



INTERPOL

# INTEGRITY IN SPORT

## Bi-weekly Bulletin

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Photos International Olympic Committee

## INVESTIGATIONS

### AIBA

#### Judges 'used signals' to fix Olympic boxing bouts, McLaren report finds

A damning investigation into boxing at the Rio 2016 Olympics has found widespread evidence of "corruption, bribery and the manipulation of sporting results" – with judges giving each other signals at ringside to fix bouts.

The report by Prof Richard McLaren, who exposed state sponsored doping in Russia, said that the seeds of the corruption had been sown in the years beforehand, with bouts before and during London 2012 also under suspicion.

The investigation has identified seven to 10 suspicious matches where bout manipulation is likely to have taken place.

McLaren found that there existed a culture of "favours", particularly among the post-Soviet countries – with Azerbaijan giving amateur boxing's governing body, Aiba, an investment loan of \$10m with the expectation that bouts would be manipulated in their favour for medals at London 2012. Four years later a \$250,000 bribe was also offered by Mongolian officials in an attempt to fix an Olympic semi-final.

Fears of wrongdoing at the 2016 Olympics were exposed by the Guardian five years' ago before a punch was even thrown – with senior officials saying there was "no doubt" certain bouts in Rio would be "corrupted".

The Guardian was also told in Rio that a cabal of officials were able to use their power to manipulate the judging system to ensure certain boxers would win. Speaking in Lausanne on Wednesday, McLaren confirmed the Guardian's story, saying that a handpicked team of senior "five-star" referees and judges used signals at ringside or instructed colleagues on the morning of fights as to who should win. Meanwhile incorruptible officials were driven out of the sport, with a weeding out process during the qualifying competition for Rio.

McLaren also said that controversial defeats at the Rio Games for Great Britain's Joe Joyce in the super-heavyweight final against France's Tony Yoka and Ireland's Michael Conlan in his bantamweight quarter-final against the Russian Vladimir Nikitin were among around 11 fights under investigation.

McLaren said that the corruption went right to the top with two senior Aiba officials – Wu Ching-kuo and Karim Bouzidi, the then Aiba president and executive director, respectively – being "key actors" in "allowing the manipulation to flourish".

Wu, who McLaren said "bears ultimate responsibility for the failures of officiating at Rio and the qualifying events", was banned for life from the sport in 2018.

However, Bouzidi was the chief architect of a scheme, with McLaren saying he "seized powers to oversee the appointment of referees and judges (R&Js) that knew what was going on but would comply with the manipulation, or who were incompetent, but wanted to continue as an R&J so were willing to comply or turn a blind eye to what was going on".

In his report McLaren also reveals that a bribe of up to \$250,000 was allegedly attempted to fix the outcome of the lightweight semi-final between Otgondalai Dorjnyambuu of Mongolia and Sofiane Oumiha of France. No bribe was paid and the Mongolian boxer lost with "very unusual scoring" which was identical on all five judges' scorecards.

McLaren also notes that the groundwork for the corruption that took place at Rio was laid as far back as the qualification events for London 2012. "In 2010 Azerbaijan gave Aiba a \$10m investment loan," he writes. "This was followed up by an additional \$10m loan from Kazakhstan. What followed was that the R&Js felt pressure to call bouts for either the Azeri or Kazak boxers.

"Manipulation stemming from the Azeri loan trickled into the London Games. Just prior to the Games the BBC carried a story of medals for money. The allegation was that the Azeris had been promised Olympic medals as a condition of the \$10m loan referred to above. President CK Wu, always concerned about public perceptions, made an executive order to ensure Azerbaijan did not win any medals.

"The fear for CK Wu was that, if the Azeris had won, it would have proved the documentary's allegations of corruption correct. Therefore, a reverse manipulation had to take place to ensure they did not win any medals for public perception. The Azeris felt betrayed at the end of London 2012."

Ireland's Michael Conlan reacts to his defeat by Vladimir Nikitin of Russia in their Rio Olympics quarter-final

Speaking after the report was published, Conlan said he was "delighted" at the news. "It's five years on and has been a long time coming. I didn't expect this to happen.

"The black mark of Rio will always be there and I think if I hadn't said what I said and done what I did this probably wouldn't be

happening now," he told BBC Northern Ireland. "I think it's a huge day for amateur boxing and especially for the guys who suffered in Rio, including myself. It is vindication."

In a statement the new Aiba president, Umar Kremlev, who commissioned the report, said they would take it on board. "Aiba hired Professor McLaren because we have nothing to hide," said president Kremlev. "We will work to incorporate any helpful recommendations that are made. We will also take legal advice with regard to what action is possible against those found to have participated in any manipulation. There should be no place in the Aiba family for anyone who has fixed a fight."

Further reports on the investigation will be provided by McLaren in November and then March 2022.

Source: 30 September 2021, *The Guardian*

Boxing

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/sep/30/judges-signals-fix-olympic-boxing-bouts-mclaren-report>

## Belgium

### L'ex-manager d'Anderlecht Van Holsbeek a demandé l'aide d'un arbitre via Veljkovic en échange d'une prolongation d'Hanni

Sporza révèle qu'en 2017, l'ancien manager du RSCA aurait demandé à l'agent de Sofiane Hanni de demander à l'arbitre Sébastien Delférière de "siffler correctement" lors du match décisif entre le FC Bruges et Anderlecht et de "ne rien faire de spécial."

