



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

6-20 December 2021



Photos International Olympic Committee

INVESTIGATIONS

Colombia

¿Qué pasó en el partido Unión Magdalena vs Llaneros? Hay denuncia por corrupción

El pasado sábado, la victoria de Unión Magdalena frente a Llaneros FC definía su ascenso a la primera división. Así que el encuentro deportivo era clave. En los últimos minutos del partido, el equipo samario, que iba perdiendo, logró la remontada con dos goles y terminó poniendo el marcador a su favor: 2-1. Pero lo que parecía celebración terminó en reclamaciones y solicitudes de investigaciones por supuestas irregularidades. Los espectadores se quejan de supuestas actuaciones inusuales de los jugadores para lograr el segundo y definitivo gol. En su concepto, los llaneros no parecían querer ganar, mientras que sus adversarios se movían sin mayores esfuerzos por el ascenso. (Cronología de un nuevo escándalo en el fútbol colombiano)

La percepción de que se trató de un partido amañado fue de tal alcance que incluso ya se interpusieron acciones legales para definir su transparencia y se han dado declaraciones públicas de entidades del deporte. El ministro del Deporte, Guillermo Herrera, calificó el encuentro de “vergüenza nacional” y aseguró que el fútbol tiene que cambiar. “Entre esto y la denuncia por el manejo de los derechos deportivos de los jugadores exigimos que la Dimayor y la Federación Colombiana de Fútbol presenten garantías de manejo transparente”, afirmó el funcionario. (“Vergüenza nacional”: Iván Duque sobre el ascenso del Unión Magdalena)

Por su parte, Fernando Jaramillo, presidente de la Dimayor, ente que regula los torneos del fútbol profesional colombiano, citó para este lunes al Comité Disciplinario del campeonato y a la Comisión Disciplinaria de la entidad, para analizar la situación ocurrida en el partido. “Quiero reafirmar que seguiré trabajando incansablemente para cumplir con el compromiso adquirido desde mi designación, orientado al fortalecimiento de la rama profesional del fútbol colombiano, la unidad de cada uno de sus clubes afiliados y el respeto por los seguidores del espectáculo deportivo”, afirmó Jaramillo. (El fútbol colombiano repudia la “trampa” que derivó en ascenso de Unión Magdalena)

El presidente de la República, Iván Duque, sostuvo que les hará seguimiento a estas pesquisas. “Lo ocurrido en el partido de ascenso a la Primera División del Fútbol Colombiano es una vergüenza nacional. El deporte requiere transparencia, honestidad y cero tolerancia frente a cualquier situación que deslegitime la ética deportiva”, aseguró el presidente en su cuenta de Twitter. (Unión Magdalena vuelve a la A tras dos sospechosos goles ante Llaneros)

De acuerdo con el Código Disciplinario Único de la Federación Colombiana de Fútbol, el directivo, personal técnico, funcionario administrativo de un club o selección que, por cualquier medio, ofrezca o reciba recompensa para obtener un resultado determinado en un partido, será sancionado con suspensión para ejercer todo tipo de actividades deportivas y administrativas relacionadas con el fútbol de dos a cinco años y multa de 30 a 150 salarios mínimos.

La situación también fue puesta en conocimiento de la Fiscalía General de la Nación, en una denuncia radicada este lunes por el abogado y exfiscal general Mario Iguarán Arana, por el delito de corrupción privada. Lo sucedido en el encuentro entre Unión Magdalena y Llaneros generó, según Iguarán, un daño al deporte honesto, ético y transparente.

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“Estas presuntas conductas, además de antideportivas, constituyen una verdadera vergüenza nacional, que lleva a personas a lo largo y ancho del globo a suponer y argumentar que nuestras instituciones deportivas no son serias, cuando sabemos que, en realidad, aún hay jugadores, dirigentes y organismos de regulación honestos, que jamás se prestarían para semejantes ocurrencias, que van en contra de los pilares fundamentales de cualquier deporte”, agrega el abogado Iguarán en su denuncia.

