



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

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Photos International Olympic Committee

INVESTIGATIONS

Pakistan

PCB Charges Umar Akmal for Breaching Anti-Corruption Code

Controversial Pakistan batsman Umar Akmal has been charged on Friday for two separate breaches of the Pakistan Cricket Board's Anti-Corruption Code.

Umar, who was provisionally suspended on February 20 and barred from playing for his franchise, Quetta Gladiators in the Pakistan Super League, has been charged for failing to disclose corrupt approaches to the PCB Vigilance and Security Department (without unnecessary delay).

If found guilty, Akmal could be banned from all forms of cricket for anywhere between six months and life.

He was issued the charge sheet on March 17 and has been given time to respond until March 31. This was a breach under 2.4.4 for PCB's anti-corruption code.

A Troubled Career

Umar, 29, has had a chequered career since making his debut in August, 2009 and has since just managed to play 16 Tests, 121 ODIs and 84 T20 internationals for his country despite making a century on Test debut.

His last appearance came in last October during a home T20 series against Sri Lanka and before that he also played in the March-April, 2019 one-day series against Australia in the UAE.

Umar who has a penchant for getting into trouble with the establishment was reprimanded and cleared in February just before the PSL for allegedly misbehaving with a trainer during a fitness test in Lahore.

The PCB had then said that the incident occurred as a result of a misunderstanding.

Also Read : Umar Akmal Faces Sanctions For Misbehaving During Fitness Test

Before that also on numerous occasions, Umar has faced disciplinary action most notable being when clashed with former head coach, Mickey Arthur in Lahore during a practice session and accused him of using abusive language.

He was also sent back from the 2017 Champions Trophy in England after failing a fitness test but Umar claimed Arthur didn't want him in the team.

Another former head coach, Waqar Younis had also in a much publicised confidential report which was leaked out advise the board to drop Umar from the Pakistan team and send him to play domestic cricket for at least a year to gain cricketing discipline.

The talented batsman who scored a double century in the final the Quaid-e-Azam Trophy in December in Karachi has gained the reputation of shooting himself in the foot

Since he was suspended by the PCB last month, Umar has kept a low profile and stayed away from the media spotlight.

Source: 23 March 2020, The Quint

Cricket

<https://www.thequint.com/sports/cricket/umar-akmal-faces-suspension-after-pcb-charge-anti-corruption-code>



Zimbabwe

How Herentals match-fixing case collapsed

THE match-fixing case involving Herentals collapsed after key witness, Gift Kamuriwo, flipped and presented an affidavit saying the money he allegedly received from middleman, Oliver Chirenga, was never intended to induce the manipulation of the league match against Black Rhinos.

The ZIFA Appeals Committee also established that the Premier Soccer League's rules and regulations did not have a specific rule that deals with the standard proof that should be used in such complex and serious cases.

The Students, who were found guilty by the PSL disciplinary committee of manipulating their league match against Rhinos, had their conviction quashed by the ZIFA Appeals Committee.

"Having gone through the PSL Rules and Regulations, the ZIFA Appeals Board could not find specific a Rule that deals with the Standard of Proof to be used," the ZIFA Appeals Committee said in their judgment.

"In the absence of such a Rule, and considering the seriousness of the offence being faced by the Appellants; the Appeals Board was convinced that the Standard of Proof that the (PSL) disciplinary committee ought to have used in this case was that advocated by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (in the case Arbitration CAS 2016/4650 Kulbi Sportiv Skenderbeu v UEFA award of November 21, 2016) — comfortable satisfaction.

"He (Gift Kamuriwo) was called as an accused person (by the PSL disciplinary committee). The charge was put to him.

"He admitted receiving money from Chirenga but he said that when he took the money from Chirenga, he had no intention of influencing the outcome of the football match between Black Rhinos FC and Herentals FC.

"He even testified that he did nothing to facilitate anything to do with the fixing of the match.

"He further insisted that he had nothing to do with the selection of the team, since it was done by the coach. In his sworn affidavit, filed as an exhibit, he stated under oath that he accepted money from Chirenga in order to fix him and he used the money for his personal use.

"No witnesses were called by the PSL Prosecution to prove the point which the accused, Gift Kamuriwo, was denying that he had no intention of influencing the match and neither did he approach anyone at Black Rhinos FC in order to influence the match."

The ZIFA Appeals Committee said the PSL should also have conducted their investigations and decided, at the conclusion of such a probe, whether they had enough evidence to go ahead with charging Herentals.

