



INTERPOL

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Photos International Olympic Committee

INVESTIGATIONS

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Scandal in BiH's Football Federation: SIPA Police interrogated more than 500 People for Match Fixing

The State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) interrogated 500 people during the "Var" investigation to find out who all participated in the fixture of the Federal and country's Premier League matches.

As a result, SIPA arrested 12 people in November, Avaz news portal learned. According to Avaz, this police agency, which, according to the order of the Prosecutor's Office of BiH, has been working on the case, signed a report yesterday on abuse of office, receiving gifts and other forms of benefit, which the suspects have been charged with.

The sources claim that this is a serious investigation, leading to the very top in the BiH Football Federation, and so far, 15 people are suspected.

An investigation by the Prosecutors Office, with the assistance of SIPA members, has already established a well-founded suspicion that persons arrested, including Vladimir Dominkovic, Anto Biljko, Kenan Bajraktarevic, Ilija Zivkovic and Fuad Zahirovic, have committed crimes for which are charged, which is bribery.

The same applies to those arrested and released to defend themselves, including Salem Prolic, Irfan Duric, Haris Poprzenovic, Mirza Kazlagi, Marko Brezovi, Marija Grgic and Ante Kobas. The suspects include two state judges, which prompted an investigation by the Prosecutor's Office of BiH.

Testimonies were also given by the owners of individual clubs, and the invitation was addressed to Azmir Husic, owner of Tuzla City Soccer Club. He is still based in the United States of America.

However, he told Avaz on Tuesday that he did not receive any call and did not make any statements at SIPA, although the agency received different information from which he was heard as a witness.

Dozens of other sports directors of clubs from Travnik, Mostar, Gabela, Novi Travnik, Banovic gave statements as well. Recently, the Prosecution has expanded its investigation to several other persons, but no names are being discussed at this time.

Some could be key Prosecution witnesses. Prosecution documents clearly state that "the suspects committed the offenses by requiring the administrations of clubs competing in the FBiH League One to give away gifts, in turn, by acting in accordance with their capacity, to influence the outcome of the matches".



According to SIPA evidence and official records generated by the suspects' tracking, it was determined exactly who and where the suspects gave the money to the beneficiaries to benefit from the results.

Judges Zivkovic and Bajraktarevic were delegated by Dominkovi and controlled by Zahirovic. They took and distributed 10,000 BAM from undercover SIPA investigators. SIPA has already filmed judges taking bribes but from undercover investigator.

Source: 8 January 2020, Sarajevo Times

Football

<http://www.sarajevotimes.com/scandal-in-bihs-football-federation-sipa-police-interrogated-more-than-500-people-for-match-fixing/>

Cyprus

Cyprus urges police to investigate match-fixing allegations

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) -- Cyprus' justice minister urged police on Wednesday to swiftly investigate allegations of match-fixing after UEFA notified the country's soccer federation of suspicious betting activity in three second-division matches and a pair of cup games.

Justice Minister George Savvides said he has informed both the federation head and the country's chief of police his "strong concern and sensitivity" over any instances of corruption.

Savvides said the Cypriot government maintains a "zero tolerance" on corruption.

The federation said all the details contained in the UEFA files have been forwarded to police for investigation.

According to the federation, the three second-division matches involve the teams Ermis Aradippou, Digenis Morphou, Onisilos Sotiras, Othellos Athienou and P.O. Xylotymbou.

Last year, all second-division matches in Cyprus were temporarily suspended after UEFA pointed to suspicious betting on eight matches.

That prompted the introduction of tougher penalties for match-fixing, with lower-division teams facing funding cuts, point deductions and even relegation if they are found guilty of cheating.

Source: 16 January 2020, Yahoo Sports

Football

<https://sports.yahoo.com/cyprus-urges-police-investigate-match-fixing-allegations-170303397--spt.html>



Cyprus

Football fixtures to resume, player arrested over illegal betting claims released (update 3)

All football league matches in Cyprus will resume after they were cancelled on Friday following a bomb attack against one of their own in Larnaca earlier in the day, the justice minister announced on Monday.

The decision to resume all the matches was announced after Justice Minister George Savvides met the Cyprus Referees Association, the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) and the police.

Meanwhile, the 30-year old footballer arrested on Sunday in connection with investigations into two matches that saw unusual betting was released on Monday morning without charge, police confirmed.

Savvides announced the appointment of Christophoros Mavromatis as the head of a special police force tasked with monitoring corruption in football.

He also said the police have established a dedicated phone line for people who want to anonymously report incidents or suspicions of corruption in football. The phone line is called Red Button and can be reached at 1460.

“The police will continue to monitor the situation carefully and, when needed, take measures against corruption,” Savvides said.

“Referees cannot feel threatened, they must know that we are here to protect them.

“Football must get rid of the black wolves that are tarnishing it. For anyone who loves football, now is the time to talk.”

He also urged parliament to pass a law that would allow the monitoring of telecommunications data of individuals believed to be involved in corruption.

CFA president George Koumas welcomed the resumption of the fixtures.

“Today we had some good news,” he said. “I hope that, with the help of the government, we will manage to keep our sport clean, corruption free and devoid of violence in order to offer a better product to fans in Cyprus.”

He said cup matches will be played on Wednesday, and the league games that were postponed last weekend will be played on January 25 and 26.