Herman Van Holsbeek, qui était alors le manager d'Anderlecht, a demandé à l'agent Dejan Veljkovic d'intercéder auprès de l'arbitre Sébastien Delférière afin de "protéger" Anderlecht lors d'un match au Club Bruges en 2017. C'est ce que la RTBF, qui diffusera un documentaire sur le sujet mercredi soir, et Sporza, qui cite "des sources proches du dossier", ont révélé mardi.

Une belle commission pour Veljkovic avec la prolongation d'Hanni

Selon le récit des deux médias, au printemps 2017, Anderlecht discutait avec Veljkovic au sujet du nouveau contrat de Sofiane Hanni.

Van Holsbeek a expliqué à Veljkovic que le titre était important et que les millions provenant de la participation à la Ligue des Champions auraient un impact sur le nouveau contrat. Anderlecht s'apprêtait à jouer un match capital à Bruges.

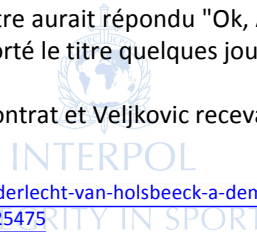
Inquiet de la pression du public, Herman Van Holsbeek aurait alors demandé à Veljkovic d'intercéder auprès de l'arbitre pour lui demander, selon Sporza, de "protéger Anderlecht", de "siffler correctement et de ne pas se laisser intimider" et de "ne rien faire de spécial, juste de siffler correctement". Ce à quoi l'arbitre aurait répondu "Ok, Anderlecht ne perdra pas." La rencontre s'était soldée sur un score de parité, 1-1. Anderlecht avait remporté le titre quelques jours plus tard.

Quelques semaines plus tard, Hanni signait un nouveau contrat et Veljkovic recevait une commission de 440.000 euros.

Source: 21 September 2021, *Le Vif*

Football

[https://sportmagazine.levif.be/sport/foot-national/l-ex-manager-d-anderlecht-van-holsbeek-a-demande-l-aide-d-un-arbitre-via-veljkovic-en-echange-d-une-prolongation-d-hanni/article-news-1474045.html?cookie\\_check=1632925475](https://sportmagazine.levif.be/sport/foot-national/l-ex-manager-d-anderlecht-van-holsbeek-a-demande-l-aide-d-un-arbitre-via-veljkovic-en-echange-d-une-prolongation-d-hanni/article-news-1474045.html?cookie_check=1632925475)



## Belgium

### Pini Zahavi : le gros coup de filet des enquêteurs belges

Avec l'inculpation de Pinhas dit " Pini " Zahavi, c'est un tout gros poisson que vient de pêcher la justice belge. Comme le révélait la DH ce vendredi matin, c'est dans la plus grande discrétion que l'agent de joueurs a été interrogé à Bruxelles il y a quelques semaines avant d'être inculpé. Pour faux, usage de faux, blanchiment d'argent et escroquerie. Cela s'inscrit dans le cadre du dossier du club de Mouscron. Pour rappel, le club hennuyer avait été inculpé en août 2020. Non extradable vu son statut de citoyen israélien, Zahavi s'était longtemps retranché derrière l'excuse du COVID avant de répondre favorablement à la convocation des autorités judiciaires bruxelloises.

L'ancien journaliste israélien de 77 ans est considéré comme un des managers les plus puissants et les plus influents de la planète football. On l'a d'ailleurs surnommé " Mister Fix-It ", tant il est réputé pour sa faculté à mener à bien les négociations les plus difficiles. Une sorte de super-agent au rayonnement international.

Pini Zahavi a d'abord eu beaucoup d'influence dans le football anglais. Proche de Manchester United et de son coach " historique " Sir Alex Ferguson, il y transfère des joueurs comme Stam, Veron ou Rio Ferdinand. Mais son premier gros coup d'éclat, c'est l'arrivée du milliardaire Roman Abramovitch à Chelsea. L'oligarque russe rachète le club londonien pour 140 millions de livres. Il y investira plus de 2 milliards en 15 ans !

Zahavi y fait la pluie et le beau temps ainsi qu'à Tottenham, autre club de la capitale britannique.

Autre fait majeur de ce parcours exceptionnel : l'arrivée de Neymar au PSG en 2017 pour... 222 millions d'euros, record absolu. Le père du joueur est son agent mais, une fois encore, Zahavi a joué les intermédiaires et il touchera près de 11 millions d'euros pour cette transaction. Au PSG aussi, Zahavi est devenu très influent. Il y place d'ailleurs son fidèle collaborateur brésilien Humberto Paiva, ancien codirecteur sportif de Mouscron avec Youri Selak (proche, lui, de la mouvance de l'agent Ramadani) et qui deviendra bientôt le conseiller personnel de la star brésilienne du PSG.

Intelligent, habile, polyglotte, persuasif, efficace, Zahavi s'est fait une place au soleil. Son carnet d'adresses est exceptionnel et son réseau énorme. Le simple énoncé de son nom permet d'ouvrir bien des portes. Et il a formé une véritable galaxie d'agents qui travaillent pour lui dans le monde entier.

