its name to the National Collegiate Athletic Association in 1910. The organization prohibited recruitment and limited eligibility to four years for nonprofessional athletes. Of note, the IAAUS bylaws allowed coaches and institutions to financially benefit from intercollegiate athletics but specified that students could not be paid. Despite this stipulation, the NCAA itself soon focused on monetizing these same athletes' performances and popularity.

The NCAA's birth did little to quell the troubled state of collegiate athletics or calls for reform, in part because few changes were actually implemented. If anything, the commercial underpinnings grew stronger. A pattern emerged: Athletic watchdogs, government agencies and the general public would call on the NCAA to enact fiscal and sponsorship changes, but the organization fell short of any real reform after colleges and universities balked at potential decreases in revenue.

For example, in 1926, the Carnegie Foundation funded a three-year study of intercollegiate athletics, and noting the growing commercialization of the industry, its findings included a call for university presidents to provide greater oversight over athletics. And a 1931 U.S. Office of Education study of 69 land-grant university athletic programs documented that nearly all coach salaries were higher than professors' pay and labeled college football as big business for the public institutions.

AD

This assessment only grew more accurate after World War II, when the monetization of athletics broadened to include the selling of television broadcast rights, setting the stage for the billion-dollar industry we see today.

In 1951, the calls for reform took a legal turn when the New York City district attorney investigated a gambling connection between college basketball and organized crime that resulted in convictions of players from seven universities for point shaving. That same year, a cheating scandal among 70 U.S. Military Academy cadets, many of whom were athletes, raised questions regarding how much control institutions had over their student-athletes. Continuing the cycle of public scandal followed by calls for reform, the American Council on Education (ACE) created a Special Committee on Athletic Policy, which made recommendations including creating a code of professional ethics for coaches, decreasing football bowl games and addressing recruitment issues.

Yet nothing much changed. A 1974 report published by ACE from George Hanford, then-vice president of the College Entrance Examination Board, found that because the NCAA handled athletics, instead of academic accreditation associations, intercollegiate athletes were divorced from institutional and academic missions, with the NCAA free to prioritize moneymaking off competition and student-athletes.

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In 1984, the Supreme Court dealt a blow to the NCAA's vast power by ruling that an NCAA limitation on the broadcasting of football games violated federal antitrust statutes. But this decision only made things worse, empowering conferences to negotiate their own broadcast deals on behalf of institutions. The Supreme Court's decision refocused the NCAA's attention on the other big money sport: basketball, with the NCAA men's basketball tournament becoming a multibillion-dollar television property.

Today, college athletics is an enormous business. Athletic departments across all divisions reported a whopping \$18.9 billion in revenue in 2019; most of which came from the only two Division I men's sports — football and basketball — that don't lose money each year and keep the other 15 men's sports afloat.

Earlier this year, the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics issued a football-specific call to action to prioritize "education, health, safety, and success of college athletes," after the conferences — no doubt aware of the vast financial ramifications — chose to move forward with regular and postseason play despite risks to the health and safety of the players during the coronavirus pandemic. The NCAA made a similar decision regarding men's and women's basketball, cognizant that March Madness, which was canceled in 2020, produces \$1.18 billion in advertising revenue. The NCAA didn't address the elephant in the room — the billions in advertising revenue at stake — when making a decision about this year's tournament and instead focused on outlining the pandemic logistics, retaining the fan experience and praising their own leadership. Also notably absent in their news release was the student-athlete experience that grounds its mission.

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These decisions are indicative of how, for over a century, the desire for prestige and money has driven the NCAA and member institutions to deprioritize student-athletes and instead place higher value on commercializing intercollegiate athletics. Real change and reform will occur only when leaders are willing to rethink this prioritization of profits and turn down the endorsement and media dollars associated with competition. Until reform is enacted, the history of corruption in and prioritization of commercialization of athletics will serve as a foreshadowing of its future.

