



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

9-22 November 2021



Photos International Olympic Committee

INVESTIGATIONS

India

Manika Batra vs TTFI: Court appoints three-member committee to investigate match-fixing allegations

The Delhi High Court on Wednesday appointed a three-member committee to look into Manika Batra's allegation of being asked to throw her Olympic qualifier match in March this year.

The committee will comprise of two retired judges - Justice Vikramjit Sen, Justice AK Sikri and former sportsperson, Gurbachan Singh Randhawa. A report is expected to be submitted in four weeks.

What will the committee examine?

The mandate of the committee will be to examine the player's charges of being coerced by national coach Soumyadeep Roy to lose to fellow Indian and trainee Sutirtha Mukherjee and clear the decks for her Tokyo qualification. The panel has also been tasked with reviewing the selection process and the functioning of the Table Tennis Federation of India (TTFI).

Based on the committee's findings, the single judge bench of Justice Rekha Palli, who has been hearing the case, observed that she would consider appointing an administrator to run the federation.

TTFI, on its part, informed the court on Wednesday of its decision to withdraw the show-cause notice the body had issued to Batra. The 26-year-old had refused Roy's assistance courtside for her singles matches at the Tokyo Olympics, with TTFI now calling off any further action on her. Acting on the court's instruction, TTFI filed its correspondence with world table tennis body, ITTF (International Table Tennis Federation) regarding Batra on record. Justice Palli further asked the national federation to direct any further correspondence from ITTF on the matter to the Committee.

It is understood that TTFI had written to ITTF on September 23, the same day the court issued a stay on mandatory national camp attendance requesting them to probe Batra's case and offering assistance if needed. "When these sportspersons bring medals, you want to celebrate them.

When they are in trouble nobody wants to stand by them," Palli would state during Wednesday's hearing.

Why did the dispute arise in the first place?

Batra, India's highest-ranked female table tennis player, had moved court after being left out of the Asian Championships squad over her non-attendance of the national camp. Her petition also stated being allegedly pressured to throw her match, the conflict of interest on Roy's part since he was both national coach and Mukherjee's private coach and called to question the functioning of TTFI.

On September 23, the court stayed TTFI's mandatory camp attendance stipulation and would go on to ask the Sports Ministry to conduct an inquiry into her charges. Batra's counsel would state that the player was being "targeted" by TTFI for taking them to court and with the match throwing charges coming to ITTF's notice, she's being treated like an "accused" by the world body.

During Monday's hearing, Justice Palli had remarked that based on the report filed by the Ministry in a sealed cover, the player couldn't be faulted for seeking a personal coach. She further stated that she didn't want any player to be "harassed" and asked TTFI to give Batra a clean chit.

What next?

Away from court proceedings, Batra had a good run last week - winning the bronze in singles and doubles title together with Archana Kamath at the WTT Contender Lasko in Slovenia. In a week's time, she has the World Championships in Houston. As things stand, the case appears to be leaning heavily in her favour and the Committee's report in four weeks should throw light on what lies ahead.

Source: 17 November 2021, ESPN

Table Tennis

https://www.espn.com/olympics/tabletennis/story/_/id/32652610/court-appoints-three-member-committee-investigate-match-fixing-allegations

Kenya

Kenya arrests head of disbanded national football body

NAIROBI: Kenyan police said they had arrested the head of the national football federation on Friday (Nov 12) after the body was dissolved over corruption allegations.

Football Kenya Federation (FKF) boss Nick Mwendwa was picked up by police at a Nairobi hotel the day after the government set up a caretaker committee to run the body and further investigate alleged financial irregularities during his tenure.

The reign of the 41-year-old Mwendwa, who has been FKF president since 2016, has been dogged by controversy and claims of impropriety.

"He has been arrested and is being interrogated at the headquarters," said George Kinoti, Director of Criminal Investigations.

Sports Minister Amina Mohamed on Thursday announced the disbanding of the FKF after a government investigation found it had failed to account for funds received from the government and other sponsors.

She named a committee headed by a retired high court judge to run the federation's affairs for an interim period of six months and said there would be a further probe that could lead to prosecutions.

However FIFA warned Kenya it risked a ban if the government did not reconsider what football's world governing body branded an "abrupt" announcement.

It said the action was "undoubtedly contrary" to the principle that all FIFA member associations are required to manage their affairs independently and without any undue third-party influence.

"Should this be considered as undue government interference in the internal affairs of the FKF, it would lead to a ban imposed on the FKF by the competent FIFA body."

"In such a case, all of Kenyan football shall suffer the consequences."

Mwendwa himself had vowed to fight the government move and insisted there had been no wrongdoing.

"I am still... in charge of the FKF. We won't accept the decision taken by the sports ministry," he told a press conference on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the FKF caretaker committee announced the suspension of all men's and women's football league activities for a period of two weeks from Friday.

Kenyan football has long been beset by financial woes often stemming from poor management and corruption.

A Nigerian sports betting firm in August cancelled its sponsorship of Kenya's main football league days after two of the country's top teams complained of non-payments.

It faced a financial crisis after the exit of another title sponsor, online gaming firm SportPesa, in September 2019 following a protracted tax row with the government.

