



INTERPOL

# INTEGRITY IN SPORT

## Bi-weekly Bulletin

6-27 July 2021



Photos International Olympic Committee

## INVESTIGATIONS

### Ghana

#### Football: Player scores two own goals to ruin match-fixing plot in Ghana

A player in the Ghana Premier League Hashmin Musah has claimed that he scored two deliberate own goals in a match on Saturday so as to foil an alleged match-fixing plot.

A defender for Inter Allies, Hashmin Musah came on against Ashanti Gold with the score at 5-0 and scored two deliberate own goals in the final 12 minutes. The match finished 7-0 on the final day of the season on Saturday.

Musah insists his goals were deliberate and that his team mates congratulated him for spoiling the 'pre-agreed' scoreline put in place for betting reasons.

"I heard it in our hotel that a bet had been made for a correct scoreline of 5-1 against my club Inter Allies. I promised my coach that if he allows me to play from the bench, I will spoil the bet. And after the game, my team congratulated me" Musah told Kumasi FM.

"I decided to spoil that bet because I don't condone betting," the centre back stressed.

The Ghanaian FA in a statement have said they will investigate the matter further.

A statement on their website read: 'The Association will lodge a complaint on the match with the Criminal Investigation Department of the Ghana Police Service and the Ghana wing of Interpol for the criminal investigation of the game.'

Videos of the defender's goals went viral on social media, prompting calls for investigations, while Ashanti Gold, the opponent team have stressed they had no involvement in the alleged match-rigging agreement.

"We take notice of the videos circulating in relation to our game against Inter Allies and wish to unequivocally disassociate [ourselves] from any wrongdoing," Ashanti Gold said in a statement on Monday.

Inter Allies went into the final game of the season already condemned to relegation from the Premier League, and were 5-0 down before Musah's introduction.

He would later be substituted out of the match just before full-time following his two own goals.

Source: 20 July 2021, Africa News

Football

<https://www.africanews.com/2021/07/20/football-player-scores-two-own-goals-to-ruin-match-fixing-plan-in-ghana-premier-league/>



## Italy

### Maxi evasione fiscale internazionale nel settore delle scommesse online

I Finanziari del Comando Provinciale di Messina, all'esito di articolate indagini di polizia giudiziaria e tributaria, hanno eseguito, a Malta, un decreto di sequestro di beni del valore di 3,5 milioni di euro, nei confronti del legale rappresentante di una società maltese che aveva stabilito, a Messina, una stabile organizzazione che esercitava abusivamente l'attività di raccolta delle scommesse on line. In particolare, nel quadro delle linee di azione strategica del Corpo, finalizzate all'individuazione delle più insidiose condotte evasive / elusive a carattere transnazionale, l'attività costituisce l'esito di complesse investigazioni dirette dalla Procura della Repubblica di Messina, nonché di una verifica fiscale, eseguite dalle Fiamme Gialle del Nucleo di Polizia Economico-Finanziaria di Messina, nei confronti di una società maltese, ritenuta, secondo ipotesi investigativa, una stabile organizzazione di società estera non dichiarata in Italia.

Nel merito, veniva approfondita l'operatività, in Italia, della nominata società estera che, mediante diversi portali web dedicati, riconducibili a plurimi marchi - già colpiti da specifici provvedimenti di inibizione da parte dell'Agenzia delle Dogane e dei Monopoli - era risultata operare, sulla base di apposite concessioni rilasciate da Autorità estere e, pertanto, non valide in Italia, la raccolta di giochi pubblici a distanza e scommesse tramite rete fisica, avvalendosi di centri trasmissione dati (CTD) e punti vendita ricarica (PVR). In tale contesto, quindi, gli accertamenti di carattere tributario (consistiti anche in data mining, controlli incrociati e riscontri contabili), opportunamente integrati da mirate indagini di polizia giudiziaria, evidenziavano come i predetti centri trasmissione dati, formalmente costituiti quali società o ditte individuali giuridicamente autonome, operassero, in realtà, quali centri per la ricezione di proposte di scommessa, pubblicizzando nei confronti dei clienti scommettitori il palinsesto della società mandante maltese, contribuendo in tal modo alla raccolta delle scommesse sul territorio nazionale per conto della casa-madre estera.