However, the league relied on a single witness, despite his affidavit denying he was involved in a web of corruption to influence the outcome of the match.

Instead, according to the judgment, there appeared to have been a determination by the PSL disciplinary committee to only concentrate on material, which they considered would aid the conviction of the accused, while disregarding any material which cast doubt on the evidence.

"If the PSL DC (disciplinary committee) regarded that part of the evidence as false, and proceeded to make an assumption that the match was fixed, based on what Kamuriwo did not say, then it follows that they should also have ordered that Black Rhinos FC should be charged for participating in match-fixing," the judgment read.

Source: 23 March 2020, Herald

<https://www.herald.co.zw/how-herentals-match-fixing-case-collapsed/>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Argentina

Independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer reduces Nicolas Kicker suspension in recognition of player education support

Three year suspension reduced by four months means Mr Kicker can resume playing professional tennis from 23 January 2021.

Independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer (AHO) Jane Mulcahy QC has reduced the suspension imposed on Argentinian tennis player Nicolas Kicker from three years, to two years and eight months, on appeal.

The decision recognises the support given by the player to the Tennis Integrity Unit's Education programme. In particular he co-operated with the production of an educational video charting his involvement in corruption and warning other players of the consequences.

Reducing the three year suspension by four months means that Mr Kicker will be eligible to resume playing professional tennis from 23 January 2021.

In June 2018 Mr Kicker was banned for six years, with three years suspended, after being found guilty of committing match-fixing offences under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP). The suspension was backdated to apply from 24th May 2018, the date he was excluded from playing tennis.

The three year suspended element of the original sanction will remain in place on condition that no further breaches of the TACP are committed.

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.

Note: the Nicolas Kicker educational video can be viewed at:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=THgJVmeVsPM

Source: 19 March 2020, Tennis Integrity Unit

Tennis

<https://elinku.clickdimensions.com/m/1/84431288/p1-b20078-daa8339aa57841e398a1acbf41ddc2fd/1/50/35e89670-a81e-4ea1-ad7a-7651483e78b1>



China

Rogue Warriors' WeiYan banned for two years for matchfixing

The LPL has announced a ban of two years for WeiYan after their disciplinary committee ruled that attempted matchfixing was indeed performed.

"RW League of Legends player WeiYan knowingly participated in illegally incentivized activities related to League of Legends which violated 11.2.17 of the LPL Official Rules, and had intentions to disrupt the fairness of the league which violated article 11.3 of the rules," the LPL said in a statement.

As a result, WeiYan has been banned for two years, until March 27, 2022. His team, Rogue Warriors, was also fined \$423,687.50 along with a severe warning to ensure that their team and its stakeholders also uphold the League's rules.

"To clarify, it was not RW that reported their player, it was RW that notified the LPL Discipline Committee that their player was reported," the LPL explained. "In addition, it is part of each club team's responsibility to ensure their players and staff follow the rules. RW failed in this respect."

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Wang "Weiyan" Xiang has been dismissed from LPL team Rogue Warriors due to match-fixing allegations levied against the player, according to a new Weibo post from the team.

"The investigations by the club has determined that Rogue Warriors player Wang Xiang (id: weiyan) conducted activities during LPL Spring 2020 competitions that seriously violated the team's rules and disciplines," Rogue Warriors said in a statement translated by ESPN's Emily Rand. "Hereby, based on longstanding zero tolerance, the organization will officially end Wang's 'player service contract' and submit relevant documents to the league."

The initial allegations came to light thanks to a Weibo account showing screenshots of Weiyan talking about match fixing against Dominus Esports and Victory Five. Rogue Warriors beat Victory Five 2-0, despite these allegations.

"Even after a year of repeated reminders and warnings, some still chose to ignore the rules which led to severe consequences. We hereby once again remind our players to remind themselves not to violate club and league rules. We will also further conduct deep internal probes and we are vowing to root out anyone that has directly or indirectly participated in violations."

Weiyan was formerly a member of the LDL team Rogue Warriors Shark, Rogue Warriors' sister team in the lower league. He has been a member of the organization since February 2019, when he joined the team alongside BoWen and Hong. He helped Sharks finish third in LDL 2019 Spring, where the team finished with a 17-7 record, and then departed for the main roster in May 2019 as a substitute. He only recently took over for the team over former starter Haro in week two of 2020 LPL Spring.

This will surely not help Rogue Warriors prospects in the LPL, as they are currently 3-5 and in 12th place in the League. Weiyan's last match in the LPL was against Team WE, a series that the Rogue Warriors went on to lose 2-1.