Source: 12 November 2021, Channel News Asia

Football

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/sport/kenya-arrests-head-disbanded-national-football-body-2310276>

BETTING

Netherlands

Soccer Stars Wesley Sneijder, Dirk Kuyt in Illegal Gambling Scrape with Dutch Gangsters

Former Netherlands soccer internationals Wesley Sneijder and Dirk Kuyt have become embroiled in a case involving illegal gambling and a gangster known as “the Godfather of the Hague.”

Soccer Stars Wesley Sneijder, Dirk Kuyt in Illegal Gambling Scrape with Dutch Gangsters

Former Netherlands soccer internationals Wesley Sneijder and Dirk Kuyt have become embroiled in a case involving illegal gambling and a gangster known as “the Godfather of the Hague.”

According to Dutch newspaper De Telegraph, the two retired soccer stars have been interviewed by police in relation to bets placed on illegal sports betting site Edobet. Prosecutors believe the site was owned and operated by a figure referred to in media reports only as “Freddy S.”

Suspects are not named fully in the Dutch media until they are convicted of a crime.

Freddy S is the son of a man referred to as “Piet S,” whom prosecutors allege is the boss of bosses in the Hague’s criminal underworld.

Sneijder Family Threatened

Sneijder, 37, and Kuyt, 41, were named by alleged gangsters in phone calls intercepted by police.

“That boy [Kuyt] had a [credit] limit of five [thousand euros]. Freddy has increased that limit to 25 [thousand euros]. But he sometimes plays five grand a day,” one is heard saying.

The suspects also discuss Sneijder’s alleged habit of not paying his gambling debts.

We will no longer ask for money first. Just have him kicked into the hospital. Could also be a female, as long as it is someone from [his] family. His mother, aunt, grandma, I don’t care who,” the unnamed person said on the intercepted call.

Sneijder denied placing bets on the website. He told De Telegraph he was approached by some people who said his father’s cousin owed them money and he had been named as a guarantor.

“I’ve only seen him once. He’s a master con artist,” Sneijder said of his relative. “They apologized ten times and then they left. I never heard from them again.”



Kuyt has admitted placing bets with Edobet. He told police he often met representatives of the site at a gas station and made transactions in cash. He said he liked doing this because it was anonymous.

“I didn’t play for the money, but I liked to play,” he explained.

Hague’s Major Players

Piet S, 65, also known as “De Dikke,” or “the Fat One,” was arrested in September 2020 and accused of presiding over an international drug-trafficking organization. He was later indicted on numerous offenses, including drug trafficking, money laundering, assault, and membership of a criminal gang. His trial is ongoing.

Sneijder is the most-capped player for the Netherlands with 134 appearances. The midfield playmaker was part of the Inter Milan side that won the Champions League in 2010.

Kuyt spent most of his career playing for Liverpool in the EPL. Both players were part of the Netherlands team that made the World Cup final in 2010.

Source: 9 November 2021, Casino.org

Football

<https://www.casino.org/news/wesley-sneijder-dirk-kuyt-in-illegal-betting-scrape-with-dutch-gangsters/>

GOOD PRACTICES

Ireland

Agricultural Committee approves IHRB anti-doping methods but wants more done

The Irish Horseracing Regulatory Board has committed to studying the Oireachtas Agriculture Committee's report into the sport's anti-doping and regulatory processes, but Tuesday's publication of the final document saw its anti-doping structures given a fairly resounding seal of approval.

Recommendations to beef up drug testing measures, more regulatory transparency and equine traceability were prominent in the 34-page document.

However, chairman Jackie Cahill insisted the IHRB's anti-doping procedures were "of the highest possible international standards", which constituted a strong vote of confidence in the regulator given it had been the centre of sustained criticism from some stakeholders and commentators over the last year.

Tuesday's report followed a series of Agriculture Committee hearings in the summer, prompted by comments from trainer Jim Bolger on his concerns over drug cheats.

Bolger had suggested there would be a 'Lance Armstrong' in Irish racing and that illicit doping was the number one problem for the industry.

The committee's report didn't appear to endorse those views, but it did make numerous recommendations.

A perception of a 'closed shop' regarding the IHRB, which received €9.4 million in state funding this year, was raised by multiple speakers during the hearings.

It was a point the committee focused on in its report, concluding that "it should be considered if legislation should be altered to reclassify the IHRB as a semi-state body under the aegis of the department to ensure complete transparency in its governance".

Such a move would represent a major change to the constitution of the regulator should it come to pass and would ensure it came under the auspices of the Freedom of Information Act, which was in the process of being comprehensively reviewed.

It was also recommended by the committee "that the IHRB board composition be reviewed and that the lack of independent members and the lack of gender balance be examined", and it is believed steps are already being taken in this respect.

Ahead of Tuesday's publication, an independent audit into the IHRB's testing regime had been widely flagged in a bid to restore public confidence after Bolger's comments. It was reported that review would be led by former New South Wales chief veterinary officer Craig Suann.

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

According to one of the report's anti-doping related recommendations, the committee was seeking all favourites and those finishing in the top five to be hair-tested after races, a move that would likely cost several million euros to implement.

It also recommended that laboratory testing must be carried out by independent sources, insisting that a laboratory in the proposed new National Equine Centre "under the control of racing authorities" would not be acceptable.

Cahill said: "We are happy that the testing standards in Irish racing are of the highest possible international standards. There was a lot of comment in the media, and to restore public confidence we felt that transparency was very important – that is coming out clearly in this report.