L'esame di tutti gli elementi raccolti consentiva di ipotizzare, pertanto, una stabile organizzazione occulta, in Italia, della nominata società maltese, presupposto, questo, per proporre all'Agenzia delle Entrate il recupero a tassazione in Italia dei redditi ivi prodotti dalla società estera. A seguito di tale condotta, la filiale italiana della società maltese avrebbe dovuto dichiarare al fisco italiano oltre 85 milioni di euro di ricavi, per un totale di imposte dirette evase pari ad oltre 3,5 milioni di euro. A valle delle indagini svolte, condividendo l'impianto accusatorio elaborato dai Finanziari e dalla Procura della Repubblica di Messina, il competente Giudice delle Indagini Preliminari del locale Tribunale disponeva il sequestro preventivo finalizzato alla confisca, anche per equivalente, nei confronti del rappresentante legale della casa-madre maltese, del citato importo di 3,5 milioni di euro, corrispondente all'imposta evasa. Si evidenzia come, attesa la residenza estera del soggetto, per la materiale esecuzione del sequestro si sia reso necessario dare esecuzione a specifico European Investigation Order e Freezing order for execution, emessi dalla Procura della Repubblica di Messina, nell'ambito di mirata attività rogatoria internazionale. A tal riguardo, con riferimento all'intervenuta cooperazione giudiziaria internazionale tra Italia e Malta, in perfetta sinergia tra l'Autorità Giudiziaria italiana e quella maltese, ci si è avvalsi delle possibilità offerte dal recentissimo Regolamento UE 2018/1805/UE del 14 novembre 2018, in forza del quale, a decorrere dal 19 dicembre 2020, sono applicabili negli Stati membri dell'Unione Europea le disposizioni sul riconoscimento reciproco dei provvedimenti di congelamento e di confisca emessi da altro Stato membro.

L'operazione testimonia la costante attenzione dell'Autorità Giudiziaria e della Guardia di Finanza di Messina nel contrasto ai più articolati fenomeni di evasione fiscale internazionale, viepiù attinenti al delicato settore della raccolta illegale di scommesse on line, fortemente esposto in termini di possibile inquinamento del mercato di riferimento e della correlata economia legale, in danno degli operatori economici e degli altri contribuenti onesti.

Source: 20 July 2021, Guardia di Finanza

All Sports

<https://www.gdf.gov.it/stampa/ultime-notizie/anno-2021/luglio/maxi-evasione-fiscale-internazionale-nel-settore-delle-scommesse-online>

## South Africa

### Banned ex-Protea Thami Tsolekile mum on 2015 Ram Slam match-fixing probe at hearings

Former Proteas wicketkeeper Thami Tsolekile refrained from talking about his match-fixing experiences at Cricket South Africa's (CSA's) Cricket for Social Justice and Nation-building (SJM) hearings on Monday, citing time constraints.

Tsolekile, whose colourful career was limited to three Tests and highlighted by yeoman service for the Cape Cobras and the Lions, was one of the high-profile cricketers implicated in the 2015 Ram Slam match-fixing scandal.

He was banned for 12 years for his role in the scam after signing a sanction agreement admitting to failing to disclose details of fixing approaches and contriving to fix a match or matches, among other charges.

An aggrieved Tsolekile used the Black Live Matter conversation that sparked last year to flesh out the process on national radio, where he aired what he perceived as unfairness or bias in the investigation.

CSA, who maintained that no matches were fixed, was forced to issue a press release defending the process behind the investigation and its integrity.

Like Lonwabo Tsotsobe, Alviro Petersen and Ethy Mbhalati, Tsolekile was also in favour of the investigative process being looked into.