Après avoir quitté le journalisme, il avait rapidement fait fortune avec l'achat et la revente de droits TV de différents championnats européens. Via une société basée à Gibraltar il pratique aussi le TPO (Third-Party Ownership), une pratique de tierce propriété des droits économiques d'un joueur, aujourd'hui condamnée par la FIFA. Précisons que Zahavi n'a jamais été condamné tout au long de son parcours d'homme d'affaires, de football mais aussi de la diplomatie, ayant joué un rôle non négligeable, jadis, dans les relations entre Israël et l'URSS, pays où il s'était fait pas mal d'amis importants.

### Arrivée à Mouscron

En juin, 2015, il rachète le club de Mouscron avec un autre agent, son proche collaborateur Fali Ramadani à travers la société " Goal Football Malta ". Dans le Hainaut occidental, il a la possibilité de faire tourner beaucoup de joueurs, notamment venus d'un de ses " clubs vitrine ", l'Apollon Limassol. Il peut aussi faire plaisir à pas mal d'agents en recrutant leurs joueurs. Mais le règlement belge change quelques mois plus tard, interdisant la gestion d'un club par un agent de joueurs y exerçant une " influence notable ".

Ni une ni deux, il revend alors le club mouscronnois pour... 10 euros à son neveu Adar Zahavi et à " Latimer Ltd ", autre fonds d'investissement maltais. Mais Zahavi demeure néanmoins très influent dans l'ombre. Ce qui n'empêche pas Mouscron d'obtenir sa licence chaque année, soit devant la Commission des Licences de la Fédération, soit devant la CBAS malgré les plaintes répétées de plusieurs clubs. Le 28 août dernier, le club a été inculpé en personne morale pour faux, usage de faux et escroquerie. A travers le long feuilleton mouscronnois, les enquêteurs bruxellois ont également cherché, inlassablement, des traces de blanchiment d'argent. Ils sont d'ailleurs allés recueillir de précieuses informations à cet égard il y a quelques mois à Malte. Gageons que l'inculpation de l'intermédiaire israélien s'inscrit dans le contexte de cette enquête.

Source: 30 September 2021, RTBF

[https://www.rtbef.be/sport/football/detail\\_pini-zahavi-le-gros-coup-de-filet-des-enqueteurs-belges?id=10633526](https://www.rtbef.be/sport/football/detail_pini-zahavi-le-gros-coup-de-filet-des-enqueteurs-belges?id=10633526)

## Ghana

### Ghanaian player who 'stopped match-fixing' charged with match-fixing

A player who scored two own goals in a bid to prevent what he believes was a pre-arranged scoreline in Ghana's top flight has been charged with match-fixing and bringing the game into disrepute by the country's football association.

Hashmin Musah found his own net twice

as his Inter Allies side lost 7-0 to Ashanti Gold, with the substitute later telling reporters he did so with the intention of foiling what he suspected was a pre-arranged 5-1 scoreline.

He is one of a total of 18 players and six officials across both clubs to have been charged with a variety of offences.

All have been accused of match-fixing.

"I heard in our hotel that a bet had been made for a correct scoreline of 5-1 against my club Inter Allies," Musah told Ghanaian media after the match in Obuasi.

"I decided to spoil that bet because I don't condone betting. After the game, my technical team commended me for spoiling the bet they had staked."

Musah, who had to submit his defence by Friday, could be banned from football as a result of the accusations brought against him.

He is one of three Inter Allies players to be charged, with 15 from three-time Ghanaian champions Ashanti Gold facing similar disciplinary cases.

Inter Allies' head coach, team manager and a club official have also been charged, as have both the president and chief executive of Ashanti Gold.

Ghana's football association (GFA) will adjudicate the cases after requesting statements of defence, all of which are expected to have been received by Monday 27 September.

"We have not done anything bad because we always beat people 4-0, 5-0 or 5-4," Ashanti Gold president Kwaku Frimpong told BBC Sport Africa.

"We beat them five and their defender [Musah] scored two himself. I think they have to put the blame on the guy who scored himself because it's unprecedented.

"So why do we have to blame Ashanti Gold? This is jealousy and they just want to destroy my name. I have not talked to any president or any club. We have done nothing."

[...]

Now the problem has come to the fore once again.

"Our football has been attacked by faceless cowards," GFA boss Okraku said last month. "It is my responsibility and that of the executive council to defend the passion of the nation.

"Everybody who has played a part [in match-fixing relating to betting] will face it."

Source: 25 September 2021, BBC Sport

Football

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/africa/58664284>

## Ghana

### Match-fixing scandal: Ashanti Gold President and CEO charged for match manipulation

The Disciplinary Committee of the Ghana Football Association (GFA) has charged the President and CEO of Ashanti Gold for match manipulation.

In a statement, the GFA said Kwaku Frimpong and Emmanuel Frimpong have both been charged on three counts of misconduct for match manipulation.

“The President and Chief Executive Officer of the Club were both charged for breaching Article 27(1) and 27(2) of the GFA Code of Ethics, Article 18(1) of the GFA Disciplinary Code and Article 34(5)(a) and 34(5)(b) of the GFA Premier League Regulations,” a section of the statement said.