"There's no question that the IHRB is doing its testing to the highest possible standards."

He added: "To meet the modern criteria that's there, I think greater transparency was needed and that's where a lot of our recommendations are coming from, that the appointees to the board should be done by the minister, that the wage structure and everything else in there should be known to the public.

"The emphasis was on greater transparency, but at no stage was evidence found that the testing regulations in Ireland were anything but of the highest international standards."

Cahill called on the minister for agriculture, food and the marine, Charlie McConalogue, to implement the changes as quickly as possible.

According to the report, the IHRB confirmed that it aims to have CCTV "in place on all racecourses prior to the commencement

of the 2022 racing season".

On Tuesday, a spokesperson for the regulator told the Racing Post: "We appreciate the time that the members afforded us over the two sessions we attended, and the time that they've given to put a comprehensive report like this together.

"We've seen it for the first time this afternoon and will read it in detail, and study it internally over the next few days.

"On a quick reading of the report, we have already been proactive in taking steps towards some of the points raised. We look forward to engaging with the members further in due course."

The spokesperson added: "It had been discussed previously and the board agreed in principle at their last meeting to change the constitution to allow for independent board members."

A lack of traceability surrounding Irish horses was also a talking point during the committee hearings and it had been suggested that a full tracking system, such as the Animal Identification and Movements (AIM) for cattle, be introduced immediately.

It was also recommended that streamlining the equine passport system by having a central database for such administration would be beneficial in decreasing errors and costs.

Source: 10 November 2021, Racing Post

Horse Racing

<https://www.racingpost.com/news/agricultural-committee-approves-ihrb-anti-doping-methods-but-wants-more-done/521129>



United States

Thoroughbred horseracing proposed rules aim to deter drug cheats

Thoroughbred racing's drug cheats would face stiffer sanctions, stronger deterrents and surprise testing if a set of proposed rules announced Thursday are adopted.

Negotiations between the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency have yet to yield a contract or put a price on streamlining the sport's drug enforcement, but the rules released for public feedback anticipate a more vigorous, centralized and consistent model than the patchwork arrangement that currently exists among America's 38 racing jurisdictions.

Positive tests involving prohibited substances would be subject to multiyear suspensions: two years for a first offense; up to four years in the event of aggravating circumstances or for a second violation within 10 years.

Therapeutic medications banned only on race day could trigger a 30-day suspension and up to a 2-year ban in the event of aggravating circumstances or a fourth violation within a five-year period.

Race-day violations would mean automatic disqualification for the horse.

These penalties are potentially more punitive than those currently imposed by the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission. According to the KHRC's guidelines, a first offense involving a Class C drug such as betamethasone calls for a suspension of no more than 10 days for the responsible trainer.

Because the proposed rules would not apply retroactively, they would have no bearing on the eventual disposition of Medina Spirit's betamethasone positive from the 2021 Kentucky Derby or the fate of Hall of Fame trainer Bob Baffert. Yet the severity of the proposed sanctions and the prospect of investigators able to perform out-of-competition testing anywhere and anytime could inhibit horsemen inclined to cut corners.

"We're certainly working toward closing those loopholes and putting this sport on a platform where it can be successful for those who are abiding by the rules," said Travis Tygart, USADA's chief executive officer. "We think these sanctions are fair. . . We feel they land in a really good spot to provide, most importantly, the deterrent that people won't take the risk to attempt to cheat because they're going to have a hefty penalty if they do."

Efforts to narrow the escape routes for parties responsible for drug violations can be seen in the language of Article 2 of USADA's Equine Anti-Doping and Medication Control Protocol draft: "Responsible persons are strictly liable for the presence of a Prohibited Substance, or its Metabolites or Markers, in their Covered Horse. Accordingly, it is not necessary that intent, Fault, negligence of knowing Use be demonstrated in order to establish an anti-doping or medication control rule violation. . ."

The proposed rules are still subject to change before they are submitted to the Federal Trade Commission on Dec. 6 for further feedback and final approval. They would not take effect before July 1 and could be delayed by litigation brought by the Horsemen's Benevolent and Protective Association (HBPA), which has challenged the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Act on constitutional grounds and out of cost concerns.

Eric Hamelback, chief executive officer of the National HBPA, said Wednesday his organization would have no public comment until the HISA proposals are formally submitted to the FTC. Previously, however, Hamelback told the Courier Journal "there is a real concern among thoroughbred horse owners that this legislation could put many of us out of business."

Asked to address those concerns, Tygart said he could not provide even a "ballpark" cost estimate at this point.

"Until you know what the rules are and the program you're asked to run, you can't cost it out," he said. "What I can tell you is I know the collection and laboratory costs. Right now those are in the control of the laboratories and, for a large part, the state commissions. Those costs and collections on race day, those make up roughly about 85% of what the overall costs will ultimately be."

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Ultimately, Tygart says, racing cannot afford to forego this expense. As sports betting expands and equine deaths embolden animal welfare activists to equate racing with animal cruelty, retaining market share and social acceptance could become a

struggle for survival.

"There's an existential threat," Tygart said. "Many have said through the course of this process that but for good change now and needed change now, this industry may not exist in 10 or 15 years."

Similar warnings have been sounded since at least 1991, when third-generation horseman Arthur Hancock proposed legislation at an Arizona racing symposium to address the influence of "drugs and thugs."