"We wouldn't have enough time if we were to go through all the details of the match-fixing issue. You'll need at least three days," Tsolekile said.

"I've got a whole file, along with another one, but I made a conscious decision not to submit the match-fixing matter.

"I have decided that I'll deal with that matter differently and not on this forum. One may say it's a missed opportunity, but people have spoken.

"I know the processes that were followed and the match-fixing remarks made against me, and I don't want to go back to that."

Tsolekile also echoed Tsotsobe's allegations that the investigation that CSA's Anti-Corruption Unit head Louis Cole led, alongside former International Cricket Council head of legal David Becker, "targeted black players".

"Mr Becker and Louis Cole know there were a lot more players that were involved and, in that process, black players were targeted and treated unfairly," Tsolekile said.

"I did speak about my story on radio, which I can send. I don't want to talk about it, and it's a decision that I have made.

Judge Bernard Ngoepe, who guided the investigation, last year defended its integrity, rejecting all suggestions that there was racial bias in carrying out the probe.

"The allegation that the investigation deliberately targeted black players must also be rejected. Both white and black players were investigated and charged, based on the evidence that was collected and presented," Ngoepe said.

SJM ombudsman Advocate Dumisa Ntsebeza was impartial to Tsolekile's stance but also affirmed that the SJM was looking to investigate any cricket-related aspects that impaired the rights of cricketers.

"We'll respect that you've not wanted to speak about that aspect. This process is seeking to investigate, as thoroughly as possible, those things that can be attributed to unfair racial and gender discrimination," Ntsebeza said.

Source: 20 July 2021, Sport 24

Cricket

<https://www.news24.com/sport/cricket/proteas/banned-ex-protea-thami-tsolekile-mum-on-2015-ram-slam-match-fixing-probe-at-hearings-20210720>

## Wimbledon

### Wimbledon 2021: Two matches under scanner for match-fixing

London: A probe by a German newspaper has revealed that two matches at this year's Wimbledon are under investigation for match-fixing.

It also said that the investigation was launched after several specific and suspicious bets took place around the matches during the tournament.

According to the report by Die Welt, suspicions were raised over a men's doubles match in the first round. There were large live bets placed against a favoured duo at "irregular times". The pair won the first set, increasing the odds of their defeat. However, the duo ended up losing the next three sets.

In another match, extremely high bets were placed at the end of the second set on the exact score in the third set. There were also many 'special bets' on the maximum number of services in the entire match. Both bets ended up coming true.

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA), which fight corruption and match fixing in tennis, has not released any information surrounding the investigations. This year, the ITIA has received 34 alerts since January.

In its latest report on the second quarter, the ITIA said that they received a total of 11 match alerts between April and June this year through its confidential Memoranda of Understanding with the regulated betting industry.

Nine of those matches took place on the ITF men's and women's circuit while two matches happened in ATP 250 events.

Source: 14 July 2021, UMMID

Tennis

<https://ummid.com/news/2021/july/14.07.2021/wimbledon-2021-match-fixing.html>

## SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

### ESIC

#### Esports Integrity Commission Bans Three People Amidst Legends of Runeterra Match-fixing Incident

In an officially released statement yesterday, the Esports Integrity Commission (ESIC) banned three individuals for 12 months amidst a recently concluded investigation about a match-fixing incident in Legends of Runeterra (LoR).

After receiving an initial report from ESL Asia about an 'abnormal progression' of certain participants in the ESL Mobile Open Legends of Runeterra (Ladder 2) tournament, ESIC determined that three individuals colluded in the said tournament.

The individuals in question are Le Hiep, DiaComSuon, and Cuticini. These three individuals used a total of five accounts to commit boosting behavior during the tournament with one of them piloting three accounts while the remaining two operated with one account each.

The match-fixing incident was first noticed by the Vietnamese LoR community with some of them noticing fishy patterns on the accounts used by the colluders — such as the accounts frequently queuing up with each other. They even pointed out a best-of-3 series done in under a minute which is an almost impossible feat considering most matches take 5-10 minutes to complete.