“The two Club Officials are expected to submit their Statements of Defence to the charges on or before Wednesday, September 22 after which the GFA Disciplinary Committee will adjudicate their cases respectively.”

This follows the Miners’ high-scoring matchday 34 clash against Inter Allies during last season’s Ghana Premier League.

The Obuasi-based side recorded an emphatic 7-0 win over Allies at the Len Clay Stadium on the final day of the 2020/21 season.

Video highlights of the match sent shocking waves down the spines of fans after the away side’s Hashmin Musah deliberately scored two own goals.

The defender was brought on in the second half with the scoreline at 5-0, and he put the ball in his own net twice to increase the tally to 7-0.

Musah later disclosed that he had picked up information that a 5-1 scoreline had been “pre-arranged” and bets placed to that effect.

In his defense, the player said he had to deliberately score those own goals to foil the alleged match-fixing plan.

The GFA subsequently opened investigations into the matter and even involved the Police in order to ensure those found culpable were punished.

Meanwhile, the Disciplinary Committee of the GFA further stated that officials and players who were involved in the scandal will also be charged.

“The GFA Prosecutor is expected to release more charge sheets for some officials and players,” the statement added.

Source: 21 September 2021, Pulse

<https://www.pulse.com.gh/sports/football/match-fixing-scandal-ashanti-gold-president-and-ceo-charged-for-match-manipulation/7087pnl>



## Jamaica

### ICC charges Marlon Samuels for breaching anti-corruption code

The International Cricket Council on Wednesday charged former West Indies all-rounder Marlon Samuels of breaching four counts of the anti-corruption code during a T10 league, including failure to disclose hospitality benefits that could bring disrepute to the sport.

The game's governing body charged the West Indian on behalf of the Emirates Cricket Board (ECB), the organiser of the T10 League which is four seasons old.

"Samuels will be given a time period of 14 days to respond to the charges," an ICC release said.

The 40-year-old Samuels played 71 Tests, 207 ODIs and 67 T20Is in his international career, scoring 11,134 runs and taking 152 wickets. He retired from international cricket in November 2020.

According to the ICC, Samuels breached articles 2.4.2, 2.4.3, 2.4.6 and 2.4.7 of the Code.

The three articles deal with failure to disclose to the Anti-Corruption Official, receipt of any gift, payment, hospitality or other benefit that was made or given in circumstances that "could bring the participant or the sport of cricket into disrepute", non-cooperation with the investigation, and obstructing or delaying the investigation by "concealing information that may have been relevant..."

The T10 league's latest edition was held in Abu Dhabi in January-February earlier this year.

Samuels was a part of the event in 2019 when he turned up for Karnataka Tuskers, which was led by South African star Hashim Amla.

Source: 22 September 2021, Indian Express

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/icc-charges-marlon-samuels-for-breaching-anti-corruption-code-7527600/>

## Netherlands

### Dutch athlete reveals match fixing ring in professional tennis

At least ten international professional tennis players, including four Dutch players, regularly work with a match fixer for some extra income, a young Dutch professional tennis player said in the NOS podcast Gefixt. The player, who asked to remain anonymous for obvious reasons, found out about this match fixing ring through is doubles partner two years ago.

The Dutch player shared a hotel room abroad with his doubles partner, another Dutch player, two years ago. "We talked about how he pays for tennis, because it is quite an expensive sport. You have to pay for almost everything yourself: the travel, your hotel, sometimes a trainer and the training location," the player said.

It was then that the topic of matchfixing came up, the Dutch player said to NOS. His doubles partner had a second phone, with which he sent messages to an unknown person, informing them that he was going to lose a certain match or set in exchange for a few thousand euros, the Dutch player said. "I was quite surprised. I knew it happened in the sport and sometimes you have suspicions, but in principle you do not assume that someone is selling their matches."

He now knows of at least ten players from France, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands who works with this match fixer. The Dutch player hasn't told the authorities about this. Partly because his doubles partner is his friend, and also because he is worried about consequences for himself. "If you report something, they will also investigate you yourself. You have to hand in your phone and such. I would never do that. I have also sometimes gambled on tennis matches because I found it fun. And they'll find that," he said. That could result in a fine and suspension for him. The fact that he did not report the match fixing earlier could also count against him.

Public Prosecutor Anne de Leeuw is not surprised by the tennis player's story, she said to NOS. "Being a top tennis player costs so much that it is almost a risk factor for match fixing," she said. "In the Netherlands we have dozens of professional tennis players, but there are only a few who can really earn a good living from that. For the rest it is hard work and costs a lot of money. So the danger lurks more quickly when you can create an alternative revenue model for yourself to be able to continue practicing your sport."

The Dutch tennis association KNLTB said it is shocked by the tennis player's account. "This shows that the threat of match fixing is very real," the association said to NOS. The KNLTB is mainly concerned about low-ranking players' financial vulnerability and wants to push for a different remuneration system. "We also notice that the willingness to report is low among players. That is why we have set up an anonymous reporting system, where this tennis player can also tell his story without danger." That report will then be passed on to the International Tennis Integrity Agency.