“No se encuentra ninguna razón, dentro del plano de la legal y leal competencia deportiva, que haya ocasionado un actuar tan extraño y llamativo por parte de los jugadores de Llaneros, cuando todos sabemos que el objetivo del fútbol es vencer a franca lid (...) Es un triunfo enmarcado por la polémica y por graves cuestionamientos hacia una conducta que parecía antideportiva y reprochable”, concluyó Iguarán ante la Fiscalía, quien además hizo referencia a los aficionados que invirtieron en apuestas legales por uno u otro equipo y resultaron desfavorecidos con el marcador, calificado como un “escenario probablemente falseado”. Por eso, el abogado expuso la posible comisión del delito de corrupción privada, pero también el de estafa.

En otro capítulo reciente de denuncias por supuesta corrupción en el fútbol, la Superintendencia de Industria y Comercio (SIC) anunció la semana pasada la apertura de una investigación por la supuesta existencia de una cartel laboral del fútbol, pactado entre presidentes de 16 clubes y la Dimayor, para vetar a ciertos futbolistas, con el fin de obligarlos a continuar en los equipos o de servir de intermediarios para negociar sus pases y obtener réditos económicos de la transacción. Así las cosas, los ojos de las autoridades parecen estar por estos días encima del fútbol profesional colombiano. (Así se aliaron ilegalmente en el fútbol para vetar a futbolistas)

Source: 6 December 2021, *El Espectador*

Football

<https://www.elespectador.com/deportes/futbol-colombiano/que-paso-en-el-partido-union-magdalena-vs-llaneros-hay-denuncia-por-corrupcion/>

Spain

Vuelve el 'caso Oikos': El juez reactiva la instrucción con nuevas pruebas en torno al Huesca

El juez que instruye el caso "Oikos", de corrupción en el fútbol profesional español, ha reactivado las investigaciones con la orden de nuevas pruebas centradas en torno a las supuestas facturas falsas de las que se habrían servido en la Sociedad Deportiva Huesca para obtener recursos con los que amañar un partido del Reus contra el Valladolid cuyo resultado permitió al equipo oscense jugar la fase de ascenso en 2017.

En dos autos emitidos de forma simultánea, a los que ha tenido acceso Efe, el titular del Juzgado de Instrucción número 5 de Huesca encargado del caso desestima la petición de sobreseimiento de la causa contra uno de los investigados, el propietario de la empresa Pryobras, al que responsabiliza de la presunta emisión de facturas falsas a nombre del club oscense.

Según el magistrado, los hechos atribuidos a esta persona "consistirían en haber colaborado, de forma activa, en la financiación de las primas que la SD Huesca habría abonado al Reus Deportivo para alterar el resultado del encuentro celebrado el 4 de junio de 2017".

Argumenta, en el marco indiciario que establece en su auto, que en "connivencia" con el expresidente y el exdirector financiero del club "podría haber emitido facturas a cargo de la SD Huesca que no respondían a trabajos efectivamente realizados, o facturas duplicadas o engordadas" por trabajos que sí se hicieron.

Señala el instructor como indicios diversas conversaciones de Whatsapp entre el exjugador del Huesca Íñigo López con el expresidente del club Agustín Lasaosa y el agente del futbolista riojano que, en su opinión, "permiten inferir que se están falseando facturas".

Destaca, además, los indicios derivados del análisis de diversas facturas emitidas por Pryobras, así como de las empresas Huesca Garden y Mascún Obra Civil, así como la coincidencia temporal existente entre "acontecimientos relevantes".

Coincidencia temporal que vincula al abono por parte del club oscense de diversas facturas a Pryobras por obras de remodelación del estadio, a la retirada inmediata de este dinero por parte del administrador de la empresa y la supuesta entrega, el mismo día, de dinero en el hotel Abba de Huesca a un jugador del Reus.

A tenor del todo el cuadro indiciario, el magistrado acuerda, en un segundo auto, ordenar numerosas pruebas para continuar la investigación, entre otras la elaboración de un informe por parte de la Brigada Central de Investigación de Blanqueo de Capitales (UDEP) de la Policía Nacional para determinar la posible participación en la financiación de las primas abonadas al Reus de las empresas vinculadas al club oscense.

También requiere a la UDEF que se investiguen otras posibles facturas emitidas por trabajos simulados, así como engordadas o duplicadas por obras ya realizadas, y ordena tanto a las empresas como al club oscense que faciliten facturas, presupuestos o justificantes de pago.

Acuerda, asimismo, la toma de declaración como testigos de algunos responsables o trabajadores de estas empresas, así como de dos jugadores del Reus en la temporada de 2017 en calidad de investigados, Cruz da Silva y Macauley Chrisantus.