Source: 5 April 2021, *Washington Post*

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/04/05/profit-motives-make-fixing-college-sports-nearly-impossible/>

## MATCH FIXING

### Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union

#### Nearly 20% of people in sports confronted with (in)direct match-fixing proposals

A large-scale European study shows that nearly 20% of people in sports has been confronted with direct or indirect match-fixing - being the manipulation of sport competitions or matches - proposals.

It is well known that match-fixing is a globally spread and harmful phenomenon in the world of sport. A large-scale international study, coordinated by Ghent University, examined match-fixing in 7 European countries. The first study results show that almost 20% of the more than 5000 participants reported (in)direct match-fixing proposals. More specifically, 18% of the participants indicated that they personally knew one or more persons who had been approached to “fix” a match. Additionally, 8% of the participants revealed that they had already been approached themselves for a match-fixing proposal. “However, a clear distinction should be made between the different types of match-fixing”, clarifies Van Der Hoeven.

#### Betting-related vs. sporting-related match-fixing

On the one hand, there is the betting-related type of match-fixing, in which matches or specific events during matches are manipulated to earn money by betting on the manipulated match. Only 10% of the participants who had already been approached for match-fixing indicated that the proposal was made solely for the purpose of making money by betting on the manipulated match during the last (or only) time they were approached. In most cases, they were offered money and sometimes other material inducements to accept the proposal. Almost 40% of them were also threatened or pressured to fix the match. Eventually, 36% indicated that they consented to the betting-related proposal, mainly because of the money and / or other material inducements offered, or because they experienced financial difficulties at that time.

On the other hand, there is match-fixing for sporting purposes, often referred to as “sporting-related match-fixing.” Almost 70% of the approached participants indicated that the last or only time they were approached, the proposal had a sporting-related purpose only. These persons were mainly approached to prevent the relegation of a specific club or player or to enable a specific club or player to win the championship. With this type of match-fixing, the outcome of the match (who wins / loses) was in more than 80% of the cases at stake. In the majority of these cases a deliberate underperformance was expected and money was offered in about 50% of the cases, frequently supplemented by other material inducement (ranging from beer to (luxury) gifts such as a trip or even a car). Almost 20% of those who received a sporting-related match-fixing proposal were also threatened or pressured. Eventually, 27% consented to the sporting-related match-fixing proposal. Consenting to the sporting-related match-fixing proposal was mainly seen as a friendly gesture towards another club or athlete. In other cases, people often consented because of the money and / or other material inducements offered, or because they were pressured by their own team.

#### Prevention of sporting-related match-fixing



Despite the clear threat of sporting-related match-fixing, this type of match-fixing is often underestimated and therefore neglected in prevention initiatives. “In a second phase, the EPOSM project will try to fill this gap by elaborating action plans and workshops on the prevention of match-fixing in general and sporting-related match-fixing in particular”, adds Van Der Hoeven.

Furthermore, the EPOSM study also shows that 48% of the people who reported (in)direct match-fixing proposals had never reported their suspicions or experiences to anyone. The people who had reported their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to someone, mainly did so to teammates, coaches, or board members of their sport club. In a very limited number of cases, reports were made to an anonymous reporting line or to the police. This may indicate that reporting channels are insufficiently known and / or that people are often afraid to report their suspicions or experiences of match-fixing to anyone. “In addition to awareness-raising initiatives, suitable reporting channels and whistleblowing protection programs are also important in the prevention of match-fixing”, concludes Van Der Hoeven

#### About the EPOSM project

“With the EPOSM project, we try to examine the different types of match-fixing, in various sport disciplines and countries in order to raise awareness about match-fixing and to stimulate its prevention”, states EPOSM project manager Stef Van Der Hoeven.

The Erasmus+ sport project “Evidence-based Prevention Of Sporting-related Match-fixing” (EPOSM), coordinated by Ghent University, examined match-fixing in 7 European countries: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom. In total, 5014 people related to sports participated in an online survey that focused on current and former athletes, coaches, board members, referees, and others involved in several sport disciplines (including football, tennis, basketball, hockey, handball, and cricket). The EPOSM project is co-funded by the Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union.