Source: 29 September 2021, NL Times

<https://nltimes.nl/2021/09/30/dutch-athlete-reveals-match-fixing-ring-professional-tennis>

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## Netherlands

### Van Barneveld denies match-fixing after quitting online darts tournament

Former world darts champion Raymond van Barneveld dropped out of a tournament last year after he was accused of deliberately throwing a match, according to an NOS podcast. The online tournament last April, 'A Night at the Darts', was brought under supervision after the 54-year-old lost 5-0 to Martin Adams. In the hours before the match around €60,000 was bet on a win for Adams, who was initially the underdog, causing the betting odds to shift in his favour. Other matches on the same night attracted around €700 worth of bets. It was one of the worst performances of Van Barneveld's career, averaging just 65 points per turn, but he said he had been unnerved by the huge sums being staked on the match. 'All kinds of things ran through my head. Because yeah, if I actually lost, the whole world would be after me,' he said. 'I was throwing in a state of total stress. That was clear because I wasn't hitting anything.' He left the tournament after the Darts Regulatory Authority stepped in because of the allegations of match-fixing. Police also began an investigation, which is currently on hold 'awaiting relevant new information'. 'They were obviously going to cast their eye over every match I played after that. I didn't care for it,' Van Barneveld said. 'I'm strongly against match-fixing. I don't like it and I'd never let myself be bought.' Another Dutch participant, Wessel Nijman, later admitted he had taken €10,000 to lose a match and received a five-year ban. He was the first Dutch sportsman to be penalised for the offence.

Read more at DutchNews.nl:

Source: 27 September 2021, Dutch News

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2021/09/van-barneveld-denies-match-fixing-after-quitting-online-darts-tournament/>





## Russia

### Russian Handball Federation to start criminal proceedings in match-fixing case

The Russian Handball Federation (FGR) is looking to "initiate a criminal case" after eight players were suspended for match fixing at this year's European Men's Under-19 Championship.

Maxim Naidunov, Georgy Kirilenko, Daniil Dmitriev and Alexander Morozov have been hit with five-year bans by the FGR.

Nikita Gogolev and Maxim Ermolin have been suspended for two years while Dmitry Kondybin and Dmitry Frolov have been disqualified for nine months.

The FGR's Executive Committee agreed on the length of bans after it was found that players placed bets at bookmakers through third parties on matches they were involved in.

Russia lost six of their seven matches as they finished 15th out of 16 teams at the European Championship in Croatia in August.

FGR President Sergey Shishkarev confirmed the organisation was looking to start criminal proceedings.

"We have facts that the players received remuneration," said Shishkarev in a report by Russia's official state news agency TASS.

"Based on the results of the proceedings that took place in the federation, a statement by the Russian Handball Federation with a request to initiate a criminal case under article 184 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation will be prepared and previously agreed with the leadership of law enforcement agencies.

"It describes the concept of manipulation of sports results, there were no precedents in the Russian Federation, but this article provides for up to seven years in prison."

Vitaly Ivanov has quit as head coach of the Russian national team who competed at the European Championship after his resignation was accepted by the FGR, according to TASS.

"We are especially outraged by the fact that this happened at a high-level international competition and against the background of the political pressure that Russian sport is facing from international sports officials," said Boris Kipkeev, head of FGR's Ethics Commission.

Russia's flag and anthem has been banned from major events, including Olympics and World Championships, after sanctions were imposed by the World Anti-Doping Agency as punishment for the manipulation of the Moscow Laboratory data.

In December 2020, the Court of Arbitration for Sport cut the ban to two years following an appeal by the Russian Anti-Doping Agency.

As part of the sanctions, Russia will not be able to host, or be granted the right to stage, any major events during the two-year period where they apply.

At the European Championship in Croatia, Russia finished bottom of Group C after losing to eventual champions Germany, Denmark and Norway.

They then suffered further defeat to France, Israel and Austria before beating the latter to finish 15th in the tournament.

"We received signals about the possible contractual nature of the matches during the European Championship," said FGR director general Lev Voronin.

"After the end of the tournament, the Review Committee examined all the entries and concluded that the team was not acting in full force.

"In fact, it is striking when a person deliberately misses a goal or allows an opponent to attack unhindered. Having received the opinion of the Review Committee, the Ethics Committee continued the investigation."

Shishkarev added: "The facts revealed by the Ethics Commission cause me not only outrage, but also a feeling of deep disappointment in relation to young players.

"I previously called it a betrayal of the motherland, this is how I feel about the egregious facts of 'financial doping'".

"We are working hard to bring men's handball out of the lingering crisis in which it has found itself in recent years."

Source: 1 October 2021, [insidethegames.biz](https://www.insidethegames.biz)

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1113670/eight-russian-handball-players-suspended>

## Spain

### Quince futbolistas de la región están imputados en el fraude de las apuestas

La investigación que el Juzgado de Instrucción número 1 de Zafra abrió en 2017 para poner al descubierto una supuesta trama relacionada con el fraude en las apuestas deportivas dio este lunes un nuevo paso con la comparecencia de cinco personas que están siendo investigadas.

Habían sido citadas por el juez instructor para ser interrogadas por su presunta participación en la trama, aunque no son los únicos que tendrán que visitar en las próximas semanas los juzgados segedanos, que pretenden tomar declaración a 20 imputados.