Ordena, por otra parte, dirigirse a dos entidades bancarias para que aporten información sobre algunas de estas sociedades, entre ellas las referidas a Huesca Garden, cuyo administrador pasa el juez a considerar como investigado debido a su negativa a aportar toda la documentación que le fue requerida.

El magistrado ya rechazó hace un año sobreseer la causa contra el expresidente de la Sociedad Deportiva Huesca Agustín Lasaosa y el exjugador del Deportivo Íñigo López, cuyos letrados basaron en la supuesta ilicitud de los registros llevados a cabo en mayo de 2019 en la sede del club oscense, detonante del caso.

Una decisión que basó entonces en el "carácter prematuro" de la petición hecha por los letrados y en "la existencia de un cuadro indiciario incriminatorio razonable y suficiente".

Source: 8 December 2021, Marca
Football

<https://www.marca.com/futbol/2021/12/08/61b0a455ca4741480c8b45a4.html>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Mexico

Mexican tennis player banned for three years

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has today confirmed that Mexican tennis player and now coach, Mauricio Astorga has been banned for three years. The player was found to have breached multiple rules of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP).

The case was ruled on by independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer Janie Soublière and the sanction means that Astorga is prohibited from playing in or attending any tennis event authorised or sanctioned by any international tennis governing body or national association for three years. In addition to the ban, the player has been fined \$1,500 USD.

Ms Soublière found that the player was guilty of receiving money to fix an element of a match in 2015, failed to report a corrupt approach and did not co-operate with the investigation. The player chose not to contest the charges and therefore the sanction was handed down without a hearing.

Astorga, who had a career highest ITF singles ranking of 687 was found to have breached the following TACP rules:

Section D.1.d of the 2015 TACP: No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, contrive or attempt to contrive the outcome or any other aspect of any Event.

Section D.1.f of the 2016 TACP: No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or accept any money, benefit or Consideration with the intention of negatively influencing a Player's best efforts in any Event.

Section D.2.a.i of the 2015 TACP: In the event any Player is approached by any person who offers or provides any type of money, benefit or Consideration to a Player to (i) influence the outcome or any other aspect of any Event, or (ii) provide Inside Information, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such incident to the TIU [now ITIA] as soon as possible.

Section F.2.b of the 2021 TACP: All Covered Persons must cooperate fully with investigations conducted by the ITIA including giving evidence at hearings, if requested. Even in the case where a Covered Person is represented by a legal counsel, the Covered Person is still personally responsible for ensuring that they cooperate fully with the investigation. The Covered Person shall be deemed not to have cooperated if the Covered Person's legal counsel interferes with an ITIA investigation. A Covered Person's failure to comply with any Demand, preserve evidence related to any Corruption Offense or otherwise cooperate fully with investigations conducted by the ITIA, may result in an adverse factual inference against the Covered Person in any matter referred to an AHO.

The player's suspension began on the date of his provision suspension 8 October 2021 and will finish on 7 October 2024. He has 20 business days from the date of the decision to lodge any appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

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: 6 December 2021, International Tennis Integrity Agency
Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/astorga-banned-for-three-years/>



INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Morocco

Six Moroccan tennis players banned

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) have confirmed that six Moroccan tennis players have been banned for breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP) rules.

The cases were ruled on by independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer Charles Hollander QC, who after a hearing ruled that:

Amine Ahouda is banned for 11 years and fined \$5,000 USD.

Anas Chakrouni is banned for 10 years and fined \$5,000 USD.

Ayoub Chakrouni is banned for life and fined \$10,000 USD.

Mohamed Zakaria Khalil is banned for 9 years and fined \$5,000 USD.

Soufiane El Mesbahi is banned for 9 years and fined \$5,000 USD.

Yassir Kilani is banned for 9 years and fined \$5,000 USD.

The sanctions mean that the players are prohibited from playing in or attending any tennis event authorised or sanctioned by any international tennis governing body or national association for the length of their bans.

Mr Hollander found that the players were guilty of multiple offenses and a variety of match fixing charges, including fixing elements of matches, receiving money for fixing and failing to report corrupt approaches. The ITIA investigation found that the players' offences were linked and therefore were subject to a joint hearing.

The players' suspensions begin from the date of their provisional suspension – 13 July 2021 and they have 20 business days from the date of receipt of the decision to lodge any appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport.