Notable Southeast Asian LoR personalities such as worlds-qualified Blacklist International player Adel Thomas "ADELtrocity" Maranan and Team Space's Chang "JadeDragonSS" Kai quickly reacted with the ESIC announcement.

In a private Esports Inquirer interview, JadeDragonSS described the match-fixing incident as "disgusting" as it paints a negative picture of the LoR competitive scene.

"The match-fixing scandal is disgusting and paints a negative picture of [both the local and Southeast Asian] LoR competitive scene," JadeDragonSS stated.

ESIC also emphasized in their statement that they are also requesting all non-ESIC member tournament organizers to honor the said bans.

Source: 7 July 2021, Inquirer.net

eSports

<https://esports.inquirer.net/25804/esports-integrity-commission-bans-three-people-amidst-legends-of-runeterra-match-fixing-incident>

## Morocco

### Six Moroccan tennis players provisionally suspended

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) today confirms that six tennis players from Morocco have been provisionally suspended by independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer (AHO) Charles Hollander QC, pending an inquiry into match fixing allegations. The players are: Amine Ahouda, Anas Chakrouni, Ayoub Chakrouni, Mohamed Zakaria Khalil, Soufiane El Mesbahi and Yassir Kilani.

All six are prohibited from competing in or attending any sanctioned tennis events organised by the governing bodies of the sport, with immediate effect whilst charges are considered against them for alleged breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP).

The provisional suspension was granted under section F.3 of the TACP 2021:

“The ITIA may at any time make an application to an AHO for a Provisional Suspension of a Covered Person, including (i) before a Notice of Major Offense has been issued, (ii) before a Hearing or (iii) at any time after a Hearing but prior to the AHO’s issuance of a written Decision. Provisional Suspensions (and challenges and reviews thereof under this Section F.3) shall ordinarily be determined on written submissions unless the AHO considers an oral hearing necessary.”

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: 14 July 2021, ITIA

Tennis

<https://elinkeu.clickdimensions.com/m/1/84431288/p1-b21195-a9fbd51f1c164945901f80353ba05858/1/889/86e7f678-7be5-486f-88e1-72db5e22f8e2>

## Uzbekistan

### Two Uzbekistan tennis players banned

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has confirmed that two tennis players from Uzbekistan, Temur Ismailov and Amal Sultanbekov, have been banned from the sport, following an investigation into match fixing at a tournament in 2019.

Ismailov, who was already serving a seven year ban after a previous investigation is now banned for life starting 21 July 2021, and has been fined an additional \$14,000 . Sultanbekov has been banned for five years, from 21 July 2021 to 21 July 2026, and has been fined \$8,000

Ismailov had a highest ATP ranking of 397 and Sultanbekov had a highest ATP ranking of 1886.

The case was ruled on by Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer Janie Soublière and the sanctions mean that the players are prohibited from playing in or attending any tennis event authorised or sanctioned by the governing bodies of tennis.

Both players were found guilty of three breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP) rules

D.1.k “No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit, facilitate, or conspire to solicit or facilitate any other person to contrive, attempt to contrive or conspire to contrive the outcome or any other aspect of any Event.”

D.1.d “No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, contrive, attempt to contrive, agree to contrive, or conspire to contrive the outcome, or any other aspect, of any Event.”

D.2.a.i “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 as soon as possible.

In addition, Ismailov was found guilty of D.1.e. “No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit, facilitate, or conspire to solicit or facilitate any Player to not use his or her best efforts in any Event.”