Koumas thanked Savvides and the chief of police Kypros Michaelides, “who promptly responded to the CFA’s call and sat down with all interested parties to exchange views and find a solution in order to ensure the referees’ safety”.

He added that specific measures to protect the referees and their families will be implemented immediately.

Speaking about the arrest, police spokesman Christos Andreou said there was a mistake in the Uefa report and as a result the Limassol-based second division Karmiotissa player was released.

“After we arrested the player, we carried out an interrogation,” Andreou said.

“However, we found that the report that was handed to us was inaccurate, as there were several mistakes in it. As a result, the player was released without charge.

“I want to make it clear that this was not a mistake by the Cyprus Football Association (CFA) or by the police. We brought in the player based on the Uefa report, so there was no mistake from our side.”

Andreou said other arrests were possible.

The police have received five reports from the CFA regarding suspect games, including one on Sunday, and have said they are determined to stamp out the phenomenon.

The player’s arrest followed the CFA saying on Saturday that Uefa had accepted its request to dispatch a team to the island over the ‘red notices’ it sent on suspicious betting activity that could mean match fixing.

“The CFA will continue its efforts, in cooperation with Uefa and with the police, to stop match fixing from happening,” Koumas said.

“Unfortunately, it is not easy to uncover such illegal activities, but we are determined to find a solution and the law that would

allow the monitoring of telecommunications data of individuals believed to be involved in corruption will help us massively.”

The issue regarding Uefa’s team dispatch to Cyprus was discussed on Friday at a meeting at the justice ministry following a bomb attack against a football referee in Larnaca earlier in the day.

The Uefa team will cooperate with the police to investigate the matches for which the European football governing body issued the notices over suspicion of foul play.

They will also train representatives of football clubs on how to deal with them.

The wrongful arrest of the footballer will have negative developments, Cyprus’ football players association (PASP) said in a statement on Monday.

PASP said it expected the police to announce who is responsible for providing the incorrect information.

“The incident that led to the unfair arrest of a person based on a mistake on the pitch is shameful,” the statement said.

“We have always stood against corruption and match fixing. We want the authorities to bring those responsible for the latest incident to justice and we can guarantee we will do our best to assist them in clearing Cypriot football of all accusations.”

Source: 20 January 2020, Cyprus Mail

Football

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2020/01/20/287856/>



India

2000 match-fixing scandal: Alleged bookie Sanjeev Chawla set to be extradited to India after losing appeal in UK High Court

Alleged bookie Sanjeev Chawla is set to be extradited to India to face charges of match fixing after he lost a last-ditch appeal attempt in the UK High Court on Thursday.

Chawla, wanted in India to face charges of cricket match-fixing dating back to 2000, has been fighting against his extradition on human rights grounds and had sought permission to appeal against an extradition order signed off by the UK government last year.

At the end of a half-day hearing at the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Lord Justice David Bean and Justice Clive Lewis concluded that they were "satisfied that permission to appeal should be refused".

Under the India-UK Extradition Treaty, the UK Home Office is now expected to formally certify the court order for Chawla to be extradited to India within 28 days.

Under exceptional circumstances, there is a possibility of moving the UK Supreme Court on a point of law but barrister Mark Summers, representing the Indian government in the case, said that as a matter of law that avenue is not possible after permission has been denied by the High Court.

Chawla's lawyers had tried to establish that their client has a statutory right to appeal against the District Judge's order sent to the UK Home Secretary for a sign off.

That submission was challenged by the UK's Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on behalf of the Indian authorities on the grounds that it is a "disguised attempt" at reopening the entire case.

The two-member High Court panel decided to consider the matter simultaneously as a criminal procedure application on whether to grant permission to reopen the previous appeal.

"Nobody wants this case to go off to another day after all the delay," said Lord Justice Bean.

At that stage Chawla's lawyers referred to a series of fresh evidence documents and images to highlight that their client faced a serious risk of injustice and violence in Delhi's Tihar Jail, where he is to be held pre-trial.

They also alleged the potential of violence in police custody, given the coercive treatment of some of Chawla's co-accused in India.

After brief deliberation, the judges ruled in favour of the Indian authorities, saying that the threshold for the case to be reopened for appeal had not been met and that the assurances provided by the Indian government on prison conditions stand.

Former UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid had signed off on a District Judge's order in favour of extradition in February last year, giving the 50-year-old time to seek an appeal against the decision.

Chawla, a key accused in the cricket match-fixing scandal involving former South African captain Hansie Cronje in 2000, was present at the Royal Courts of Justice in London as Lord Justice David Bean and Justice Clive Lewis heard the application.

Following an initial trial, Westminster Magistrates' Court in London had concluded in October 2017 that while Chawla had a prima facie case to answer, his human rights could not be guaranteed in Delhi's Tihar Jail, where he was to be held.

This ruling was challenged in the UK High Court by the CPS, on behalf of the Indian authorities.

In a judgment handed down in the Royal Courts of Justice in London in November 2018, Lord Justice Leggatt and Justice Dingemans upheld the Indian government's appeal and directed the District Judge at Westminster Magistrates' Court to review the order against Chawla and proceed with an extradition order.

The High Court judges accepted the assurances provided by the Indian government that the accused will be accommodated in a cell to be occupied exclusively by him, with proper "safety and security" and complying with the "personal space and hygiene requirements" the court expects.

India had also made further guarantees on medical facilities and protection from intra-prisoner violence in the jail.