Weiyan has not made a public statement, but given the allegations, it's unlikely that another team will pick up the player.

Source: 27 March 2020, Hotspawn

eSports

<https://www.hotspawn.com/rogue-warriors-weiyan-dismissed-after-match-fixing-allegations/>

ODDS AND ENDS

Chess

Think Cheating in Baseball Is Bad? Try Chess

Smartphones, buzzers, even yogurt — chess has nearly seen it all in both live and online tournaments. And just as in baseball, technology only makes it harder to root out.

Until the sports world ground to a halt last week over the coronavirus outbreak, perhaps the biggest issue looming over professional sports in the United States was the Houston Astros' cheating scandal. The revelations of their scheme led Major League Baseball's commissioner, Rob Manfred, to deliver a stern warning to all 30 club owners that there was a "culture of cheating" in the game.

But baseball's malfeasance — sign-stealing or otherwise — has nothing on chess. At prestigious live tournaments and among thousands of others playing daily online, cheating is a scourge.

Whether it's a secret buzzer planted in a shoe, a smartphone smuggled into the bathroom, a particular flavor of yogurt delivered at a key moment — or just online players using computerized chess programs — chess has perhaps more cheating than any other game in the world.

"Of course it is a problem," said Leinier Domínguez, the Cuban-born player currently ranked No. 3 in the United States. "Because with all the advances in technology, it's always a possibility. People have more chances and opportunities to do this sort of thing."

In both chess and baseball, both real and rumored instances of cheating have been around for decades, but an explosion in technology and data over the past 10 to 15 years has made the problem much harder to curb for both.

The Astros' scheme, which helped propel them to the 2017 World Series title, involved illegally deciphering the signs of opposing catchers via a live video feed and then banging on a trash can to signal the next pitch to the batter. M.L.B. is now grappling with how to prevent similar electronic-based schemes in the future.

In chess, players at live tournaments are now required to leave their phones behind and pass through metal detectors before entering the playing area. Some have even been asked to remove clothing and been searched. And some tournaments now put players behind one-way mirrors to limit visual communication.

But, like the Astros, many chess players still try.



Just last year, a grandmaster named Igors Rausis was caught examining a smartphone in a bathroom stall at a tournament in France. In 2015, Gaios Nigalidze of Georgia was barred for three years by FIDE, chess's global governing body, and had his grandmaster status revoked for the same offense.

FIDE's anti-cheating commission has recently stepped up its efforts to combat the problem. The group met last month and resolved to give financial support to national federations that need it to help them root out cheating, and will share detection techniques with online chess platforms. They are currently investigating 20 cases.

"The cheaters have been winning for a long time," Arkady Dvorkovich, the president of FIDE, said in a telephone interview from Moscow. "But in the last few months we showed our determination to fight it and I think people realize it is serious."

In 2013, Borislav Ivanov, a young player from Bulgaria, was essentially forced into retirement after he refused to take off his shoes to be searched for an electronic device that might be used to transmit signals to him. A device was never found — Ivanov reportedly refused to remove his shoes because, he claimed, his socks were too smelly — but he retired shortly after the tournament.

Dominguez said he did not think the top 20 players in the world cheat: It would be too risky to their reputations, he said. But he was at the 2012 chess Olympiad in Khanty-Mansiysk, Russia, when accusations flew that the French team had used an elaborate cheating scheme. The French team was accused of sending text messages to teammates, who would then stand in prearranged spots in the gallery. Their location was supposedly the signal to a young, unproven player, Sébastien Feller, for the next move.

Feller denied the accusations but was suspended by the French chess federation, which said it discovered numerous suspicious texts. That penalty was later overruled by a French court.

Dominguez was not playing Feller, but saw the furor at the time and its effects even on clean players.

"One of the dangers is that you get a bit paranoid about these things," Dominguez said. "Maybe in baseball as well. You feel

insecure and lose focus on your game.”

There are players who cheat by sandbagging — intentionally playing poorly in order to qualify for a lower tournament and win the prize money. There are some who create fake accounts online, build up the stature of that account, and then beat it in order to improve their own ranking. Sometimes opponents agree to an outcome and share meager prize money.

In 1978, Viktor Korchnoi accused Anatoly Karpov of cheating with blueberry yogurt. After Karpov received purple yogurt from a waiter during the game, Korchnoi worried that the flavor was a signal from someone on the outside.

Korchnoi later claimed his accusation was a joke, but officials took it seriously, ultimately mandating that the same snack would be delivered to both players at a predetermined time.