The players were found to have breached the following TACP rules:

Amine Ahouda (age 24, highest ATP ranking 668)

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

Section D.1.e of the 2018 TACP: No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or facilitate any Player to not use his or her best efforts in any Event.

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

Section D.1.g of the 2018 TACP: No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, offer or provide any money, benefit or Consideration to any other Covered Person with the intention of negatively influencing a Player's best efforts in any Event.

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

Section D.2.a.ii of the 2018 TACP: In the event any Player knows or suspects that any other Covered Person or other individual has committed a Corruption Offense, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such knowledge or suspicion to the TIU as soon as possible.

Anas Chakrouni (age 22, highest ITF ranking 2553)

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

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

Section D.2.a.ii of the 2017 TACP: In the event any Player knows or suspects that any other Covered Person or other individual has committed a Corruption Offense, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such knowledge or suspicion to the TIU [Now ITIA] as soon as possible.

Ayoub Chakrouni (age 30, highest ATP ranking 1098)

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

Section D.1.e of the 2018 TACP: No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, solicit or facilitate any Player to not use his or her best efforts in any Event.

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

Section D.1.g of the 2018 TACP: No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, offer or provide any money, benefit or Consideration to any other Covered Person with the intention of negatively influencing a Player's best efforts in any Event.

Section D.2.a.i of the 2016 and 2018 TACP: In the event any Player is approached by any person who offers or provides any type of money, benefit or Consideration to a Player to (i) influence the outcome or any other aspect of any Event, or (ii) provide Inside Information, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such incident to the TIU [Now ITIA] as soon as possible

Section D.2.a.ii of the 2018 TACP: In the event any Player knows or suspects that any other Covered Person or other individual has committed a Corruption Offense, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such knowledge or suspicion to the TIU [Now ITIA] as soon as possible.

Mohamed Zakaria Khalil (age 22, highest ITF ranking 576)

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

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

Section D.2.a.ii of the 2017 TACP: In the event any Player knows or suspects that any other Covered Person or other individual has committed a Corruption Offense, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such knowledge or suspicion to the TIU [Now ITIA] as soon as possible.

Soufiane El Mesbahi (age 20, highest ATP ranking 1465)

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

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

Section D.2.a.ii of the 2017 TACP: In the event any Player knows or suspects that any other Covered Person or other individual has committed a Corruption Offense, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such knowledge or suspicion to the TIU [Now ITIA] as soon as possible.

Yassir Kilani (age 21, highest ATP ranking 1317)

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

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

Section D.2.a.ii of the 2017 TACP: In the event any Player knows or suspects that any other Covered Person or other individual has committed a Corruption Offense, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such knowledge or suspicion to the TIU [Now ITIA] as soon as possible.

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: 14 December 2021, International Tennis Integrity Agency

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/six-moroccan-players-banned/>

Sweden

Ex-Leeds winger Cibicki found guilty of match-fixing in Sweden

STOCKHOLM, Dec 15 (Reuters) - Former Leeds United winger Pawel Cibicki has been convicted of offences related to match-fixing by a court of appeal in Sweden after it overturned an earlier district court ruling.

The 27-year-old, who was on the books at Elland Road from 2017 to 2020 but often loaned out to other clubs, was suspected of having accepted a bribe of 300,000 Swedish crowns (\$32,890.77) in return for getting booked in a game in Sweden's top flight while on loan at Elfsborg in 2019.

Cibicki and the two men who gave him the money, which the player said was a loan, were cleared by the district court in Scania county, but the prosecutor appealed and that judgement was overturned.

The winger was sentenced to probation for acceptance of a bribe and gambling-related fraud, despite the fact that the prosecutor was unable to offer proof that the sum of money was a bribe.

"The circumstances as a whole may nevertheless lead to the conclusion that there must have been such an agreement," the court said in a statement.

Cibicki, who has also played for Molde in Norway, Dutch club Den Haag and Polish side Szczecin, has been banned from playing football for four years by the Swedish FA, proclaimed his innocence on a podcast earlier in the week.

"I'm innocent, and I've been innocent since day one," he said on Sweden's Heltidsproffs podcast. "I paid back the following month to the account that sent me the money, and if that wasn't enough, the month after that I paid interest."

The two men who gave Cibicki the money were also convicted of bribery and gambling-related fraud.