In January last year, the magistrates' court issued a fresh order in favour of Chawla's extradition, which was sent to the UK home secretary, who must formally sign off on the order under the India-UK Extradition Treaty.

According to court documents in the case, Chawla is described as a Delhi-born businessman who moved to the UK on a business visa in 1996, where he has been based while making trips back and forth to India.

After his Indian passport was revoked in 2000, he obtained a UK passport in 2005 and is now a British citizen.

In details of the case that emerged in court, Chawla was introduced to Hansie Cronje, the late South African cricket team captain, in January-February 2000.

It was suggested to Cronje, by Chawla and another person, that he could make significant amounts of money if he agreed to lose cricket matches.

Money was paid to Cronje at the time of the pending South African tour to India.

The tour took place in February-March 2000, with Chawla, Cronje and others conspiring to fix cricket matches in exchange for payment. Chawla reportedly played a central role, including direct contact with Cronje.

Source: 16 January 2020, *Cricket First*

Cricket

<https://www.firstpost.com/firstcricket/sports-news/2000-match-fixing-scandal-alleged-bookie-sanjeev-chawla-set-to-be-extradited-to-india-after-losing-appeal-in-uk-high-court-7918801.html>

Lithuania

Lithuanian Football Federation: 24 matches fixed in 2019

A total of 24 football matches in Lithuania were suspected of having been affected by match-fixing in 2019, according to the Lithuanian Football Federation.

The figure was announced by the Gambling Supervisory Authority, part of Lithuania's Ministry of Finance, as it held a meeting to discuss ways of tackling betting related corruption with representatives of the country's gambling industry. It admitted that it was difficult to determine the extent of match-fixing in the country.

The meeting covered discussions about the current situation with regards to match-fixing, and ways to refine the exchange of information and cooperation between the industry and sporting authorities.

The Gambling Supervisory Authority also reminded operators that under the country's Gambling Act, it is illegal - and punishable with up to four years' imprisonment - for individuals to place bets on events in which they participate.

Operators must refuse to take bets from these individuals, or refuse to pay winnings if the bet has already been placed, the Authority added.



Earlier this week, the Global Lottery Monitoring System, the sports betting integrity body for the lottery industry, has revealed that it flagged 98 football matches to its partner network for potentially suspicious activity in 2019.

Source: 17 January 2020, *iGaming Business*

Football

<https://www.igamingbusiness.com/news/lithuanian-football-federation-24-matches-fixed-2019>

Singapore

Alleged match-fixing kingpin Dan Tan released from prison: 5 things to know about the 'Kelong King'

SINGAPORE - Alleged Singaporean football match-fixing kingpin Dan Tan Seet Eng was released from detention without trial in December last year.

Described as the leader of the "most aggressive" global match-fixing syndicate at one time, Mr Tan, 55, spent close to six years in prison after his alleged syndicate was busted by the Singapore authorities in September 2013.

Here are five things to know about Mr Tan, from the illegal activities to the arrest and re-arrest of the so-called Kelong (Malay term for gambling or cheating) King.

1. LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE

Mr Tan seemingly led a double life, allegedly heading a match-fixing syndicate while working in Singapore as a salaried employee.

A secondary school dropout who lived in a condominium unit in Rivervale Crest, he was called "Ah Blur" by his friends, who said he was often unfazed by his surroundings.

Mr Tan was known to have a keen eye for investments, building a prolific portfolio in the share market over the years. He was also known to be an avid gambler, betting on horse-racing and football.

2. BEHIND BARS FOR GAMBLING OFFENCES

His gambling activities landed him in trouble with the law in the 1990s when he was jailed for related offences, including being an illegal horse-racing and football bookmaker. He served less than a year for his crimes.

He was said to have fled Singapore in 1994 after losing more than \$1.5 million betting on that year's World Cup. But he returned when his creditors agreed to let him pay his debt in instalments.

3. GLOBAL MATCH-FIXING RUN THAT ENDED WITH ARREST

Eventually, Mr Tan allegedly set up a ring said to have rigged more than 150 matches in various countries, including Italy, Hungary, Finland and Nigeria.

Wanted in Italy and Hungary, the businessman was among 14 Singaporeans arrested in 2013.

They were nabbed on suspicion of being part of an organised group of match-fixers in an islandwide crackdown in Singapore.

The 12-hour operation, which ended in the early hours of Sept 18, 2013, was led by the Criminal Investigation Department and the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB), with support from the police.

Mr Tan was issued detention orders under the Criminal Law (Temporary Provisions) Act (CLTPA), which allows suspects to be held by the police without trial.

After Mr Tan's arrest, his alleged match-fixing ring was believed to have ceased operations in Singapore.

4. FRAMED BY HIS BUSINESS PARTNER

Singaporean match-fixer Wilson Raj Perumal, now under house arrest in Hungary, was said to be among those who supplied betting tips to Mr Tan. The duo reportedly went on to become business partners.

However, they fell out over an investment deal with Finnish football club Tampere United, in which Wilson Raj planned to use the club ownership to manipulate the team's results.

Their subsequent split eventually led to the arrest of Wilson Raj in Finland in 2011. He insisted he was betrayed by Mr Tan.

In documents submitted to the High Court for the closed-door judicial review of his detention, Mr Tan claimed Wilson Raj had framed him after they fell out.

5. RELEASED, RE-ARRESTED, THEN RELEASED AGAIN

In 2015, Mr Tan was released from prison on an appeal petition two years after his initial detention.