En esta primera jornada figuraban en la lista de citados futbolistas que tienen relación con equipos extremeños como Jorge Zafra, que en esos años jugaba en el Jerez; Antonio Jesús Alvero, alias 'Atón', por aquella época en el Olivenza y el Jerez; Francisco Javier Hernández, conocido como Javi Chino y que militaba en el Mérida; y Manuel Ruano Santana, ex del Díter Zafra y Calamonte.

Los citados comparecieron junto a sus abogados en los juzgados de Zafra, que da nuevos pasos para determinar si los indicios son suficientes para sentarlos en el banquillo o, por el contrario, cuentan con argumentos suficientes para justificar su inocencia, en cuyo caso la acusación sería archivada.

En las próximas semanas también declararán como investigadas tres futbolistas que jugaban en el Santa Teresa: Nayadet López, Estefanía Lima 'Estefa' y Marta Parralejo. Igualmente sucederá con Jesús Sosa Algaba, que disputó algunos partidos con el Díter Zafra.

Las fuentes consultadas por HOY explican que varios investigados rehusaron responder a las preguntas del juez por recomendación de sus letrados, que les aconsejaron esperar a conocer los cargos que existen contra ellos.

Para ello esperan recibir una copia del atestado policial, en el que se incluyen cientos de horas de grabaciones realizadas con autorización judicial en los teléfonos de los investigados y otras pruebas. En total son 13 tomos y abundante material audiovisual.

El origen de esta operación está en una denuncia presentada por la Fiscalía de Badajoz en el juzgado de Zafra en marzo de 2017 por supuestos amaños en la Tercera División extremeña. La investigación desembocó en 28 detenciones y varios registros en las provincias de Badajoz, Barcelona, Madrid, Murcia y Albacete.

Meses después, en una segunda parte de la operación, hubo 21 detenidos más, la investigación se extendió a más comunidades y se analizaron más partidos y de distintas categorías del fútbol español.

La Fiscalía tenía indicios de un presunto delito de estafa y corrupción en los negocios en el que podrían estar implicados jugadores de fútbol pertenecientes a varios equipos de la Tercera División extremeña que habrían realizado apuestas en varios partidos para obtener beneficios que, en uno de los casos, ascendieron a 5.000 euros.

Los investigadores creen que el fraude provocó el amaño de partidos, al menos, en las temporadas 2016-2017 y 2017-2018, aunque estaban convencidos que la red comenzó a operar antes. Para esclarecer los hechos fueron registrados despachos de abogados, domicilios y clubes de fútbol.

Se cree que el presunto entramado estaba liderado por dos exjugadores de fútbol, uno de Primera y otro de Segunda, con conexiones con las casas de apuestas en China y un árbitro, que se aprovechaban de su experiencia para comprar voluntades de futbolistas en activo que forzaban jugadas en los partidos, como penaltis o córneres.

En un primer momento el Juzgado de Zafra se inhibió. Entendía que la instrucción debía realizarse en Madrid por afectar a varias provincias. Pero la Investigación ha vuelto a Zafra, que ahora retoma el caso. Para ello ha solicitado una ampliación del período de instrucción por seis meses.

Junto a los investigados que han sido citados ahora figuran en la causa otros futbolistas que han pasado o militan actualmente en equipos extremeños como Alberto Sansinena 'Tete', Javi Vila, Álex Gragera, Víctor Aguinaco, Emilio Pinto, Iván Moreno, Jorge García Morcillo y Borja Israel Cantaruti. También hay una amplia lista de futbolistas que jugaban en equipos murcianos, andaluces y catalanes. Algunos fueron detenidos y otros solo investigados.

Source: 22 September 2021, Hoy.es

<https://www.hoy.es/extremadura/quince-futbolistas-region-20210921221811-nt.html>

## United States

### NHL: No evidence Kane gambled on games; investigating new allegations

The NHL announced Wednesday that it found no evidence that Sharks winger Evander Kane gambled on league games.

Kane's estranged wife, Anna Kane, alleged on Instagram in July that Evander bet on NHL games and had a gambling addiction.

The NHL's report states as follows:

"The investigation included a detailed review of social media, public data, and court filings from the bankruptcy proceeding initiated by Mr. Kane in January 2021 and his pending divorce proceeding; a review of sports betting data and analysis; and in person and virtual interviews of members of the Sharks organization and others, including Mr. Kane. It should be noted that Ms. Kane refused to participate in the investigation.

"The investigation uncovered no evidence to corroborate Ms. Kane's accusations that Mr. Kane bet or otherwise participated in gambling on NHL games, and no evidence to corroborate the allegations that Mr. Kane 'threw' games or did not put forward his best effort to help the Sharks win games. To the contrary, the evidence raises doubts about the veracity of the allegations.

"While Mr. Kane denied the accusations, our findings are not based on these denials but instead on other evidence uncovered during the investigation.

The investigation was conducted by Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP in conjunction with NHL Security.

Last week in an interview with ESPN's Linda Cohn, Kane vehemently denied the allegations and was confident the NHL's investigation would clear him.