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

Ends

Source: 23 July 2021, ITIA

Tennis

<https://elinkeu.clickdimensions.com/m/1/84431288/p1-b21204-3323f5cb7301446a8eec9bef400b5e22/1/300/69e88c88-da0f-4a00-a0b6-cb603e67b99b>

## BETTING

### IBIA

#### 38 suspicious betting alerts reported by IBIA in Q2 2021

The International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) reported 38 cases of suspicious betting to the relevant authorities during the second quarter (Q2) of 2021. The Q2 2021 total represents a 41% decrease in reported alerts when compared to the Q1 total of 64 and represents a similar decrease when compared to the Q2 2020 total, which saw 65 alerts. The Q2 alerts covered football (16 cases), table tennis (9), tennis (6), eSports (6) and beach volleyball (1). From a geographical perspective, Europe accounted for nearly half (47%) of all alerts reported, followed by Asia and South America with 13% each.

Khalid Ali, CEO of IBIA, said: “The 38 cases in Q2 added to the 64 cases in Q1 brings the mid-year total to 102 alerts reported by the association. Football has provided the highest number of alerts during that period with 28, followed by tennis (24) and eSports (23). These three sports comprise nearly 75% of all alerts reported in the first half of 2021. IBIA’s expanding membership means that, as set out in the recently published Optimum Betting Market report, it now represents \$137bn in global regulated betting turnover per annum making it the largest customer-based integrity platform in the world with nearly 50% of the commercial online market.”

Other key data for Q2 2021:

- 5 - the number of different sports reported in Q2
- 6 - alerts on tennis (the lowest since IBIA began producing quarterly reports in 2015)
- 15 - different countries where alerts were reported
- 16 - alerts reported on football in Q2 (an increase of 33% on Q1 2021)

The International Betting Integrity Association is the leading global voice on integrity for the licensed betting industry. It is run by operators for operators, protecting its members from corruption through collective action. Its monitoring and alert platform is a highly effective anti-corruption tool that detects and reports suspicious activity on its members’ betting markets. The association has longstanding information sharing partnerships with leading sports and gambling regulators to utilise its data and prosecute corruption. It represents the sector at high-level policy discussion forums such as the IOC, UN, Council of Europe and European Commission.

The association publishes quarterly and annual reports covering the integrity alerts reported through its monitoring and alert platform, which can be viewed on the IBIA website here. The Optimum Betting Market report is here. The association can be contacted via [info@ibia.bet](mailto:info@ibia.bet).

Source: 14 July 2021, IBIA

All Sports

<https://ibia.bet/q2-2021-integrity-stats-pr-july-2021-final/>



## GOOD PRACTICES

### UEFA

#### EURO 2020 match-fixing prevention work proves a success

Government authorities and the general public are increasingly aware of the risks posed by match-fixing. UEFA EURO 2020 was a major opportunity to further raise awareness of the issue, build capacity among and between all the stakeholders concerned, from the football community to the law enforcement authorities, and promote transnational cooperation.

How was the action plan prepared?

The anti-match-fixing action plan for EURO 2020 relied on the lessons learned from EURO 2016, as well as on best practices adopted by other organisations for major sports events.

Risk assessment, risk mitigation and comprehensive monitoring lay at the heart of the action plan, which involved analysing existing trends and standards from the betting sector, and encompassing a comprehensive view of relevant regulations and legislation in order to engage the network that UEFA has been working with for over a decade, as well as the relevant authorities in all the host countries.

How were the participating national associations involved?

UEFA's anti-match-fixing unit, which sits within the organisation's integrity and regulatory division, worked closely to implement the action plan with the national association integrity officers of the 24 participating national teams.

The unit stressed the importance of each association holding awareness sessions for participating players and staff to underscore the risks and rules related to sports betting and match-fixing. In cooperation with the national integrity officers, the unit prepared a presentation highlighting how players can be targeted, and their duty to report any approaches made to them directly or that they become aware of.

Following two online workshops organised by the anti-match-fixing unit, the integrity officers tailored the presentation to their national context before delivering it to their respective national teams during the pre-tournament training camps. In total, more than 600 players attended these education sessions.

Despite the COVID-19 context and related health constraints, a large majority of the sessions were delivered in person by the integrity officers, with the rest taking the form of online sessions.

Were the EURO 2020 referees briefed as well?