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More: Once an obstacle, Kentucky senator Mitch McConnell spurs horseracing reform

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It took 30 years for Hancock's lobbying efforts to produce a law. Resistance remains. Revisions continue.

"The Declaration of Independence went through many changes before finalization," Hancock said Wednesday evening. "As they say in the music business, 'Good songs are written; great songs are rewritten.' Hopes are high for a hit."

Source: 11 November 2021, *Courier Journal*

Horse Racing

<https://eu.courier-journal.com/story/sports/horses/horse-racing/2021/11/11/thoroughbred-horse-racing-proposed-rules-aim-to-deter-drug-cheats/6372712001/>

ODDS AND ENDS

Global

UNITED NATIONS OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME UNITED NATIONS: 2021 Legal Approaches to Tackling the Manipulation of Sports Competitions: A Resource Guide

"The overall aim of this resource guide is to provide lawmakers, policymakers, prosecutors and other relevant officials with practical approaches, good practices and guidance to help tackle the threat posed to sport and to society by the manipulation of sports competitions and to enhance the credibility and transparency of sport. "

Source: 9 November 2021, *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*

https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2021/Legal_Approaches_to_Tackling_the_Manipulation_of_Sports_Competitions_EN.pdf



International Olympic Committee

IOC and UNODC extend collaboration to fight corruption and crime in sport

The new agreement has a particular focus on preventing youth crime, violence and drug use through sport and was signed today at Olympic House in Lausanne, Switzerland, by IOC President Thomas Bach and UNODC Executive Director Ghada Waly.

“The IOC is a values-based organisation. Therefore, we have the duty to uphold good governance and integrity,” said the IOC President. “This MoU will greatly strengthen the cooperation between the IOC and UNODC. We will cooperate in a number of different areas, specifically on capacity-building, training programmes and awareness-raising events that aim to tackle corruption and crime in sport. In addition, we collaborate in the prevention of the manipulation of sports competitions. Through the extended cooperation, we will also use sport as a tool to prevent youth crime, violence and drug use.”

UNODC Executive Director Waly said: “2021 is a landmark year for global anti-corruption action, and international mobilisation to protect the integrity of sport is stronger than ever. Under the new agreement, UNODC and the IOC will build on this momentum to help countries safeguard sport, but also leverage its power to strengthen youth resilience against crime, and shape more inclusive and just societies.”

The IOC and UNODC have a long-standing relationship. The two organisations regularly review the effectiveness of their joint initiatives and develop them further to address new trends and needs.

The new MoU signed today is set to remain in force until the end of 2025 and covers the following areas of cooperation:

supporting capacity-building, training programmes, awareness-raising events and related initiatives aimed at tackling corruption and crime in sport, including within sports organisations and in relation to the manipulation of sports competitions, as well as preventing youth crime, violence and drug use through sport;

exchanging information and expertise, including through participation in conferences, regular meetings, contribution to studies, development of technical tools and publications regarding tackling corruption and crime in sport, as well as preventing youth crime, violence and drug use through sport; and

supporting activities to enhance sport’s contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and also promoting sport for development and peace through joint programming, including in the context of the Olympic and Paralympic Games and other sports events.

The MoU was signed on the sidelines of the fourth edition of the International Forum for Sports Integrity (IFSI), which brings together over 500 stakeholders representing the Olympic Movement, intergovernmental agencies, governments, the betting industry and other sectors.

All four intergovernmental organisations specialised in anti-corruption participate with high-level representatives: the UNODC, the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and INTERPOL.

Source: 9 November 2021, International Olympic Committee

<https://olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-and-unodc-extend-collaboration-to-fight-corruption-and-crime-in-sport>



International Olympic Committee

IOC President makes urgent plea for legal sanctions to fight global criminal activity in sport

International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has made an urgent plea to Governments around the world to create legal sanctions against criminal activity within sport, adding that those currently in place "will not help at all".

Speaking at the fourth International Forum for Sports Integrity, hosted at the IOC headquarters in Lausanne, Bach praised the ongoing cooperation between his organisation and Interpol in terms of exchanging information and raising awareness over corruption within sport, but added a warning.

"Always, however, we have to have in mind that after information exchanging the job is not done," he said.

"What we need are deterrent sanctions.

"As sports organisations we don't have the tools for really deterrent sanctions.

"What can we do?

"Send someone home from a sports event and say they are not welcome for the next two years.

"This is not really a deterrent to a criminal.

"This is why we really urge governments to make more efforts to harmonise their legislation and then to issue these deterrent sanctions.

"Because without this it's a little like the fight against the windmills.

"If we are limited to our sports sanctions this will not help much – will not help at all.

"We need these laws from governments and official authorities all across the world so that no criminal can feel safe in any country – or sports organisation.

"These guys have to go to jail."

Earlier in the discussion Ilana de Wild, director of Organised and Emerging Crime at Interpol, called for greater cooperation to combat corruption in sport.

"No organisation can tackle the problem of match fixing alone," she said.

"We believe Federations should continue to work in tandem with law enforcement bodies.

"It is the only way we can keep criminals out of sport.

"Legal sanctions serve as a deterrent.

"But it is striking that there are still relatively few criminal investigations in the field of sports corruption.

"We should further encourage and facilitate information exchange between sport and law enforcement sectors."

Both the IOC and UNODC argue that the arrival of effective legal deterrents is long overdue.