Six days later, he was re-arrested for "suspected involvement in criminal activities" and again detained under the CLTPA.

He was finally released in December 2019 on a Police Supervision Order.

The order includes conditions such as electronic tagging, weekly reporting to the Police, curfews and prohibition from communicating with other

Source: 9 January 2020, Neww Straits Times

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/alleged-match-fixing-kingpin-dan-tan-released-after-six-years-of-detention-without-trial>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

France

Jonathan Kanar suspended and fined after admitting to corruption offences

French tennis player Jonathan Kanar has been suspended for four years and six months and fined \$2,000 after admitting to match-fixing and non-reporting offences.

Following an investigation carried out by the Tennis Integrity Unit, Mr Kanar admitted to contriving the outcome of a match he played at the ITF Futures F1 tournament in Harare, Zimbabwe in June 2017, in return for a corrupt payment of €1,500.

Independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer Charles Hollander QC considered the case and imposed the sanction. The period of suspension is backdated to apply from the 11 July 2019 and means that Mr Kanar is prohibited from competing in, or attending, any sanctioned event organised or recognised by the governing bodies of the sport for the duration of the ban.

In addition to the match-fixing charge, the player also admitted to failing to report a corrupt approach he received in relation to the Harare match.

The 25 year-year old is currently ranked 1494 in ITF singles and has a career-best of 427 in January 2019.

The breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program he has been convicted of are:

Section D.1.d: "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.1: "In the event any Player is approached by any person who offers or provides any type of money, benefit or Consideration to a Player to (i) influence the outcome or any other aspect of any Event, or (ii) provide Inside Information, it shall be the Player's obligation to report such incident to the TIU as soon as possible."

The Tennis Integrity Unit is an initiative of the Grand Slam Board, the International Tennis Federation, the ATP and the WTA, who are jointly committed to a zero tolerance approach to corruption in tennis.

Source: 10 January 2020, Tennis Integrity Unit

Tennis

<https://www.tennisintegrityunit.com/media-releases/jonathan-kanar-suspended-and-fined-after-admitting-corruption-offences>



LEGISLATION

Sweden

Spelinspektionen: New Policies to Stop Match-Fixing

The Swedish gaming authority Spelinspektionen unveiled a new package of regulations with which it hopes to avoid the arrangement of football matches and other sports. The new regulations are focused mainly on certain markets where bets are offered on individual performances of the players.

The regulatory measures that are part of the second stage of a strategy with respect to the game, are under revision. The Swedish regulator has indicated that it will make every effort to stop the match fixing.

This new stage includes some new policies with greater restrictions on marketing and advertising, particularly ads and materials oriented to gaming activities.

Another new rule is to prohibit betting on players sanctioned with yellow cards. Bets on odds of breaking any rule may not be offered, although the policy points more specifically towards infractions with yellow cards for soccer or tennis failures.

The regulator's strategy with this policy is to improve controls on match fixing. This eliminates the rewards to players for committing illegal or deliberate acts to manipulate a match.

The new regulations will prohibit the chances of penalties with yellow cards, but also cause penalties, disqualifications and some other type of disciplinary sanctions that the player or team may receive during the development of a match.

The general director of Spelinspektionen, Camilla Rosenberg, explained the motivation of the new regulations:

"With this measure we counteract the athletes manipulating the results themselves. At the same time, a stranger's motive comes down to trying to influence an individual practitioner."

The CEO of the International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA), Khalid Ali, for his part said:

"IBIA will review the proposal closely with its members and, of course, we are interested in working with any regulatory authority on practical and necessary proposals to address bets related to match-fixing."

He added that:

"However, based on the data we have, it is difficult to see that the proposal to ban certain markets is justified or effective."

In 2019 the most influential sector of Swedish bets had asked Spelinspektionen to offer much stricter guidelines related to betting restrictions, following fines imposed on many authorized operations. Such operations were sanctioned for offering betting lines on the "individual performance of players under 18 during football matches."

The Swedish regulator Spelinspektionen has also contemplated sanctioning the operators accused of money laundering with the greatest fines. The measures that came into force this year establish a fine of € 1 million (£ 847,686 / \$ 1.1m) on 10% of the income of companies that violate Sweden's money laundering law.

Source: 15 January 2020, Tunf

<https://news.tunf.com/spelinspektionen-new-policies-to-stop-match-fixing/455816>



BETTING

China

China Ministry of Public Security Targets Illegal Gambling

The Chinese government continues to actively hunt down illegal gambling operators and black-market rings. A new set of measures coordinated by the Minister of Public Security is coming into effect, bringing multiple departments together.

China Reveals New Measures to Stop Illegal Gambling

China is going to step its efforts on fighting illegal gambling activities both at home and abroad, the Minister of Public Security Zhao Kezhi has said in a statement. According to the official, China will focus on both domestic and cross-border online gambling and clamp down on capital outflow.

The latest crackdown has been engineered by the Ministry of Public Security, and the deputy minister – Sun Lijun. This is just the latest in a series of measures China has been spearheading to limit illegal gambling activities.

Foreign Operators Targeting China Also Part of the Measures

More specifically, China has been revving up its efforts outside the country, targeting the Philippines offshore gaming industry. In 2019, China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs asked the Philippines to clamp down on POGOs, the Philippine Online Gaming Operators, but the move was met with opposition and protests that China was meddling in the country's internal affairs.