Source: 15 December 2021, Reuters

Football

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/ex-leeds-winger-cibicki-found-guilty-match-fixing-sweden-2021-12-15/>



BETTING

Netherlands

Dutch minister promises action on Curaçao-based gambling this month

Dutch Minister for Legal Protection Sander Dekker has revealed that an action plan designed to halt the rise of illegal gambling from Curaçao, including a possible limit on operators, should be adopted this month.

Dekker addressed questions about the sector in parliament following an article in investigative journalism publication Follow the Money detailing the illegal gambling sector in Curaçao, which is a constituent country of the Netherlands.

The article suggested that 12,000 illegal gambling sites were established in the country and estimated that 40% of global unregulated gaming runs through Curaçao.

Following discussions between the Netherlands and Curaçao, it was agreed that the island will bring in an independent gaming regulator with the power to grant and revoke gaming licences. It would also ensure that operators act in accordance with the laws and regulations of the countries they target, and collect taxes and licence fees.

Dekker said: “Based on local laws and regulations, there is a small number of master licences provided by the authorities of Curaçao which could be transferred without the intervention of a government body. This has resulted in a large number of sub-licences, which explains the range of online games available in Curaçao.

“The cabinet takes the concerns about illegal gaming in Curaçao seriously and is committed to limiting the illegal offering of games of chance from Curaçao. Curaçao is currently working on a step-by-step plan of action to limit and better regulate the supply of games of chance. As expected, this action plan will be adopted this month.”

Dekker went on to say that the Netherlands played no role in setting up a financial framework within Curaçao, as the region remains “fiscally autonomous”.

Dekker also answered questions regarding the Netherlands’ self exclusion system Cruks, which malfunctioned when the gaming market launched in the country on 1 October. An investigation into the start up problems is being carried out by an external party, the results of which should be made available by 1 April.

Source: 17 December 2021, iGaming Business

<https://igamingbusiness.com/dutch-minister-promises-action-on-curacao-based-gambling-this-month/>



ODDS AND ENDS

International Boxing Association

AIBA can return as good standing Olympic member, says McLaren

TORONTO, Dec 10 (Reuters) - After years of corruption world boxing's governing body (AIBA) can return to a good standing Olympic member, Richard McLaren, the head of the independent investigation commissioned by the AIBA said on Friday.

In the second of three reports to be issued by McLaren, the Canadian law professor detailed an organisation (AIBA) spinning out of control, creating a decentralised system of match-fixing.

In the initial findings of his investigation released in September, McLaren described a bout manipulation system which existed in boxing at the 2016 Rio Olympics and resulted in the removal of Executive Director Karim Bouzidi along with several referees and officials. [read more](#)

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) suspended the AIBA in 2019, stripping it of involvement in this year's Tokyo Games over governance, finance, refereeing and ethical issues. A decision its role at Paris 2024 has yet to be taken.

Boxing was not included in the initial sports programme for the 2028 Games in Los Angeles announced by the IOC on Thursday. [read more](#)

McLaren said he believes there has been improvement in the operation and administration of AIBA under the leadership of current President Umar Kremlev and Secretary General Istvan Kovacs, but there was still much to be done with the third phase of his investigation and recommendations to come next year.

"It is hard for an organisation to engage in self-reform," said McLaren. "If they do it is in a situation like AIBA is in with the IOC where they must or they are out.

"But it takes the right people with the integrity to run the organisation, rules can be perfect but the people have to be better.

"If that happens and they implement the recommendations ... I think it is possible for the sport to reform."

Kremlev said AIBA was on the right track in terms of sports integrity, but still needed to make more progress.

"We are already implementing some of the recommendations Professor McLaren has made," he said. "And we are very serious about making sure that fair fights are ensured by a powerful combination of regulations, processes, people and culture."

Source: 10 December 2021, Reuters

Boxing

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/aiba-can-return-good-standing-olympic-member-says-mclaren-2021-12-10/>



UNODC

First-ever Global Report on Corruption in Sport flags urgent need for unified, international response to corrupt practices in sport

Up to \$1.7 trillion is estimated to be wagered on illicit betting markets each year, according to a new report released today by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Offering a playbook to effectively tackle crime and corruption in sports by setting out a range of concrete policy considerations, the Global Report on Corruption in Sport also reveals the staggering scale, manifestation, and complexity of corruption and organized crime in sport at the global, regional, and national levels. Developed in partnership with nearly 200 experts from across governments, sport organizations, the private sector, academia, and related stakeholders, it is the most in-depth review of its type to date.