In 2013, their joint report into match fixing and illegal betting warned: "The phenomenon of match-fixing brings to the surface its links to other criminal activities such as corruption, organised crime and money-laundering.

"Recent cases reveal the magnitude of the problem and indicate the dire need to address it through appropriate investigative and law enforcement tools.

"In fact, a criminal justice response against match fixing would demonstrate that sporting manipulation is not a "simple" breach of sporting rules, but also an offence against the public in a broader sense.

"Legislation to establish criminal offences against match-fixing is therefore needed as a complement to independent sporting sanction systems, which include bans, relegations and penalties.

"The current lack of uniformity in criminalisation measures and legislative approaches calls for more streamlined action to develop standard-setting model instruments and facilitate convergence in criminal justice responses."

In May 2006, Luciano Moggi, general manager of Juventus, was accused of being at the centre of what turned out to be Italy's most serious match-fixing scandal, and was given the name of Calciogate.

Juventus were stripped of their 2005 and 2006 title wins, and Moggi was banned from the game for life.

But there were no prison sentences.

The same was true of the cricket match-fixing scandals of 2000 that cost three Test captains their careers: Hansie Cronje of South Africa, Mohammad Azharuddin of India and Salim Malik of Pakistan were banned for life for alleged links with illegal Indian bookmakers

In November 2011, however, when three Pakistan cricketers – Salman Butt, Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Amir - were found guilty of involvement in the spot-fixing of no-balls during the fourth Test between England and Pakistan at Lord's in August 2010 they were given prison sentences as well as five-year bans.

But such punishments have not been consistently applied.

Source: 9 November 2021, Inside the Games

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1115226/ioc-bach-sanctions-plea-forum-lausanne>



International Olympic Committee

Stronger together: 4th International Forum for Sports Integrity highlights collaborative efforts to protect clean sport

Representatives of the Olympic Movement, governments, intergovernmental agencies, betting entities and other experts acknowledged the importance of strengthening their cooperation, in particular through the International Partnership Against Corruption in Sport (IPACS), in order to protect the credibility and integrity of sport. IPACS was created during the second edition of IFSI in 2017.

The value of partnerships was a central theme throughout the discussions, with top-level attendance by all four intergovernmental organisations specialised in the field: the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Council of Europe (CoE), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and INTERPOL.

IOC President Thomas Bach, in his opening remarks, reiterated the IOC's full commitment to the fight against competition manipulation and corruption in sport, and said: "While our task is always work in progress, we can see today that our collaborative approach that we launched at the first edition of IFSI in 2015 is working. But for our approach to be truly effective, we need the support of governments, in particular with regard to the harmonisation of legislation and the commitment of law enforcement entities. This is why I would like to call upon more governments to join our efforts, because only if we stand united can we win the fight against corruption and misconduct in sport."

Welcoming the recent endorsement from the G20 Leaders' Summit, President Bach added: "The activities of IPACS were already recognised by the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group in 2019. In their declaration at the most recent G20 Leaders' Summit in Rome, the G20 Leaders reiterated their commitment to this fight by endorsing the G20 high-level principles on tackling corruption in sport. All this shows that our actions are appreciated by the international community."

He went on: "Collaboration is also needed to use sport to prevent young people from falling into crime." President Bach said that the expertise in the field of education on the Olympic values is a valuable basis for this new area of cooperation.

[Click here to read the full speech.](#)

The participants recognised the development of IPACS since its creation, with the involvement, on the sports side, of all the Olympic International Federations (IFs) and a great number of non-Olympic IFs and National Olympic Committees (NOCs), as well as a growing number of governments (over 40 as of today) willing to tackle the issue of corruption in sport.

The need for more governments to be committed to the IPACS initiative was highlighted, in particular with the support of intergovernmental organisations such as the UNODC, the OECD, the CoE and INTERPOL.

The Forum also stressed the importance of good governance as the major mitigating factor for corruption risks in sports organisations and highlighted the necessity of cooperation to exchange information on corruption cases.

Best-practice examples discussed during the Forum included the review of IF governance, led by the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF), and the processes set up by the Paris 2024 Organising Committee to mitigate the risk of corruption during procurement.

The second part of the Forum looked at ways to further strengthen the prevention of competition manipulation. The participants acknowledged the achievements made by the Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions and the "3-Pillar Strategy", which covers the fields of legislation/regulations, awareness-raising/capacity-building and intelligence/investigation. During the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, no incident was reported and no disciplinary or law enforcement action was taken related to Olympic events. For the upcoming Olympic Winter Games Beijing 2022, an educational campaign for officials and athletes, robust rules and processes and the 24/7 monitoring of all Olympic events will be in place again.

The review of the Olympic Movement Code on the Prevention of the Manipulation of Competitions, aimed at strengthening safe reporting mechanisms, awareness-raising programmes and compliance processes, was also presented and fully supported by the participants. The governments were encouraged to develop their legislation to include clearly defined criminal offences, making use of the guidance provided in the newly published UNODC-IOC "Legal approaches to tackling the manipulation of sports competitions".

[Click here to read the full conclusions from the Forum.](#)

On the sidelines of the Forum, the IOC and the UNODC signed earlier in the day a new memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further strengthen the ties between the two organisations. The aim is to fight corruption and crime in sport, with a particular focus on preventing youth crime, violence and drug use through sport.