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"Obviously, incredibly false," Kane told Cohn of the allegations made by his wife. "It's unfortunate that that transpired. It's unfortunate that those allegations, false allegations, were made. Obviously, when they happened I understood the magnitude of them immediately not knowing what was going to happen next.

"But I'm confident because I know that's not true, I know none of what she is saying is true, and I was very confident and comfortable with where I was knowing that I was going to be exonerated, am going to be exonerated of those allegations."

The NHL now considers this specific matter closed, barring any new information that might arise in relation to Kane's gambling. The report concludes as follows:

"Our review of public and non-public documents relating to Mr. Kane, including data and analysis from a leading sports integrity service, and our interviews of those individuals most familiar with Mr. Kane's on-ice performance over the past three seasons yielded no evidence to corroborate Ms. Kane's allegations that her husband gambled on NHL games or 'threw' hockey games."

The NHL's statement did also note that the league is also thoroughly investigating "additional unrelated allegations involving potential wrongdoing by Mr. Kane."

On Tuesday, Anna Kane filed a domestic violence restraining order application in Santa Clara as part of her divorce case with Evander. In the court filing obtained by the San Jose Mercury News, Anna Kane accuses her husband of sexual assault and domestic violence.

In the filing, Anna Kane claims that Evander has a "history of domestic violence against me" and that she "walked on eggshells for fear that he would get mad and take out his anger on me."

Evander Kane's lawyer, Travis Krepelka, told the Mercury News as part of a long statement that "Evander denies ever abusing Ms. Kane or their daughter Kensington, whom he cherishes."

The NHL will have no further comment on the latest accusations until the investigation is complete.

Evander Kane, 30, has played in the NHL for 12 years and is entering the fourth year of a seven-year, \$49 million contract with the Sharks. Last season he totaled 22 goals and 27 assists in 56 games.

Source: 27 September 2021, NBC Sports

<https://www.nbc.com/bayarea/sharks/nhl-finds-no-evidence-sharks-evander-kane-gambled-games>

## SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

### Germany

#### German tennis player banned for 12 months

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has today confirmed that German tennis player Dario Drebenstedt has been banned from the sport for 12 months and fined \$5000 after being found guilty of several breaches of Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP) rules. The offenses all took place at a tournament in Egypt in 2021 and related to an attempt to buy a wild card and attempted corrupt approaches to other players.

The case was ruled on by Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer Raj Parker and the sanction means that Drebenstedt is prohibited from playing in or attending any tennis event authorised or sanctioned by the governing bodies of tennis between 21 September 2021 and 20 September 2022.

Drebenstedt, who had a highest ITF ranking of 2905, was found guilty of the following:

Attempted breach of Section D.1.k. of the TACP “No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, offer, pay or accept any money, benefit or Consideration for the provision of a wildcard to an Event.”

Attempted breach of Section D.1.o. of the TACP “No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit, facilitate or incite any other person to commit, attempt, agree or conspire to commit any Corruption Offense.”

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

Two breaches of Section D.2.a.iv of the TACP “A Player shall not dissuade or prevent any other Covered Person from complying with any reporting obligation in Section D.2.”

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.

Source: 23 September 2021, ITIA

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/dario-drebenstedt-banned/>



## Sweden

### Swedish FA suspends four players for betting and match-fixing offenses

The Swedish Football Association (Svensk Fotboll) has revealed the outcome of a match-fixing investigation against four players, announcing that they had been issued bans of four, five, six and seven years respectively.

Svensk Fotboll's disciplinary committee decided that Pawal Cibicki would remain barred until 2025, while Robin Armandt would be banned until 2026.

It was ruled that Kristian Legiec would be suspended until 2027 and Vladimir Pasarikovski would receive the longest ban, ending in 2028.

The players were found to have violated a number of rules in the organisation's anti-match fixing regulations.

In one example, Armandt and Pasarikovski were found to have breached section 1.3 of the regulations after Pasarikovski paid Armandt SEK44,500 (£3,755/€4,388) to perform ubelow the best of his abilities in six football matches that took place in division 3 Södra Götaland.

Pasarikovski and acquaintances bet an estimated SEK250,000 on Kvarnby IK, the team in which Armandt was a goalkeeper for at the time, to lose the match. When Kvarnby IK lost, Pasarikovski and his associates made "significant gains" of SEK400,000 according to the report published by the disciplinary committee.

In addition, Kvarnby's former coach revealed in a police interview that Armandt would talk openly about how easy it was to "fix matches".

Cibicki, Legiec and Pasarikovski also breached section 1.3 when Cibicki agreed to receive a yellow card in a game played by his team, IF Elfsborg, in exchange for SEK300,000 disguised as a loan.

During the match in question on May 26 2019, Cibicki received a yellow card in the 60th minute.

Before the match, bets were placed from 33 accounts that Cibicki would receive the yellow card. Most of the accounts were brand new.

Legiec violated section 1.2 of the regulations, after it was found that he had placed bets on the outcomes of matches played by Malmö City FC, a team which he played for – also in division 3 Södra Götaland. He also placed bets on matches that took place in the same league Malmö City FC participated in.

The disciplinary committee claim that Legiec placed 23 bets on matches through the account of a relative, using betting operators such as Unibet and Bet365. Seven of these bets were made on matches in the same competition he was in, while the remainder were made on matches he or his team played in.