While corruption in sport is not a new phenomenon – fraudulent activities in the running of sports institutions and competitions have been documented from the times of the ancient Olympic Games – the past two decades have witnessed a substantial increase in criminal activities within this area. Indeed, globalization, a huge influx of money, the rapid growth of legal and illegal sports betting, and technological advances transforming the way sport is played and consumed are making it increasingly attractive to criminal networks seeking to exploit sport for illicit profit.

Against this backdrop, the Global Report breaks down an extensive range of issues, analysing the role of illegal betting, competition manipulation, abuse in sport, the susceptibility of major sporting events to corruption, and the involvement of organized crime, among others. It also highlights the changing landscape of sport and its relation to corrupt practices, the existing initiatives to tackle the problem, issues related to detecting and reporting wrongdoing, as well as how existing legal frameworks can be applied to address corruption within this area.

The Global Report comes out at a pivotal time, with increasing emphasis being placed on anti-corruption efforts within all sectors, including the sporting community. The report is launched ahead of next week's biennial UN anti-corruption gathering, the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, being held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt from 13 to 17 December, where the issue of corruption in sport will be discussed.

Designed for both governments and sports organizations, the Global Report highlights the urgent need to:

- Strengthen legal, policy and institutional frameworks to prevent and respond to different manifestations of corruption and crime in sport at the global, regional, and national levels.

- Develop and implement comprehensive anti-corruption policies in sport, with a focus on addressing corruption linked to the organization of major sports events, competition manipulation, illegal betting, and the involvement of organized crime in sport.

- Promote and increase cooperation and the exchange of information and good practices among sport organizations, crime prevention and criminal justice authorities, law- and policymakers.

- Enhance the understanding of the interlinkages between corruption and organized crime in sport and develop capacities of relevant government entities and sport organizations to tackle them.

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The UNODC Global Report on Corruption in Sport is available for download from grcs2021.unodc.org.

Source: 9 December 2021, UNODC

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/press/releases/2021/December/first-ever-global-report-on-corruption-in-sport-flags-urgent-need-for-unified-international-response-to-corrupt-practices-in-sport.html>

INTEGRITY IN SPORT EVENTS

Council of Europe

Conference on Integrity in Sport in Rome

Integrity is intrinsically related to the question of ethics in sport. The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) and the Italian Department for Sport, within the framework of the Italian Presidency of the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe, are co-hosting a Conference on Integrity in Sport (6-7 December in hybrid format: Rome, Villa Ruffo and online, programme and registration) in order to take stock of policy work carried out in three main areas:

- Preparation of integrity guidelines;
- Combating the manipulation of sports competition (Macolin Convention);
- Ensuring good governance in sport.

The event will be opened by Under Secretary of State for Sport Valentina Vezzali and Council of Europe Deputy Secretary General Bjørn Berge.

Representatives from sports' ministries, governments and international organizations, academics, as well as prosecutors, experts on anti-corruption and on the manipulation of sport competitions are taking part in the three sessions.

The Enlarged Partial Agreement on Sport (EPAS) was created in 2007 to meet the challenges facing sport today in Europe. It serves as a platform for the public authorities of 40 member States, fostering dialogue between ministers, sports federations and NGOs and ensuring compliance with ethical and positive values. 29 sports organisations (including ENGSO, UEFA and the EOC) are partners of EPAS making up its Consultative Committee.

Inaugurated by the Permanent Representative of Italy to the Council of Europe Michele Giacomelli in the presence of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe Marija Pejcinovic Buric, the exhibition Cultural Routes of the Council of Europe in Italy: a European heritage provides a perfect opportunity to further explore and retrace the centuries-old paths that connect cultures, languages, histories and traditions across Europe. The Conference on Integrity in sport, opened by the Undersecretary of State for Sport Valentina Vezzali and Bjørn Berge, Deputy Secretary General of the Council of Europe, made it possible for attention to be drawn to a sector that favors dialogue, inclusiveness and a common identity.