Source: 9 November 2021, International Olympic Committee

<https://olympics.com/ioc/news/stronger-together-4th-international-forum-for-sports-integrity-highlights-collaborative-efforts-to-protect-clean-sport>

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Kenya

No change in Kenya despite FIFA reporting 'excellent' meetings with government

November 18 – The Kenyan government says the disbanding of the country's FA remains intact despite positive initial talks with FIFA over the crisis.

Last week FIFA directed the Kenyan authorities to immediately reinstate embattled Football Kenya Federation President Nick Mwendwa who has been arrested following the federation being annulled in direct breach of FIFA rules.

Mwendwa was picked up by police at a Nairobi hotel the day after the government set up a 15-member caretaker committee to run the federation and investigate alleged financial irregularities during his tenure. The committee will run football affairs in the country for six months.

FIFA says it will not recognise the committee but Sports Minister Amina Mohamed held talks on Wednesday with FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura describing the virtual meeting as "excellent".

"All Government of Kenya decisions on football management remain in place and intact," she said afterwards. "Next meeting will be held next week."

Source: 18 November 2021, Inside World Football

Football

<http://www.insideworldfootball.com/2021/11/18/no-change-kenya-despite-fifa-reporting-excellent-meetings-government/>



MATCH FIXING

Belgium

Does road cycling have a problem with match fixing?

On April 25, 2010, on the final climb of that year's Liège-Bastogne-Liège, Alexandre Vinokourov punched away from Alexandr Kolobnev and opened up a gap. The controversial Kazakh rider maintained his lead all the way to the line to take his first big win since returning from a blood doping ban. 'Vino' was back.

Late the following year, Swiss magazine L'illustré alleged that Vinokourov had paid Kolobnev €100,000 to let him win the Belgian Monument. The magazine went on to publish emails between Vinokourov and Kolobnev that seemingly confirmed the deal.

Both riders denied that the result had been bought, but both eventually found themselves defending fraud charges in a case that rambled in and out of court until late 2019. Ultimately both riders were cleared, due to a "lack of concrete evidence".

But more than a decade later, the 2010 Liège-Bastogne-Liège is still the first case mentioned whenever the topic of match fixing comes up in cycling.

So why are we talking about this now? Well, that's because a group of Belgian researchers recently published a journal article with the eyebrow-raising title: "The grey zone between tactics and manipulation: The normalization of match-fixing in road cycling". In it the researchers question whether cycling does indeed have a problem with match fixing, and if it does, how that came to be.

Before we get to what they found, we need to first define match fixing.

Match fixing

What is match-fixing? At its simplest, it's a form of corruption; a "deviation from public expectations that sport will be played and administered in an honest manner". Or to give a more thorough definition from the Council of Europe, it's:

"An intentional arrangement, act, or omission aimed at an improper alteration of the result or the course of a sports competition in order to remove all or part of the unpredictable nature of the aforementioned sports competition with a view to obtaining an undue advantage for oneself or for others."

Under that strict definition, cycling does have a problem with match fixing – there is no doubt that the above sometimes happens in the world of road cycling. But as the authors of the study point out, it's important we take into account the context of the sport.

Deciding the winner of a tennis or soccer match before play begins? Clearly match fixing. In road cycling though, it's far less black and white.

A unique sport?

Road cycling might just be unique in the way it encourages rivals to cooperate with one another. Breakaways are an obvious example – riders in the lead group are incentivised to work together for a shared goal of staying away from the peloton. Rivals often work together in the peloton too, with the teams of the sprinters and GC contenders often collaborating to keep breakaways in check. This sort of cooperation between rivals is an ingrained and defining feature of the sport.

But then there are the more overt cases of collusion where an agreement between rivals decides the result of a race. We've already mentioned the 2010 Liège-Bastogne-Liège (noting again that both Vinokourov and Kolobnev deny the result was fixed), but agreements happen at all levels of the sport.

In a stage race, a GC contender and stage-hunter might find themselves together up the road. It's not uncommon for the two to work together, and for the GC contender to 'gift' the stage win to their rival, in exchange for the stage-hunter's efforts in helping maintain an advantage over the GC rider's rivals.

We saw exactly that situation on the final stage of this year's Itzulia Basque Country, when David Gaudu (going for the stage win) and Primož Roglič (going for GC) were clear of the field. "Roglič told me he didn't care about the stage," Gaudu said afterwards. "I knew that if I took him to the finish in the last climb, he would let me [have] the victory." Sure enough, Gaudu won the stage and Roglič won the race overall.

Is it problematic for a race to be decided like this? Based on the definitions above, it does seem to be match fixing, but does it go against the spirit of the sport? And does it contravene the laws of the sport?

Section 1.2.080 of the UCI's regulations says: "Riders shall sportingly defend their own chances. Any collusion or behavior likely

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to falsify or go against the interests of the competition shall be forbidden.”

This rule offers some guidance, but it’s far from an ironclad definition of what’s permitted and what’s not. Where’s the border between acceptable behavior between rivals, and misconduct? As fans of the sport, how much cooperation are we OK with?

For example, are we comfortable with rivals in a breakaway working together to stay away from the peloton, and then splitting the prize money (known as ‘The Chop’ in Australia), rather than racing fair and square for the win?