“It sounds crazy,” said Gerard Le-Marechal, a full-time monitor and anti-cheating detective for Chess.com, one of the world’s largest online chess platforms. “But it’s a legitimate concern because there are so many ways to help a player.”

Le-Marechal is one of six people employed by the website to combat cheating. They rely on sophisticated algorithms of statistical data, and Le-Marechal says he gets ping alerts throughout the day about cheaters — many amateurs, some professionals and even the occasional grandmaster.

During a 40-minute telephone interview, at least three pings could be heard in the background, and Le-Marechal said all were alerts for cheating.

Daniel Rensch, a former junior champion and one of the owners of Chess.com, said his cheat-detection team had consulted for live tournaments to help stop cheating. There is little doubt, he said, that haptic buzzers have already been used.

The idea is that, while one person plays, another watches from a remote location and simultaneously pores over potential moves on a computerized chess engine. Then the accomplice would signal the best upcoming moves to the player via the haptic device that taps (or buzzes) a coded signal for the player.

A top player does not necessarily need to be told the exact move. In some cases, the prearranged signal could simply be: There is a winning move here. Grandmasters are skilled enough to find it.

Buzzers have also fueled plenty of speculation in the Astros scandal. Though they were found only to have cheated in the 2017 season, many suspected they continued beyond then — in part because of a video that showed second baseman Jose Altuve telling teammates not to rip off his shirt after hitting a home run during the 2019 postseason.

Altuve and the Astros denied the accusations, but it has done little to quell rumors and questions: Could baseball players effectively use haptic devices?

“One hundred percent,” Rensch said, “and it would not even be that complicated.”

During his team’s investigations, Rensch said, a knowledgeable source indicated that tiny electronic earpiece receivers, the size of a peppercorn, were being used to cheat in chess. The insidious miniature earbuds, which are marketed online to students for the expressed purpose of cheating on exams, are so small that they cannot be detected.

But Rensch is more concerned with the scourge of online cheating on his platform. Ever since the IBM computer Deep Blue beat the world champion Garry Kasparov in 1997, increasingly powerful chess engines have made cheating easy.

“It’s so much worse now,” Le-Marechal said. “You have this almighty god that can tell you everything. It’s so tempting for everybody.”

About 10 years ago, as rank amateurs were beating grandmasters and rampant cheating threatened the legitimacy of online chess, Rensch and his fellow owners of the site held a meeting on the topic. At that point they were hosting a million games a day — now it is 3.5 million — and someone suggested there might be nothing they could do to stem the rolling tide of deception.

“Just saying it out loud was enough to make us kind of vomit in the back of our throats,” Rensch said. “We were like, ‘No, we have to do something.’ We have a responsibility as a steward of the game to try to solve this problem, that everybody and their cousin with a free freaking program was suddenly the best chess player in the world.”

The website also hosts tournaments for money, making cheat-detection even more critical. So the team developed computer programs that mine statistical data to prove cheating, which they say has saved the online game. They often do not even know how someone is cheating, but they can prove it is happening based on irregularities in the moves over time.

Rensch said they shut down sometimes tens of thousands of accounts a month, including some of professionals and grandmasters.

They can also spot irregularities in live matches. According to Le-Marechal, they knew about Rausis months before he was busted in the bathroom in France last year. Even some professionals — whom Rensch's team does not name publicly — have confessed, apologized and wondered how they were caught.

"I don't care how you are doing it," Rensch said. "All I'm saying is, what you are doing is not reasonably possible based on the data I have, and I would win in court."

Rensch and Le-Marechal believe that other sports, particularly baseball with its wide use of statistical data, can adopt their approach to catching cheaters. Dvorkovich, the head of FIDE, added that just as the cheaters benefit from technology, the authorities can, too.

"No matter what the game is," Dvorkovich said, "when there are benefits from winning, you have cheating."

Source: 20 March 2020, New York Times

Chess

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/15/sports/chess-cheating.html>

Ukraine

In Ucraina si gioca nelle leghe minori e la mafia del calcioscommesse gongola

In Ucraina si gioca nelle leghe minori e la mafia del calcioscommesse gongola

Il paradosso: campionati professionistici fermi in quasi tutto il mondo, ma è più facile combinare le poche partite per i clan. Nel mirino finisce una gara delle serie minori...