“Sport – declared the Deputy General Manager Gianluca Alberini, at the end of the conference - has always been a vehicle for participation aggregation and inclusion. I think there are many images and moments that come to the minds of each and every one of us when we reflect on the fundamental role played by sport. Who can forget the images taken by all media around the world, of the two girls playing tennis from their respective rooftops during the lockdown in Italy. As we saw on that occasion, sport allows us to communicate even when the void divides us”. There are moments of sharing and reflection on different issues and areas, yet connected by a common belonging to the sphere of values of the Council of Europe and of its Member States.

Source: 7 December 2021, Council of Europe

https://www.coe.int/en/web/presidency/italian-presidency-news/-/asset_publisher/Z1fkQCGqWw4N/content/conference-on-integrity-in-sport-in-rome/16695

Sweden

INTEGRISPORT NEXT – Sweden A Stimulating exchange of thoughts and ideas on how to fight and prevent Match- Fixing in Sweden

INTEGRISPORT NEXT – Sweden

A Stimulating exchange of thoughts and ideas on how to fight and prevent Match-Fixing in Sweden IntegriSport Next has continued with its Awareness Raising Sessions (ARs). This time, CSCF Foundation for Sport Integrity co-organised the event with its project partner in Sweden, the Swedish Sports Confederation, which is responsible for combating all forms of sports manipulations in Sweden.

Being the last session of 2021 after successfully completing the ARs of Estonia and Finland, the event took place in Stockholm on the 24th and 25th of November, where more than 70 people from the law enforcement, judiciary, sport, and betting sectors attended the workshop. The event sparked active debates and discussions about fighting and preventing sports manipulations.

Fulfilling the objective of the project, the session represented a unique opportunity to bring together Swedish law enforcement and judiciary authorities and all the Swedish and international actors who fight against this phenomenon in sport to share ideas, opinions, good practices, and ways to cooperate between them.

Session development

The two-day session was dedicated to giving to the participants a perspective of the situation of sport manipulation at the national and international level, with the participation of first-class speakers who presented their contributions on the following key topics:

- Sport integrity
- Sport betting
- Virtual currencies
- Related criminal offences (corruption, fraud, money laundering)
- National and international co-operation and policymaking

Among the participant organisations, there were not only representatives from project partners but also other international and local institutions that play a crucial role in the field of sports manipulation, such as CSCF – Foundation for Sport Integrity, the Global Lottery Monitoring System (GLMS), the Swedish Sports Confederation, FIFPRO, the Swedish Gambling Authority, Svenska Spel, the Swedish Players Union, the Swedish FA, the Finnish Center for Integrity in Sports (FINCIS), the Swedish Police Authority, the

Prosecution Authority, and the Council of Europe and INTERPOL, as intergovernmental key stakeholders with an active and important work in the domain. Also, the first day had a very enlightening interview with Kenny Stamatopoulos, a former football player who had first-hand experience with match-fixing, who said no, and reported it. “Addressing the manipulation issues of sport requires a multi-stakeholder effort. At the

Swedish Sports Confederation, we want to have an impact on all those actors who can contribute in one way or another to combat this problem. Being involved in this project, we have the opportunity to meet with representatives of law enforcement, the judiciary, the sports movement and the field of betting, all together raising awareness and understanding different points of view” said Jakob Uddeholt from Integrity Officer - Swedish Sports Confederation

The program of the second day was only for representatives of law enforcement, judicial authorities, and other stakeholders from the public sector with the aim of sharing good practices on how cases of manipulation of national and international sports competitions can be detected and investigated.

Following the latest trends in criminal activity, participants were able to follow two prominent presentations from the Swedish Cybercrime Center (SC3) and CSCF - Foundation for Sport Integrity on how cybercrime and virtual currencies are making their way into society and more specifically, in sports, creating new challenges for those who fight against this phenomenon. Moreover, the Financial Intelligence Unit of Sweden shared a presentation based on a report on money laundering in the gaming sector in Sweden. This was a remarkable contribution that gave participants insight into the situation based on statistics and real examples of approaches to the issue of money laundering through the gaming sector. The day was followed by INTERPOL’s intervention as well as the presentation of two specific case studies on the issue, the local AIK – IFK Gothenburg case and a Finnish case. The three interventions shared notable examples of good and bad practices from international investigations on the manipulations of sports, as well as the role of cooperation between organisations to successfully investigate this type of crime. With this part of the session, the participants received an inside look into how the investigation and prosecution of a real sport manipulation case happens, thus receiving important lessons to consider for the future.