Source: 31 March 2021, EPOSM

All Sports

<https://www.eposm.net/kopie-van-persbericht>



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

## Netherlands

### Matchfixing in het basketbal: spelers verdacht van opzettelijk verliezen vier wedstrijden

Meerdere oud-basketballers van eredivisieclub Aris uit Leeuwarden worden verdacht van het opzettelijk verliezen van vier wedstrijden in het voorjaar van 2019. Het vermoeden is dat ze samenwerkten met Koreaanse gokkers. Die hadden tienduizenden euro's op de wedstrijden ingezet, blijkt uit onderzoek van de NOS.

Het gaat om een unieke zaak voor de Nederlandse sportwereld. Niet eerder werd een team verdacht van het manipuleren van zo veel wedstrijden in een seizoen.

De afgelopen anderhalf jaar heeft het Instituut Sportrechtspraak (ISR) - dat namens sportbonden integriteitsonderzoeken doet - in het geheim onderzoek gedaan in deze zaak. "Er is een redelijk vermoeden dat er matchfixing heeft plaatsgevonden", bevestigt bestuurslid Peter Vogelzang. Toch heeft het ISR deze week besloten de zaak stil te leggen. Het instituut zegt te weinig geld en bevoegdheden te hebben voor verder onderzoek.

Details over het onderzoek wil het ISR niet prijsgeven, maar uit gesprekken die de NOS voerde met spelers, coaches, matchfixingexperts en andere betrokkenen blijkt hoe serieus de verdenkingen zijn.

Vier spelers gehoord

Vier spelers, allen met een buitenlandse nationaliteit, zijn afgelopen zomer gehoord door ISR-onderzoekers. Drie van hen speelden de verdachte wedstrijden ver onder hun normale niveau, zo blijkt uit de wedstrijdstatistieken, terwijl de rest van het team zoals gebruikelijk presteerde. De spelers spreken tegenover de NOS tegen dat ze bewust hebben verloren.

Een van de ondervraagde spelers is een Amerikaan die kort daarvoor drie jaar op het hoogste niveau in Zuid-Korea basketbalde. Tijdens een van die seizoenen, in 2015, raakte de Koreaanse competitie verwickeld in een matchfixingschandaal waarbij verschillende spelers en een coach werden geschorst. De Amerikaan werd toen niet verdacht.

De club en de toenmalige coaches laten weten geen vermoedens van matchfixing te hebben gehad. De directie van Aris zit met de zaak in de maag. "Wij staan voor een eerlijke sport. Als je dan dit nieuws krijgt, is dit een klap in het gezicht."

Tony van den Bosch was de coach van Aris in het seizoen 2018-2019. Het irriteerde hem destijds al mateloos dat zijn team zo wisselvallig speelde:

Matchfixing in basketbal: 'Ik stond als jan lul langs de zijlijn'

De NOS vroeg drie gerenommeerde matchfixinganalisten van internationale gokdatabedrijven om de gokpatronen bij de vier wedstrijden te onderzoeken. Ze komen tot dezelfde conclusie: bij meerdere wedstrijden was Aris favoriet, maar is er onverklaarbaar veel geld ingezet op de tegenstander. Op een gemiddelde Nederlandse basketbalwedstrijd wordt wereldwijd zo'n 250.000 euro gegokt.

"Dit is zeer verontrustend", zegt een van de analisten. "Het is zeer onwaarschijnlijk dat er sportieve redenen waren die het gokgedrag bij al deze wedstrijden kunnen verklaren". Dat er in Zuid-Korea accounts zijn aangemaakt speciaal om te gokken op Aris, die daarna niet meer zijn gebruikt, maakt de zaak volgens de analisten extra verdacht. Het eenmalig gebruiken van gokaccounts is een beproefde methode van matchfixers om geen sporen na te laten.