All of the appointed referees and video assistant referees (VAR) also received a tailored integrity briefing in sessions led by members of the anti-match-fixing unit in person during the opening week of the tournament. As elite referees who are used to taking charge of high-profile matches, the match officials had all attended previous similar prevention sessions as part of their UEFA training.

### INTEGRITY IN SPORT

The EURO 2020 presentation, introduced by UEFA Referees Committee chairman Roberto Rosetti by video, emphasised the risks of the referees being targeted by specific betting markets, and urged them to report any suspicious behaviour.

How were the matches monitored and any incidents assessed?

In coordination with the Council of Europe, UEFA had established the Anti-Match-Fixing Assessment Group (AMFAG) dedicated to monitoring the tournament and supporting UEFA in addressing any integrity-related concerns. This followed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between UEFA and the Council of Europe in 2018, in which the two bodies agreed to implement common strategies in areas of shared interest.

The AMFAG was composed of representatives of UEFA, the Council of Europe, six host countries belonging to the Network of National Platforms (referred to as the Group of Copenhagen), Europol and Interpol.

The group has met regularly since January 2021, and also convened frequently during the tournament to share information and highlights on past and upcoming matches. It collected and analysed all relevant information, including betting monitoring reports, participants and match information, alerts received through reporting mechanisms and other sources, ad hoc queries, local observations and media screening.

The anti-match-fixing unit also collaborated closely with various betting monitoring entities, notably Sportradar, the International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) and the Global Lottery Monitoring System (GLMS). In addition, the unit liaised permanently with Europol's European Financial and Economic Crime Centre (EFECC) and the EURO 2020 International Police Cooperation Centre, where an Interpol Major Events Support Team (IMEST) was also deployed to ensure outreach beyond the European Union's borders not only on security matters, but also on integrity issues coming under the remit of the Interpol Match-Fixing Task Force.

Was there really a risk of match-fixing at EURO 2020?

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The probability of match-fixing at EURO 2020 could be considered as low. The EURO is the highest-profile national team competition in Europe and is watched all over the world. This heightened attention around the tournament and had a deterrent effect on match-fixers.

In addition, the vast majority of the participants were elite professional players who are less vulnerable to approaches from match-fixers, and highly motivated to perform to their best while representing their national team.

Nevertheless, it was essential that all precautions were taken and that strong monitoring and surveillance were established, not only to be able to detect, assess and react to any suspicion, but also to use the opportunity to build capacity and bridges between all stakeholders involved in tackling match-fixing on the international stage.

UEFA is committed to favouring cooperation and coordination at all levels to preserve the integrity of football matches and competitions throughout Europe. This campaign was given additional impetus earlier this month, when the UEFA Executive Committee decided to increase the resources dedicated to the fight against match-fixing.

The action plan focuses on strengthening cooperation with relevant international and local authorities, as well as increasing expertise and support for the key persons fighting match-fixing at national and international level, in particular UEFA member associations' integrity officers.

*Source: 16 July 2021, UEFA*

*Football*

<https://www.uefa.com/insideuefa/protecting-the-game/news/026b-12c4a0c8608e-286500d52548-1000--euro-2020-match-fixing-prevention-work-proves-a-success/?rss=026b-12c4a0c8608e-286500d52548-1000euro%202020%20match%20fixing%20prevention%20work%20proves%20a%20success>

## UEFA

### UEFA to increase resources to fight match-fixing in football

The UEFA Executive Committee has agreed to increase the resources the European football governing body invests in to fight match-fixing in the sport, following its latest meeting in London.

The meeting was held prior to the final of the European Football Championship between Italy and England at the Wembley Stadium.

An independent feasibility study showed that intelligence, investigation and prevention were key to combatting match-fixing.

Now the action plan as a result of the study looks to strengthen cooperation with international and local authorities, increase expertise and support for those involved in stopping match-fixing in their roles, developing a comprehensive education and awareness programme and developing and using technological tools to better identify integrity concerns.