Since that first suggestion, Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte has met with his Chinese homologue, Xi Jinping, to discuss an umber of issues, but POGOs have remained a less important issue.

President Duterte has once again shown himself as a hardliner on the industry, demanding from POGOs to either pay up overdue taxes and offer fair employment conditions or face ramifications – two of which are the President punching and shooting business executives with an air gun.

The Philippines has also been actively cracking down on individuals who are tied to illegal gambling activities.

Enforcing China's Illegal Gambling Measure

To enforce the new measures, China will put 21 department to work. The Central Propaganda Department, the Central Cyberspace Office as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Zhao's ministry will seek to collaborate with the Ministry of Public Security and seek to supplant illegal gambling.

Overall, Sun has said that the government has been successful in reining in much of the illegal gambling at home. According to official data, there have been 7,200 criminal cases of illegal gambling in 2019.

China arrested some 25,000 individuals on charges of propagating and seized funds worth \$2.61 billion in 2019 alone. These numbers were smaller than a year before in 2018, when China put the crack on Bitcoin and illegal sports betting rings.

Source: 16 January 2020, Gambling News.com

<https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/china-ministry-of-public-security-targets-illegal-gambling/>



Ghana

GFA cracks down on 'illegal' bookies offering markets on Ghana Premier League

New Ghana Football Association (GFA) president Kurt Okraku has acted swiftly to crackdown on the illegal betting markets being offered by bookmakers on the country's Premier League (GPL), threatening legal action.

The GFA has instructed its lawyers to take action against betting operators offering markets on the GPL, saying that has not given its authorisation or a license to any betting company.

A GFA statement told operators to stop "placing odds on Ghana Premier League matches without the necessary authorisation from the GFA", saying that the league was enforcing "its status as the owner of all marketing, commercial and all rights associated with the Ghana Premier League."

The GFA has also asked the Gaming Commission of Ghana, to consider the "illegal activities of their licenced betting companies against the GFA and its members...The GFA seriously frowns on such flagrant violation of the marketing and commercial rights of the Ghana Premier League, and will not countenance any ambush marketing on its product."

New rules that came in with Okraku stipulated betting operators must seek authorisation or a licence from the GFA before offering odds.

Africa is a hotbed of match-fixing and while the money the gambling operators bring is welcomed by the game's administrators, the threats to the integrity of the sport aren't. In Ghana, as in most countries worldwide, players are expressly prohibited by their national association from placing bets on matches.

Source: 7 January 2020, Inside World Football

Football

<http://www.insideworldfootball.com/2020/01/06/gfa-cracks-illegal-bookies-offering-markets-ghana-premier-league/>



United Kingdom

Gambling on credit cards to be banned from April 2020

The Gambling Commission has announced a ban on gambling businesses allowing consumers in Great Britain to use credit cards to gamble.

The ban, which comes into effect on 14 April, follows the Commission's review of online gambling and the Government's Review of Gaming Machines and Social Responsibility Measures. A public consultation was carried out between August and November 2019.

24 million adults in Great Britain gamble, with 10.5 million of those gambling online. UK Finance estimate that 800,000* consumers use credit cards to gamble.

Separate research undertaken by the Commission shows that 22%** of online gamblers using credit cards to gamble are classed as problem gamblers – with even more at some risk of harm.

The ban, which will apply to all online and offline gambling products with the exception of non-remote lotteries, will provide a significant layer of additional protection to vulnerable people.

Neil McArthur, Gambling Commission chief executive, said:

“Credit card gambling can lead to significant financial harm. The ban that we have announced today should minimise the risks of harm to consumers from gambling with money they do not have.

“Research shows that 22% of online gamblers using credit cards are problem gamblers, with even more suffering some form of gambling harm.

“We also know that there are examples of consumers who have accumulated tens of thousands of pounds of debt through gambling because of credit card availability. There is also evidence that the fees charged by credit cards can exacerbate the situation because the consumer can try to chase losses to a greater extent.”

Mr McArthur said although he understood that some consumers used credit cards because they were convenient, the risk of harm to others was too high to allow the use of credit cards to continue.

“We realise that this change will inconvenience those consumers who use credit cards responsibly but we are satisfied that reducing the risk of harm to other consumers means that action must be taken.” he said. “But we will evaluate the ban and watch closely for any unintended circumstances for consumers.”

Mr McArthur warned that although likely to reduce gambling harm, the banning of credit cards needed to be accompanied by other efforts.

“The ban is part of our ongoing work to reduce gambling harm. We also need to continue the work we have been doing with gambling operators and the finance industry to ensure consumers only gamble with money they can afford to spend.”

Last year Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) ministers also met with banks and gambling operators to discuss their growing concerns, and how companies could use technology and customer data to help those at risk of developing gambling problems, including those using credit cards.

Culture Minister Helen Whately said:

“Whilst millions gamble responsibly, I have also met people whose lives have been turned upside down by gambling addiction.

“There is clear evidence of harm from consumers betting with money they do not have, so it is absolutely right that we act decisively to protect them.

“In the past year we have introduced a wave of tougher measures, including cutting the maximum stake on fixed odds betting terminals, bringing in tighter age and identity checks for online gambling and expanding national specialist support through the NHS Long Term Plan. We have also secured a series of commitments from five leading gambling operators that will include £100 million funding towards treatment for problem gamblers.

“But there is more to do. We will be carrying out a review of the Gambling Act to ensure it is fit for the digital age and we will be launching a new nationwide addiction strategy in 2020.