Een van de meest verdachte wedstrijden is de uitwedstrijd tegen hekkensluiter Weert op 4 april 2019. GLMS, de internationale organisatie die verdachte sportduels opspoort namens de loterijen, is op dat moment de eerste die vermoedt dat er iets mis is. Hoewel Aris op papier favoriet is, zetten gokkers in Zuid-Korea via speciale accounts tienduizenden euro's in op het verlies van Aris. "Gokkers hadden voorkennis dat Aris Leeuwarden met minstens tien punten zou gaan verliezen", stelt een van de analisten.

Nog voordat de wedstrijd is begonnen, stijgt hierdoor de door bookmakers berekende winstkans van Weert van gemiddeld 47 naar 72 procent. "Onverklaarbaar", concludeert GLMS. Ze sturen voor de wedstrijd een waarschuwing naar alle aangesloten loterijen wereldwijd.

Aris verliest de wedstrijd met 14 punten verschil. Na de wedstrijd besluit coach Tony van den Bosch, die al een aanbieding van een andere club op zak had, om zijn ontslag in te dienen. Hij kan niet begrijpen waarom het team zo wisselvallig speelt. "De week daarvoor hadden we nog een knappe overwinning. Het was helling op, helling af. Ik dacht bij mijzelf: ik heb hier geen controle over."

De waarschuwing van GLMS komt een dag later binnen bij sportkoepel NOC\*NSF, die het signaal voorlegt aan de politie. Daar ziet men op dat moment geen reden om actie te ondernemen. In overleg met de basketbalbond wordt de zaak doorgespeeld naar het Instituut Sportrechtspraak, dat een onderzoek opent naar de betrokkenheid van de spelers. Een unicum: niet eerder

deed het ISR onderzoek naar matchfixing.  
Doodzonde

Inmiddels is duidelijk dat er meer wedstrijden verdacht zijn. Bij de wedstrijd tegen Rotterdam vallen de hoge inzetten zo op, dat verschillende Aziatische gokaanbieders de wedstrijd terugtrekken, waarna de gokkers bij Europese gokaanbieders hun geld inzetten. Volgens matchfixinganalisten wordt er vijf dagen later, bij de wedstrijd tegen Zwolle, opnieuw gegokt via speciaal gecreëerde gokaccounts en is het verlies van 28 punten precies voorspeld. "Er zijn duidelijke aanwijzingen dat de wedstrijd het doelwit was van corrupte weddenschappen".

Hoewel het ISR zwijgt over de resultaten van het onderzoek, wil het instituut wel kwijt dat ze er niet in zijn geslaagd om te achterhalen van wie de Koreaanse gokaccounts zijn. Het betreffende Koreaanse wedkantoor zou niet willen meewerken aan het onderzoek. Omdat het ISR geen bevoegdheden heeft om het verstrekken van die informatie af te dwingen heeft het bestuur besloten het onderzoek stil te leggen.

"Doodzonde", zegt bestuurslid Peter Vogelzang. "Je hoopt vooraf dat dit een casus wordt waarbij de sport een waarschuwing geeft: we willen dit niet, we weten je te vinden." Hij sluit niet uit dat het onderzoek weer wordt opgepakt als er nieuwe informatie opduikt.

De Nederlandse Basketball Bond, die opdracht gaf voor het onderzoek, is zeer teleurgesteld. "Wij willen van het ISR precies weten wat ze allemaal hebben kunnen vinden. Vervelend dat het nu onduidelijk is of de onderste steen bovenkomt", aldus directeur Simone Volmer. Coach Van den Bosch is dat met haar eens. "Op deze manier geef je een vrijgeleide aan matchfixers. Ik hoop dat politieonderzoekers dit nu oppakken en het alsnog uitzoeken."

Source: 1 April 2021, NOS  
Basketball