A problema si aggiunge problema. Con il mondo alle prese con il coronavirus il calcio si è fermato praticamente ovunque. Si gioca ancora in Nicaragua, Burundi e Bielorussia. Questo, paradossalmente, favorisce la criminalità organizzata nel truccare le partite. In Ucraina, per esempio, si stanno disputando gare di categoria inferiori, motivo per il quale alcune gare locali (ma anche alcune disputate in Russia) sono finite sotto la lente di ingrandimento. Francesco Baranca, capo etico della Federcalcio ucraina, ha lanciato l'allarme al giornale tedesco Welt: "Le manipolazioni al momento sono gigantesche, non ho mai visto nulla del genere". La Federcalcio ucraina sarebbe in contatto con gli investigatori di Kiev e starebbe preparando una denuncia penale.

In Ucraina una gara che suscita dubbi è quella fra l'FC Berdyansk e l'SC Tavriya, società di leghe minori. La partita era ferma sullo 0-0 a fine primo tempo ed è poi terminata 1-5. "Molte agenzie di scommessa mi hanno detto di aver ricevuto puntate esattamente su questo andamento — ha spiegato Baranca, che ha scovato il caso assieme a Ivo Romano —. Abbiamo contattato le due società ma i presidenti ci hanno assicurato che non ne sanno nulla". Curiosamente su Facebook l'FC Berdyansk ha una pagina ufficiale solo dal 21 marzo, pochi giorni prima della partita, e i post sono tutti incentrati su quella gara. In un momento di confusione totale, con i giocatori che non sanno per quanto ancora giocheranno e quando, eventualmente, riprenderanno il campionato, per la mafia che controlla il calcioscommesse indirizzare l'andamento delle partite è ancor più semplice. La Federazione ucraina ha informato dei sospetti la Uefa che al momento non ha voluto commentare la situazione. Fatto sta che a problema potrebbe aggiungersi un altro problema.

Source: 28 March 2020, Gazzetta

https://www.gazzetta.it/Calcio/Estero/29-03-2020/ucraina-si-gioca-leghe-minori-mafia-calcioscommesse-gongola-3602067249439.shtml?refresh_ce-cp

Ukraine

Wettmanipulatoren sollen Fake-Fußballspiele inszeniert haben

Fast nirgendwo finden derzeit Fußballspiele statt – Kriminelle versuchen offenbar, daraus Profit zu schlagen. In der Ukraine und Russland sollen sie die unübersichtliche Lage genutzt haben, um richtige Matches vorzutäuschen und Geld daraufzusetzen.

Angesetzte Fußballspiele in der Ukraine und Russland sind wegen des Verdachts der Wettmanipulation ins Visier von Ermittlern geraten. Betrüger sollen dazu die unübersichtliche Lage während der Coronavirus-Krise genutzt und hohe Summen gesetzt haben. Francesco Baranca, Ethikchef des ukrainischen Fußballverbands, bestätigte WELT die Vorfälle.

Der Verband stehe in Kontakt zu Ermittlern in Kiew und bereite eine Strafanzeige vor.

Die betroffenen Partien wurden offenbar nicht regulär durchgeführt, sondern fanden entweder überhaupt nicht statt oder wurden so inszeniert, dass ein gewünschtes Ergebnis erzielt wurde.

Baranca sieht einen Zusammenhang zwischen den mutmaßlichen Manipulationen und der Corona-Pandemie, die weltweit zu Verboten von Großveranstaltungen geführt hat. Auch in der Ukraine ruht wie in anderen europäischen Ligen der Spielbetrieb. Baranca ist überzeugt, dass Wettmanipulatoren aufgrund des knappen Angebots weltweit systematisch Fake-Partien inszenieren – vor allem in der Ukraine und Russland. Dutzende weitere Spiele stünden unter Manipulationsverdacht. „Der Betrug derzeit ist apokalyptisch. So etwas habe ich noch nie erlebt“, sagte Baranca.

In der Ukraine geht es unter anderem um vier Partien unterklassiger Teams, die sich bei Buchmachern weltweit am 25. und 26. März im Angebot fanden. Eine der Partien war das Duell zwischen dem FC Berdyansk und dem SC Tavriya. Das Spiel endete laut Wettanbietern nach einer torlosen ersten Hälfte 1:5. „Buchmacher berichteten mir am Donnerstag, dass sie vor Anpfiff hohe Einsätze auf exakt diesen Spielverlauf erhalten hatten“, sagte Baranca. Wettquoten und Einsätze hätten „bei den Partien verrücktgespielt“.