Or what about when riders at Worlds put their national team loyalties aside, to help support a rival nation? Was British Cycling justified in blasting Charly Wegelius and Tom Southam for doing that at the 2005 Worlds, or did the federation overreact, having misunderstood the very nature of the sport?

And what about riders themselves? How much cooperation with rivals are they comfortable with?

To find out, researchers interviewed 15 adult Belgian road cyclists, all of whom race at an elite amateur level or higher. Of the 15 riders interviewed, 11 were male and four were female. Three of the 15 race at the highest level of the sport – the WorldTour.

What the riders said

The feeling among the interviewees was that real match fixing is something that occurs before a competition begins, not mid-event like cooperation does in road cycling. Given this, there was a perception that match fixing doesn’t actually occur in road cycling. Indeed, almost all of the riders believed match fixing was no threat to the sport.

Rivals cooperating in breakaways wasn’t seen as match fixing, but rather just an acceptable and ingrained part of the sport. One suggested that cooperation was simply a way to maximise one’s chances of winning: “you just help each other to be in the most favorable situation, but you continue to pursue victory.”

Reasons to work together

The interviewees explained that there are a bunch of reasons that cooperation happens between rivals. Usually an arrangement is of mutual benefit to all parties involved, but that’s not always tied to winning:

Some riders are more likely to cooperate with or help rivals they are friendly with outside of racing (e.g. riders they train with, or compatriots). Riders might be more inclined to collaborate with former teammates, too.

Rivals sometimes cooperate in order to work together against unpopular riders.

Cooperation can also be a reciprocal thing. As one rider put it: “a favor provided one day can be returned later on”. Alternatively, a rider might let a rival win a race, as thanks for assistance rendered previously (e.g. Alberto Contador gifting a stage of the 2011 Giro d’Italia to former teammate Paolo Tiralongo).

“It is important to build a good reputation in the peloton”, explained one rider, and refusing agreements can mean others “riding against you”, including in future races.

Sometimes cooperation is the only rational choice: “Suppose you don’t feel [good], and you know you will lose the sprint anyway,” said one rider. “When the other cyclist makes you an offer, then you will be more willing to agree, so you at least earn some money.”

Let’s say for a moment that rivals cooperating with one another isn’t match fixing. What about paying those rivals to let you win a race?

Buying and selling

The riders in the study explained that the buying and selling of victories is not uncommon, particularly at lower levels of competition (specifically at Belgian kermesses and other races among elite amateurs). One respondent gave an example showing that riders often don’t have a choice but to cooperate with rivals.

“I was in the decisive breakaway (during a kermesse) with two other cyclists,” the rider explained. “One of the cyclists asked me how much money I would like to have, so he could win the race. However, I had already noticed that the other cyclist in the breakaway had already made an agreement with him. So, from that moment I knew that [if] I would refuse his proposal, they would ride with two against me. So, I had to accept his proposal.

“I know it’s unfair and I would rather have taken my own chance, but at that moment I had no other choice.”

Anecdotally, the buying and selling of bike race victories happens around the world, wherever there’s prize money (or prestige) on offer. Often, a rider’s offer will be accepted. Other times it will be knocked back.

Back in 2011, former rider Peter McDonald told CyclingTips that Michael Rogers had offered him \$10,000 to let Rogers win the 2009 Australian road title (McDonald ended up winning in a sprint ahead of Rogers and Rogers' teammate, Adam Hansen). Rumours suggest the 2012 Olympic men's road race (see video below) was decided by money changing hands (silver medalist Rigoberto Uran strongly denies that). And years earlier, at a Monument in the early 1990s, a rider in the winning move reportedly offered his rival a vast sum to let him have the win. That offer was apparently knocked back.

Stories like these abound.

The interviewees in the Belgian study had mixed feelings about race results being bought and sold, but they didn't see it as match fixing exactly. Why? Because it's not as simple as buying a race – you still have to be strong and smart enough to be in a winning position to begin with, before you can start making deals.

This is often the case in Belgian kermesses where money regularly changes hands to determine the winner from a leading group. The real fight is getting into the winning move to begin with.

Some of the interviewees mentioned that the outcome of kermesses can also be influenced by roadside bookmakers, in a roundabout sort of way.

"Some cyclists dare to play with the bookmakers," one interviewee said. "They let someone else bet money, and they know what their odds are. Then they know how much money they can win, and how much money they can use during the race to buy the victory."

CyclingTips has heard stories of kermesse bookmakers being used in a slightly different way – to make money once the winner has been determined. A rider in the break will indicate to a roadside friend or family member who's going to win the race. The friend or family member can then go and bet as aggressively as they like.

And then there are the post-Tour de France criteriums.

Post-Tour crits

Where most forms of match fixing in cycling fall into a grey area, post-Tour de France criteriums are a different story. Held around Europe in the days and weeks after the Tour, these events are headlined by riders who competed at the world's biggest race. The outcomes of these races are decided ahead of time by race organisers, and almost always finish with a top rider – e.g. the Tour winner, wearing their yellow jersey – taking the win.

Surely such events are problematic? They're quite clearly against UCI rules (even if the races aren't UCI-sanctioned), and they seem to go against the spirit of the sport.

Based on the responses in this latest study though, it seems the riders aren't fazed. As the researchers write: "Although cyclists thus admitted that these criteriums were fixed, no uncomfortable feelings were present."