Additional resources will be invested to tackle and disrupt the operations of organised crime syndicates targeting European football matches by developing a closer collaboration with law enforcement agencies around the continent.

Match-fixing has a long history in football, with one of the most infamous scandals in Europe being the Calciopoli debacle from the 2005-2006 season.

Some of Italy's top clubs - including reigning champions Juventus, AC Milan and Lazio - were deducted points or relegated to Serie B, the second tier.

Other clubs punished were Fiorentina and Reggina.

*Source: 12 July 2021, Inside the Games*

*Football*

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1110069/uefa-football-match-fixing>

## ODDS AND ENDS

### UEFA

#### WHO/Europe launches new monitoring tool, tracking rates of COVID-19 in UEFA Euro 2020 host cities

With the UEFA European Football Championships being played in cities across the WHO European Region, WHO/Europe has launched an “explorer” or monitoring tool providing an overview of the current COVID-19 situation in the Region, with a particular focus on UEFA EURO 2020 host cities.

The explorer is intended as a tool for authorities, organizers and the public to better understand the COVID-19 situation in host cities and assess related risks at a public health and individual level.

The explorer provides: epidemiological trends across the Region, an event-based surveillance system, details of public health and social measures, and tracking of cases of COVID-19 in host countries.

While the UEFA EURO 2020 championships feature a series of large-scale mass gatherings that attract a lot of attention, this summer, thousands of smaller events and gatherings are being held every day across the Region. All these need to be assessed against public health risks, as long as COVID-19 is still spreading in community settings.

With the pandemic far from over, we all need to practice #SummerSense and consider the following:

If you want to travel, think carefully about the need. If you decide to, do it safely.

Assess your risks at every step.

Take precautions, such as cleaning hands frequently, keeping a safe distance and wearing a mask.

Avoid the three Cs: settings that are Closed, Confined or Crowded.

Insights at the click of a button

The explorer offers a new style of dashboard, providing specific information around a major sporting event. By selecting a stadium, users can zoom in on specific locations, providing a 7-day incidence rate as well as a trending indicator. A news link provides users with a short extract, describing developments in hosting communities associated with matches.

A public health and social measures (PHSM) tab provides detailed timelines of countries’ responses and epidemiological situations, with data informing the explorer taken from publicly available sources; governments; international, national and regional authorities; and the media.

A tool to manage your own “risk”



Different stakeholders can use this consolidated information for different purposes:

Private citizens can use it to consider risks and benefits while planning travels and/or visiting venues.

Local public health authorities can use it to manage and calibrate their PHSM to keep people safe and communicate about possible risks.

By consolidating this information for public access, the explorer helps increase transparency and trust in national and international health authorities, essential elements in the fight against COVID-19.

Digital solutions to health

Digital health is 1 of the 4 flagships, linked to the European Programme of Work 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”. Digital solutions have the potential to transform health care in the Region, improving delivery of care and supporting health authorities with innovative solutions to health issues.

Source: 6 July 2021, OMS

Football

<https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/news/news/2021/6/whoeurope-launches-new-monitoring-tool,-tracking-rates-of-covid-19-in-uefa-euro-2020-host-cities>

## INTEGRITY IN SPORT EVENTS

### Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)

#### COMPETITION MANIPULATION IS A THREAT TO SPORT INTEGRITY: AIU IDENTIFIES MULTIPLE ILLEGITIMATE QUALIFYING PERFORMANCES FOR THE TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES

In the lead up to the Tokyo Olympic Games, the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) has received 17 referrals for investigation of suspicious qualifying performances. The referrals were from 16 countries and included 31 athletes and five relay teams. As a result of the AIU's investigations, eight qualifying performances for the Olympic Games were not recognised by World Athletics and the relevant athletes denied a place at the Games. A number of cases have been identified by the AIU for further investigation to determine if fraudulent conduct was involved.

The AIU's work in managing instances of competition manipulation is part of its wider mission to cover all areas of integrity. As well as anti-doping, the AIU focuses on manipulation of competition results, age manipulation, illegal betting, bribery and corruption, harassment and abuse, and transfers of allegiance.