Der ukrainische Fußballverband nahm am Donnerstag Kontakt zu den beteiligten Vereinen auf. „Die Präsidenten haben uns versichert, dass sie nichts davon wussten, und dass ihre Teams überhaupt nicht an den Partien teilnahmen“, sagte Baranca. Auffällig: Vom FC Berdyansk existiert erst seit dem 21. März eine Facebook-Seite. Jegliche Beiträge drehen sich um jene Partien, die nun unter Manipulationsverdacht stehen.

Der europäische Fußballverband Uefa wurde am Freitagmorgen durch den ukrainischen Verband über die auffälligen Partien informiert. Auf Anfrage von WELT teilte die Uefa mit, grundsätzlich keine „etwaigen Untersuchungen“ kommentieren zu wollen. Die Monitoringfirmen Sportradar und Genius Sports, die den Wettmarkt überwachen sollen, ließen schriftliche Anfragen bis Freitagabend unbeantwortet.

Der Betrug mit Showmatches – auch „ghost matches“ genannt – funktioniert so: Betrüger melden bei Wettanbietern Partien zwischen real existierenden, oft unterklassigen Vereinen an. Wenn Anbieter ein Duell ins Online-Wettangebot aufnehmen, schicken sie einen sogenannten Scout zur Beobachtung des Spiels. Entweder findet eine solche Partie aber gar nicht statt. Oder aber: Bei der Partie treten dann nicht die echten Teams an, sondern eingeweihte Akteure, die im Auftrag der Manipulatoren für den richtigen Spielverlauf sorgen. Es liegt nahe, dass der Scout in den solchen Fällen ebenfalls in den Betrug involviert ist.

Ibrahim Naber über das Milliardengeschäft der Wettmafia in Europa

Sportwetten sind zum Milliardengeschäft geworden. Um fünf bis sieben Prozent wächst der globale Wettmarkt jährlich. Ibrahim Naber hat mit Eric Bisschop, Vize-Generalstaatsanwalt Belgiens, über die Hintermänner gesprochen. In seinem Fokus: Die armenische Wettmafia.

Sportwetten sind längst zum Milliardengeschäft geworden. Der weltweite Umsatz 2018 betrug laut Europol rund 1,6 Billionen Euro. In Deutschland haben sich die Einsätze in den vergangenen fünf Jahren fast verdoppelt, auf knapp 8,8 Milliarden Euro.

Längst haben auch Mafiagruppen und Syndikate die Manipulation von Sportwettbewerben als Einnahmequelle entdeckt. Behörden und Sportverbände scheitern seit Jahren daran, den Betrug zu minimieren. Recherchen von WELT AM SONNTAG und ZDF offenbarten Ende 2019, dass alleine im Tennis-Wettskandal rund 150 Spieler involviert sind. Die Ermittlungen dauern an.

Ein Sprecher des Wettanbieters Genius Sports bestätigte WELT am Samstagmorgen telefonisch, dass die vier Partien in der Ukraine unter Manipulationsverdacht stehen. „Es sieht nach massivem Betrug aus.“ Die Firma habe am Freitag mit eigenen Ermittlungen begonnen und stehe in Kontakt mit dem ukrainischen Verband. Man unternehme alles, um den Fall aufzuklären.

Genius Sports habe demnach Mitarbeiter bei den betreffenden Partien vor Ort gehabt. Diese hätten jedoch nach eigener Aussage zunächst keine verdächtigen Handlungen wahrgenommen. Mehrere Wettanbieter meldeten sich nach den Partien dann aber bei Genius Sports und schlugen Alarm. Am Freitag sollten zwei weitere Partien in der Ukraine ins Angebot von Wettanbietern kommen. Diese Spiele habe man dann rechtzeitig geblockt.

Die Monitoringfirma Sportradar wies die Darstellung zurück, wonach auch sie Mitarbeiter zu den Partien in der Ukraine geschickt hätte. In einem Statement am Sonntagabend hieß es: „Sportradar kann bestätigen, dass es keine Berichterstattung über diese „Geister-Matches“ in der Ukraine gegeben hat. Wir verfügen über strenge interne Prozesse und Kontrollen, um sicherzustellen, dass die Risiken korrupter Akteure in diesem Bereich minimiert werden.“ Und weiter: „Wir lehnen alle Spiele ab, die nicht unseren strengen Standards entsprechen, wie dies hier der Fall war.“

Source: 28 March 2020, Die Welt

<https://www.welt.de/sport/fussball/article206862429/Coronavirus-Krise-Wettmanipulatoren-sollen-Fake-Fussballspiele-inszeniert-haben.html>



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