In December 2020, Malmö District Court convicted Armandt on charges of accepting bribes and gambling fraud.

Pasarikovski was convicted of bribery and gambling fraud, but was later acquitted of the bribery charge. Cibicki was acquitted of granting bribes and gambling fraud, while Legiec was acquitted of granting bribes and game cheating.

The verdicts have been appealed.

The suspensions prohibit the players from participating in football training, competitions and demonstrations.

Source: 24 September 2021, *iGaming Business*  
Football

<https://igamingbusiness.com/swedish-fa-suspends-four-players-for-betting-and-match-fixing-offenses/>

## LEGISLATION

### Morocco

#### Compétitions sportives: Le Maroc signe la "Convention de Macolin"

Le Maroc a signé, lundi, la Convention sur la manipulation des compétitions sportives dite "Convention de Macolin". Il s'agit d'un instrument juridique international ayant pour objectif de prévenir, détecter et sanctionner la manipulation des compétitions sportives et de renforcer la coopération entre les autorités publiques concernées avec les organisations sportives et les opérateurs de paris sportifs.

La convention a été signée, au siège du Conseil de l'Europe à Strasbourg, par l'ambassadeur du Royaume en France, Chakib Benmoussa, et le SG adjoint du Conseil de l'Europe Bjorn Berge, en présence notamment du consul général du Maroc dans la ville alsacienne Driss El Kaissi. Le diplomate marocain a remis les pleins pouvoirs originaux à M. Berge. Le Maroc a activement participé aux négociations de cette convention qui offre un cadre juridique de coopération favorisant la recherche de réponses efficaces communes aux défis posés par la manipulation de compétitions sportives et d'autres pratiques répréhensibles dans ce domaine.

Source: 21 September 2021, L'Economiste.com

<https://www.leconomiste.com/flash-infos/competitions-sportives-le-maroc-signe-la-convention-de-macolin>

## GOOD PRACTICES

### Mexico

#### ALCANCE VERDADERO DEL CONVENIO DE COLABORACIÓN QUE FORMALIZÓ EL COMITÉ OLÍMPICO MEXICANO (COM) CON LA UNIDAD DE INTELIGENCIA FINANCIERA (UIF)

ALCANCE VERDADERO DEL CONVENIO DE COLABORACIÓN QUE FORMALIZÓ EL COMITÉ OLÍMPICO MEXICANO (COM) CON LA UNIDAD DE INTELIGENCIA FINANCIERA (UIF)

Estimados Miembros del COM

Por acuerdo del Comité Ejecutivo del COM, del cual forman parte entre otros, los Presidentes de la Federación Mexicana de Tiro Deportivo, de la Federación Mexicana de Handball, de la Federación Mexicana de Triatlón, de la Federación Mexicana de Hockey sobre Pasto, de la Federación Mexicana de Gimnasia, de la Federación Mexicana de Pentatlón Moderno, de la Federación Mexicana de Canotaje, así como de la Asociación de Medallistas Olímpicos de México, me refiero al convenio en cita.

<https://www.com.org.mx/preveccion-de-manipulacion-coi/>

Sobre el particular, es importante mencionar la relevancia que representa para el COM, el haber culminado con la tarea de establecer las bases generales y los mecanismos de colaboración en materia de prevención y detección de conductas que pudieran favorecer, prestar ayuda, auxilio o cooperación de cualquier especie, para la comisión de los delitos de operaciones con recursos de procedencia ilícita, financiamiento al terrorismo y lo relacionado con esto, dentro del ámbito deportivo.

Lo anterior, dentro del marco de colaboración y coordinación con diferentes organizaciones interesadas como lo son: La Unidad de Riesgos y Política Pública de la Secretaría Ejecutiva del Sistema Nacional Anticorrupción (SESNA); Oficina de las Naciones Unidas contra la Droga y el Delito (UNODC); Unidad del Movimiento Olímpico para la Prevención de la Manipulación de Competiciones que forma parte de la Oficina de Ética y Cumplimiento del COI (OM Unit PMC),

(<https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/IOC/What-We-Do/Protecting-Clean-Athletes/Competition-manipulation/Protecting-clean-athletes-competition-manipulation.pdf>);

así como con Panam Sports; la Organización Internacional de Policía Criminal (INTERPOL) y el Buró Federal de Investigaciones FBI.

Es meritorio mencionar que, este tema sobre la Prevención de la Corrupción en el Sector Deporte, se encuentra incluido en la Agenda 2020+5, presentada por parte del Dr. Thomas Bach, Presidente del COI.

No omito comentar que, el proceso que conllevó a la suscripción de este documento legal el 20 de julio del año en curso, inicio de diciembre de 2020, con un seguimiento continuo por parte de todas las autoridades que convergieron en la atención de este proceso, el cual, en principio, fue atendido por el suscrito, como punto de contacto único por parte de este organismo deportivo, hasta el día 25 de marzo del año en curso, en donde el Comité Ejecutivo del COM, designó como tal, al Dr. Daniel Aceves Villagrán, en su carácter de Miembro Permanente del COM.

Source: 1 October 2021, Mexico Olympic Committee