David Howman, Chair of the AIU said: "The work of the AIU goes far beyond anti-doping. In preparation for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, our team has been busy identifying, analysing and investigating potential instances of competition manipulation. Thanks to our investigations, World Athletics has refused to recognise several questionable qualifying performances. The AIU will continue to investigate these matters to determine if any fraudulent conduct was involved."

The AIU received multiple reports of suspected manipulation of competition results in order to seek qualification for the Tokyo Olympic Games and has worked closely with World Athletics in investigating any wrongdoing. The reported concerns covered unreliable photo-finish pictures, the short measuring of courses, illegal use of pacers, use of unauthorised field instruments and incorrect timings, among other things.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has come forward and reported suspicious activity. This work has been important in protecting the integrity of the qualification process and the fair allocation of competition places for athletes," Howman added.

Anyone can anonymously report any form of misconduct in the sport of athletics, including attempts to manipulate competition results, by submitting an online reporting form available on the AIU website. [athleticsintegrity.org/make-a-report](https://athleticsintegrity.org/make-a-report)

In addition to the work in the lead up to the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, the Athletics Integrity Unit has established a working protocol with the IOC's Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions (OM Unit PMC) during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games to help identify, analyse and investigate any potential instance of competition manipulation associated with betting occurring at the Games.

*Source: 21 July 2021, Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU)*

*Athletics*

<https://www.athleticsintegrity.org/knowledge-centre/news-archive>



## POLICY

### United Kingdom

#### Gambling Commission integrity data shows growth in esports reports

The Gambling Commission of Great Britain has released its sports betting integrity snapshot for April 2021 - the first since licensees faced greater integrity reporting requirements - showing an increase in suspicious event reports for esports.

Data from April's summary showed that 34% of betting integrity reports came from betting operators. A further 20% came from sports governing bodies, while 15% came from bet monitoring and data suppliers, and 10% from other regulators and national platforms.

The remaining reports, at 21%, came from other sources including the Gambling Commission's confidential reporting line, non-Gambling Commission licensed operators, law enforcement agencies and members of the public.

By sport, football received the most integrity reports, accounting for 44% of the total. Tennis received 21% of reports, while esports accounted for a further 20%. Other sports made up 15% of the total reports made.

This differed from the last published snapshot, for September 2019, when 51% of reports were from football, 30% tennis, 5% horseracing and 14% other sports.

The regulator added that reported events in April came from more than 25 non-Great Britain countries.

This marks the first report of its kind since the introduction of a new rule from 1 April, stating that all gambling licensees are required to provide the regulator's Sports Betting Intelligence Unit (SBIU) with details of betting integrity related issues in a standardised format.

The requirement follows amendments made to the Commission's Licence Condition and Codes of Practice on 31 October, 2020.

In addition to the April integrity snapshot, the Gambling Commission has published its updated Sports and Sports Betting Integrity Action Plan for 2021, which was first produced in 2015 and is updated annually.

The Action Plan outlines Britain's approach to managing the risks to betting integrity, and sets out how members of the Sports Betting Integrity Forum (SBIF) aim to protect Britain's reputation for being a safe place to enjoy sports and sports betting.

The 2021 plan builds on the SBIF's work to date, but priority actions this year will reflect additional risks to integrity brought about by the novel coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, as well as changes resulting from the UK's exit from the European Union.

The SBIF's website has also been redesigned with a view to making it more user friendly, and to provide a platform where betting integrity related resources can easily be located. Resources include a sports betting integrity training module which had been developed to provide an educational resource for the wider British betting industry.

The Gambling Commission said the SBIU is collaborating with key sporting and government stakeholders to provide integrity support for the rescheduled 2020 UEFA European Football Championship.

Source: 6 July 2021, iGB

eSports

<https://igamingbusiness.com/gambling-commission-integrity-data-shows-growth-in-esports-reports/>