Such events can be likened to professional wrestling. Everyone involved – organisers, athletes, spectators – know the outcome is scripted ahead of time, but it doesn't matter because the real goal is to entertain the crowd, not provide a pure sporting experience.

Summing up

So where does that leave us? In the closing section of their paper, the researchers discuss how cooperation in road cycling is routine, rationalised, and normalised. And that "this normalised behavior causes a grey zone that may be considered as match-fixing, depending on who interprets the behavior."

Most fans of the sport, and those within it, don't seem to have a problem with any grey zones that might exist. Cooperating with rivals? That's just an integral part of the sport. Buying or selling victories? Even that doesn't seem to be such a massive deal. But should it be?

The researchers aren't convinced that "cycling's culture of agreements" can really be called match fixing – even though it goes counter to UCI rules – but they do believe that a grey zone exists between what's technically allowed by the laws of the sport, and what actually happens in the sport. And in the eyes of those researchers, it's the UCI that needs to bear some responsibility for the existence of that grey area.

"By formulating 1.2.081 in such a vague manner, the UCI actually initiates a grey zone," they wrote. "Additionally, by not enforcing this rule properly, the UCI helps to maintain the grey zone."

The researchers suggest that the UCI should clarify its own rules.

“We emphasise the responsibility of organisations rather than the responsibility of individuals to clarify the rules, and the grey zone regarding collaboration and match-fixing,” they write. “To pursue fair play, where everyone competes at the best of his/her abilities, clear rules should be implemented to clarify the grey zone and to change the normalised behaviour.”

But again, does that normalised behaviour actually need to be changed? Is cycling’s culture of cooperation really a problem? Most fans and participants don’t seem to think so.

It’s an interesting area of study though, and one that’s probably ripe for further investigation. What sort of perspective would you get if you interviewed more than just 15 riders? And what if you interviewed riders from a range of nations, not just Belgium? And what if you did some sort of quantitative analysis to find out how often various forms of match-fixing happen, at what levels of the sport, and how much races are being sold for?

In reality, it’s hard to see anything changing anytime soon. Cooperation with rivals is such a part of road cycling that it would take something quite remarkable to upset that particular apple cart. And in all likelihood, if the 2010 Liège-Bastogne-Liège didn’t do that, nothing will.

Source: 16 November 2021, Cyclingtips

Cycling

<https://cyclingtips.com/2021/11/does-road-cycling-have-a-problem-with-match-fixing/>



Ghana

Ghana slam match-fixing allegations as FIFA gives GFA 3 days to respond

November 18 – FIFA has issued a deadline of November 20 to Ghana to respond to the match-fixing allegations made by the South African Football Association (SAFA) following their controversial elimination from the 2022 World Cup qualifying competition.

However the Ghana FA has responded saying it is “shocking, irresponsible, and outright disrespect to note that our colleagues from South Africa Football Association have chosen to spread falsehoods to the media rather than project the real picture of events before, during, and after the game”.

Incensed SAFA officials suspect match manipulation after Bafana Bafana crashed out of the race to reach Qatar with a 1-0 defeat in Cape Town on Sunday night.

Besides awarding a harsh penalty that ultimately won the match for Ghana, Senegalese referee Maguette Ndiaye and his fellow officials made several other questionable calls.

“FIFA has responded and things are going forward,” said SAFA CEO Tebogo Motlanthe. “FIFA are saying any further submissions on the matter from both SAFA and Ghana must be made before November 20.

“And then on November 23 FIFA will convene a meeting of the disciplinary committee where they will consider the matter, and then finalise it. A decision will be made whether to take action against Ndiaye and his colleagues, and also whether the game will be replayed.”

Former FIFA referee Ace Ncobo has apparently compiled an independent report on the match officials’ conduct. South African media say his report proves a definite pattern of bias with 90% of incorrect decisions going against South Africa. He is said to have “looked at the match second by second and logged all the incidents that required the intervention of the referee”.

In confirming the deadline, FIFA’s head of judicial bodies (adjudicatory) Julien Deux wrote: “The Ghana Football Association has the opportunity to provide the secretariat of the FIFA disciplinary committee with any comments it deems appropriate on the aforementioned protest, if any, by 20 November 2021 at the latest, along with any document deemed necessary. Finally, for the sake of clarity, please be informed that the disciplinary committee will decide on the protest using the file in its possession.”

While not expressly responding to SAFA’s detailed report that was thoroughly dissected at Wednesday’s press conference at SAFA House in Nasrec, the GFA said SAFA was well within its rights to instigate an investigation, the organisation said SAFA’s has been acting irresponsibly.

The GFA statement said: “Even though we believe that it is within SAFA’s right to call for an investigation if they feel that certain factors contributed to their loss, we wish to state that the way and manner lies, and allegations have been thrown into the public space has been very irresponsible leading to injury and violence,

“We wish to state categorically that the allegations are frivolous, baseless, and lacks merits and should be treated with all the contempt that it deserves.

“These allegations from South Africa Football Association are nothing but a planned scheme and a calculated attempt to shift focus from the defeat, divert attention from their failure to qualify for the play-offs, and unjustly dent the hard-earned victory of the Black Stars.”

Source: 18 November 2021, *Inside World Football*
Football

<http://www.insideworldfootball.com/2021/11/18/fifa-give-ghana-3-day-deadline-respond-match-fixing-allegations/>