The final part of the Awareness Raising Session was an activity that has been one of the pillars of this project, the international

peer-to-peer meeting. This time it focused on how to collect and use information during investigations of cases of sports manipulations (match fixing). This was a one-off opportunity for law enforcement agencies and judicial authorities from Sweden to meet peers from other countries to develop the capacity and cooperation in their investigation and prosecution techniques in sports manipulation cases.

The panel in the meeting consisted of key players of the domain of sport integrity, including CSCF Director Norbert Rubicsek, Claudio Marinelli from Interpol, Cassandra Fernandes, Chris Yaakoubian and Benoit Borsato from GLMS, Jouko Ikonen from FINCIS as well as representatives from the Swedish Police, Swedish Prosecution, Svenska Spel and the Swedish FA. What followed was a stimulating exchange of thoughts and ideas on how to develop capacity and cooperation in their investigations and prosecution

techniques in sports manipulation cases. “Sharing information between stakeholders is one of the key tools in fighting sport manipulation, so discussions such as these provide great value to the cause not only of the IntegriSport Next project, but also to the partners such as CSCF [Foundation for Sport Integrity] and our partners’ stakeholders”, said Norbert Rubicsek, Director of CSCF – Foundation for Sport Integrity.

And with this, the Awareness Raising Sessions have concluded for 2021, with our next three sessions being held next year in Georgia (February), Cyprus (March), and Malta (April).

For more information, please visit:

www.cscfsport.com

Twitter: @CSCF_Integrity

Facebook: @CSCFSportintegrity

Instagram: @CSCF_Integrity

LinkedIn: CSCF - Sport Integrity Group

IntegriSport Next, a project co-funded by the European Union, aims to contribute to the efficiency of sport manipulation-related crime investigations and prosecution activities by providing awareness raising for law enforcement officers, judicial authorities, and other important stakeholders of the country partners on all aspects of manipulations of sports competitions.

Source: 6 December 2021, *Integrisport*

https://www.integrisport.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/Communication_statement_Sweden_Final_version.pdf?



CORRUPTION

Brazil

Brazil police search home of likely presidential candidate

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazil's Federal Police on Wednesday searched the home of Ciro Gomes, a left-wing politician expected to run for president next year, as part of an investigation into corruption regarding works on a World Cup stadium in northeastern city Fortaleza.

On his official Twitter account, Gomes confirmed the search while denying any wrongdoing and claiming political persecution.

The Federal Police said in a statement that the 14 search and seizure warrants aim to investigate fraud and bribe payments to politicians and public servants for works on the Castelao soccer stadium in Ceara state's capital ahead of the 2014 soccer tournament.

Gomes' brother Cid, currently a senator, was governor of Ceara at the time. Police also searched his residence, according to reports in various local newspapers. In their statement, police didn't confirm who was targeted. The press office of Cid Gomes didn't immediately return calls or requests for comment.

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On Twitter, Ciro Gomes expressed disgust with the operation, claiming it revealed that President Jair Bolsonaro had transformed Brazil into a police state. He stressed that he held no public office related to the alleged crimes nor had any connection with them.

"Until this morning, I imagined that we lived, even with its imperfections, in a democratic country," Gomes wrote. "I have no doubt that this late and disproportionate action has the clear objective of trying to damage my pre-candidacy for president."

Gomes, who was Ceara's governor in the mid-1990s, has run for president three times, most recently in 2018 against then-candidate Bolsonaro. Upon failing to make the runoff against Bolsonaro, Gomes declined to endorse the candidate from the leftist Workers' Party.

Ahead of the next year's election, early polls show former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of the Workers' Party holding a commanding lead, with nearly half of respondents say they intend to vote for him, according to a survey published by pollster Ipec on Tuesday. Just over 20% of people say they plan to vote for Bolsonaro and 5% for Gomes.

Da Silva took to Twitter to express his solidarity with Ciro and Cid Gomes, saying both politicians deserve respect and that the police search was needless.

Police said in their statement that investigations began in 2017, stemming from indications that a company paid bribes in order to win the contract for works on the stadium. There were indications of 11 million reais (\$1.9 million) in bribes paid in cash or disguised as campaign donations, the statement said.

Source: 15 December 2021, AP News

Football

<https://apnews.com/article/soccer-sports-media-police-brazil-2e9f82a7d73973faea3cb6c5b3990e5e>