“We will not hesitate to take any further action necessary to protect people from gambling harm.”

Today has also seen the Commission announce changes to licence conditions which will require all online gambling operators to participate in the GAMSTOP scheme and offer their customers the service from 31 March.

Neil McArthur said:

“We welcome the fact that GAMSTOP have got to this stage in their development and encourage them to continue to improve their offer, particularly in relation to preventing those who have self-excluded being targeted by direct marketing.

“It is important that self-exclusion schemes are as effective as possible and they will be most effective when used in combination with other blocking tools such as gambling blocking software and payment card blocking.

Helen Whately added:

“We have been clear to all businesses that have connections to gambling, such as operators, social media platforms and banks, that they must be socially responsible and use the power of technology and data to help consumers manage their spending and protect them from harm.

“I have been encouraged by the majority of major high street banks introducing measures to allow customers to switch off spending on gambling through mobile apps.

“By making it a regulatory requirement for all online gambling websites licensed in Great Britain to sign up to Gamstop. I am confident that people who have taken the significant step to opt out of gambling will be well supported, alongside a wide range of other tools.”

Read the Commission’s press release on GAMSTOP.

Read the full credit card consultation response.

Source: 14 January 2020, UK Gambling Commission

<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news-action-and-statistics/News/gambling-on-credit-cards-to-be-banned-from-april-2020>

GOOD PRACTICES

FIFA

FIFA develops new and enhanced integrity resources for member associations and confederations

FIFA has today launched a new and enhanced integrity toolkit that aims to protect the integrity of football and help member associations and confederations to strengthen and further enhance existing measures in place to protect national and regional-level football matches and competitions from match manipulation.

Building on the successful integrity programme developed and implemented during the 2018 FIFA World Cup™ and last year during the FIFA Women’s World Cup 2019™ as well as other existing education and prevention programmes and measures in football, FIFA and its dedicated Integrity Department have developed several updated and new integrity resources to be used and implemented by key stakeholders across football.

FIFA has developed a practical handbook for its member associations as well as the confederations, which will serve as a practical guide on how to build and/or strengthen their own integrity initiatives to protect football competitions from match manipulation. It outlines the standard steps and best-practice measures to implement successful integrity initiatives on a day-to-day basis. FIFA is also offering a series of topic-specific posters to support these initiatives.

FIFA’s new Integrity e-Learning Tutorial is aimed at educating individuals involved in football about the threat of match manipulation. It describes the applicable regulations that have been put in place by FIFA, explains various forms of integrity-related misconduct and outlines how to correctly report match-manipulation approaches or incidents.

Source: 16 January 2020, FIFA.com

Football

<https://www.fifa.com/about-fifa/who-we-are/news/fifa-develops-new-and-enhanced-integrity-resources-for-member-associations-and-c>

GLMS

Football dominates match-fixing numbers with Europe topping the count

January 14 – The GLMS (Global Lottery Monitoring System) has sent 787 alerts of potential betting related match fixing events to its sports partners. 570 of these alerts have been in Europe and 450 them in football.

In comparison there have been 67 football alerts in Asia, 59 in South America, 11 in North America and nine of international fixtures. African partners have had just 16 alerts.

The GLMS is the Lotteries' integrity body with a focus on detecting and analysing suspicious betting activities. Its origins are European, hence the likely reason for the higher number of European alerts, however it has expanded its operations to other continents.

In 2019, GLMS alerted 157 matches to its partners. The majority of the alerts went to football partners FIFA and UEFA (98 alerts). 112 of the reported matches were further analysed by the GLMS for their partners.

Of the 787 alerts, 50 were code red and 22 of them were generated in pre-match or during live. There were 160 yellow alerts and 420 green alerts. The rest, 157 alerts, were a result of a request or information provided from members or partners. Red alerts are, obviously the most serious and generally related to obvious odds changes, indicating a very high percentage likelihood of match manipulation.

“As we look ahead to 2020, we will continue in our effort to expand our global membership base. We are also planning to open a new Integrity Hub in Canada, following Hong Kong to further consolidate the process of globalization of GLMS targeting North American jurisdictions,” said Ludovico Calvi, president of GLMS.

See the full report at https://gallery.mailchimp.com/d3dd17a9afdcf674100aa8954/files/c3d8331c-10b8-4ff0-b132-ee46a8aedee3/20_GLMS_2019MonitoringIntelligenceReport_final.01.pdf

Source: 14 January 2020, *Inside World Football*

<http://www.insideworldfootball.com/2020/01/14/football-dominates-match-fixing-numbers-europe-topping-count/>



IOC

Making the right decision – how YOG athletes are being made aware of the risks of competition manipulation

In between competitions, athletes at the Youth Olympic Games (YOG) in Lausanne are also actively taking part in activities aimed at providing them with useful information on issues that they are or will be facing during their careers. One series of activities being run as part of the “Believe in Sport” campaign has been specifically designed to raise awareness about the threat of competition manipulation among athletes, their entourages and officials.

Through an online activation, as well as fun and interactive activities at dedicated booths in the Youth Olympic Villages in Lausanne and St Moritz, athletes learn why sport becomes meaningless and loses its credibility if the course or result of a competition is fixed in advance.

Supporting the campaign are a number of retired athletes, who are acting as ambassadors and whose contributions are strongly valued by the YOG athletes. One of them is 25 year-old Slovenian Alpine skier Jakob Spik, who recently retired from his sport due to injury.

“I have been working at the Believe in Sport booth, attracting athletes to our booth and educating them about our campaign. Most of the athletes know at least something about the topic, they know the problem. But also those who have never heard about it seem to understand it quite well after our explanations,” said Jakob. He added: “It has been a great experience and I hope to stay involved in the future.”

Jakob has been joined by fellow ambassadors Elisa Perini from Switzerland, a former elite biathlete, and Zoé Cheli, also from Switzerland, who recently retired from ski cross in order to concentrate on her studies in environmental sciences. At the Believe in Sport booths, the three of them help to moderate different sessions and activities, all of which aim to convey the nature of competition manipulation and explain how athletes can protect themselves if they are approached.

A dedicated app encourages users to create an athlete avatar from a selfie and then choose from four short scenarios which feature challenging situations and require quick reactions. In this way, the young athletes learn about the different ways they might get caught in the web of competition manipulation. At another game, called “Share/Don’t Share”, athletes take a look at social media posts and decide if they should share them or not. The aim is to raise awareness about the sensitivity of information when it comes to competition manipulation.

At the booth, the athletes have also had the opportunity to interact with INTERPOL officers and learn about “behind-the-scenes” aspects of competition manipulation and related police investigations.

According to the first results of a survey on these activities, one third of the athletes had never heard about competition manipulation before coming to the booth. The young athletes found it particularly “interesting to learn about specific dos and don’ts” regarding competition manipulation and enjoyed “learning something new”.

Focus Days with International Federations

In addition, and thanks to joint projects with the International Federations for luge (FIL), bobsleigh and skeleton (IBSF) and ice hockey (IIHF), YOG athletes from these sports undergo specific training on the topic of competition manipulation during the Games, where they are provided with customised presentations and take part in an interactive quiz.

Keen to learn more? Check out <https://www.olympic.org/athlete365/believeinsport/> and join the conversation by using the hashtags #BelieveInSport #MakeTheRightDecision.

Source: 14 January 2020, IOC

<https://www.olympic.org/news/making-the-right-decision-how-yog-athletes-are-being-made-aware-of-the-risks-of-competition-manipulation>

India

CBI seeks details from NSFs for its Sports Integrity Unit

January 17 set as the deadline for providing all details, including registration number, address, details of office bearers and members

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Friday sought information from all the National Sports Federations (NSFs) that are recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports for its newly formed Sports Integrity Unit (SIU).

According to a communication to all the heads of NSFs, CBI Special Crime-II Branch head Jagroop S Gusinha has set January 17 as the deadline for providing all details, including registration number, address, details of office bearers and members etc.

“The emergence of sports as an industry involving investment of huge sums of money on players, teams has brought with it the ever increasing spectrum of corruption, illegal betting and use of various forms of unfair means in order to influence the result of a game,” Mr. Gusinha wrote in the letter.

“Keeping in view of above, it was felt to set up Sports Integrity Unit and Special Investigation Unit.IV of CBI SC.II branch designated as Sports Integrity Unit having all India jurisdiction for investigation.

“In view of the above, it is felt necessary to collect information from all National Sports Federations, Associations/Societies affiliated/recognised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports,” he added.

As per the directive, the NSFs are also required to provide details about affiliated members, activities and tournaments — state/national/international level conducted by it as well as achievements.

Source: 10 January 2020, *The Hindu*

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/cbi-seeks-details-from-nsfs-for-its-sports-integrity-unit/article30535443.ece>

TIU

Tennis Integrity Unit publishes Annual Review for 2019

The Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) today published its fourth Annual Review, covering the work and development of the organisation during 2019.

A PDF version of the TIU Annual Review 2019 can be viewed and downloaded at <https://www.tennisintegrityunit.com/annual-review/2019>.

Source: 16 January 2020, *Tennis Integrity Unit*

Tennis

<https://www.tennisintegrityunit.com/media-releases/tennis-integrity-unit-publishes-annual-review-2019>



CORRUPTION

France

Spotlight to fall on Tokyo Olympics, Qatar World Cup and cash for Russian doping cover-ups at the trial that could rock the world of sport

Former IAAF president Lamine Diack on trial for corruption in Paris on Monday

The 86-year-old faces prospect of spending 10 years in a French prison

He was once described by Lord Coe as the 'spiritual leader of our sport'

Diack could embarrass leading names in sports administration if he speaks out

A criminal trial which could ultimately expose alleged corruption surrounding the awarding of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, 2022 Qatar World Cup, doping cover-ups in Russia and Russian attempts to influence foreign elections will start in Paris on Monday with some huge and respected names on the International Olympic Committee sweating to see if they are named in court.

Lamine Diack, who preceded Lord Coe as president of the IAAF and was once described by Coe as the 'spiritual leader of our sport', faces the prospect of spending the rest of his life in a French prison as he goes on trial.

Though this initial phase will deal with an alleged cover-up of Russian positive doping tests in 2012 by Diack, later this year more complex allegations will be aired about payments made to companies connected to him allegedly to secure the Olympics for Tokyo and the 2019 World Athletics Championships for Doha. The award of the 2022 World Cup to Qatar may even be involved.

Diack, 86, who faces 10 years in jail if found guilty, has spent more than four years under house arrest in Paris. He says he is innocent but could embarrass leading names in sports administration if he speaks out.

'I will finally be able to explain myself,' Diack told Jeune Afrique in his only interview. 'My state of health is no longer the best,' he added, complaining that after his arrest in France in 2015 he has been denied access to medical treatment in his former home of Monaco. 'I'm stuck here,' he said. 'The treatment I receive is unfair. I was French for 27 years, I held the highest office and I did a lot for world sport.'

Diack not only faces the rest of his life in jail but financial ruin if found guilty. The Mail on Sunday understands that World Athletics, the renamed IAAF, will pursue its former president and his co-defendants for the loss of earnings suffered by their action, which directly led sponsors adidas and Nestle to pull out of the sport. World Athletics president Coe spoke to police in the course of the investigation but is not required as a witness.

Investigating judge Renaud Van Ruymbeke alleges that Diack and his son, Papa, were at the centre of a vast system of corruption aimed at covering up Russian doping in exchange for bribes.

This phase of proceedings has six defendants on trial but only three will appear in the dock: Diack and Gabriel Dolle, the IAAF's former head of anti-doping, who faces a charge of corruption, and Habib Cisse, former legal advisor to the IAAF, who is accused of complicity in corruption. Papa Diack, charged with corruption, money laundering, concealment and breach of trust, has fled to Senegal and is refusing to return. Also on trial are former president of the Russian Athletics Federation Valentin Balakhnichev (corruption and money laundering) and Russia's former head athletics coach Alexei Melnikov (corruption) who have not been extradited. All six strenuously deny the charges.

The most well-publicised of the cover-ups being covered this week involves Liliya Shobukhova, the 2010 London Marathon winner, later disqualified for doping. In 2015, an IAAF ethics commission investigation revealed how her husband, Igor, said he had organised for €450,000 to be paid to Melnikov so his wife's sanction would be covered up, letting her compete at London 2012. Melnikov disputes this.

The investigation showed that, though the ruse let Shobukhova compete, she was later sanctioned, leading the couple to demand their money back. At that stage, €300,000 was paid to them by a mysterious Singapore company, Black Tidings. Papa Diack's own consultancy firm, PMD Consulting, had its domain name, pmdconsulting.com, registered at the same address.

Lamine Diack is set to accept a full cross-examination, so IOC watchers will hang on every word, curious to see what he reveals.

His interview with Jeune Afrique suggests he will argue that he didn't so much cover up the tests as delay them, as he couldn't risk the fallout of negative publicity at the London 2012 Olympics and the 2013 World Athletics Championships in Moscow, which was heavily bankrolled by Russian sponsors.

+5

The Mail on Sunday was the first paper to reveal the Moscow cover-up shortly before the event began.

'It was necessary to rectify the accounts,' Lamine Diack told Jeune Afrique. 'As president, one of my missions was to maintain

the financial health of our institution. We had to try to draw a large windfall of cash from sponsors. We couldn't afford to disrupt the success of these two events. We never covered up their cases. We just asked for time to check their tests and make sure that, if there were sanctions, they take effect after these competitions.' Van Ruymbeke says the real reason for the delay was Russian bribes used to finance Diack's political activities in Senegal.

But it's the rest of the case later in the year which could blow apart the sporting world, covering a network of alleged corruption around events including the Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Black Tidings, the firm linked to Papa Diack, had few cash inflows, but received \$2million from Tokyo 2020. Payments were split in two, the first \$1m in July 2013, two months before the IOC would vote on who would host the Games. French police have emails of Papa urging his father that 'we have to do more' before the vote. Tokyo was successful and a month later a further payment of \$1m was paid from Tokyo 2020 to Black Tidings.

Officially the payments were for studies, one on how Tokyo could win and one after the contest to assess who had voted for them. The studies are said to be laughably superficial for \$2m worth of work. The Diacks have denied allegations that it was a payment to influence votes. Tokyo deny all allegations.

Then, last June, the net widened and French police questioned Michel Platini, the ex-UEFA president who resigned after being unable to adequately explain a £1.4m bonus received from FIFA president Sepp Blatter. Platini was asked about the infamous lunch which took place between him, Nicolas Sarkozy, then President of France, and the Emir of Qatar, Sheik Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, at the Elysee Palace in November 2010. It took place nine days before Platini, as a FIFA executive committee member, voted for the 2022 World Cup to take place in Qatar. He says the lunch played no part and that he had no idea Sheik Tamim, then Crown Prince of Qatar, would be there. Platini was questioned but not charged. He was a witness helping police with inquiries. His lawyer said his client has nothing to hide and has no part in a wider sports corruption investigation by French police.

In 2011, six months after the lunch, Paris Saint-Germain were bought by Qatar Sports Investments. And while investigating Russian doping, French police came across two payments from Oryx QSI, a company related to the Qatar firm, worth \$3.5m in 2011 to Pamodzi, a company set up by Papa Diack. Coincidentally this payment came just before the IAAF, headed then by Lamine Diack, would decide between Doha and London for the 2017 World Athletics Championships. Doha lost that race, but in 2014 won the right to host the 2019 championships.

That has led to Nasser Al-Khelaifi, the president of PSG and a member of UEFA's executive committee and chairman of beIN Sports, being charged with corruption. He denies all wrongdoing.

Source: 13 January 2020, Daily Mail

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/sportsnews/article-7877189/Spotlight-Tokyo-Olympics-Qatar-World-Cup-cash-Russian-doping-cover-ups-Diack-trial.html>

