



# INTERPOL

## INTEGRITY IN SPORT

### Bi-weekly Bulletin

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Photos International Olympic Committee

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## INVESTIGATIONS

### South Africa

#### **Fresh Match Fixing Scandal Rocks South African Football as Referees and Clubs Are Suspended**

Another match-fixing incident has happened once more in the lowest ranks of the nation's football leagues. A South African Football Association has suspended clubs and officials involved in the compromise of the game's integrity. They are accused of accepting bribes before games and of engaging in unethical behavior and match-fixing.

Source: 25 October 2022, *Sports Brief*

Football

<https://sportsbrief.com/football/26503-fresh-match-fixing-scandal-rocks-south-african-football-referees-clubs-suspended/>

## SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

### Belgium

#### **Belgian football clubs facing a total €66.7 million in unpaid taxes**

Despite suffering significant losses in recent years, 14 of the 18 football teams in Belgium's Jupiler Pro League have been given the red card by tax authorities and are set to face further sanctions. In 2018, 29 people were arrested as part of 'Operation Zero,' an investigation into money laundering, bribery, match-fixing, and fraud in Belgian football. Investigators have focused their efforts on specific aspects of their finances, such as illegal agent commissions, complex payments, and shady tax schemes. Authorities are now seeking €66.7 million in additional taxes, fees, and fines owed by 14 Belgian teams since 2019. The amount is expected to rise as the investigation proceeds.

Source: 21 October 2022, *Brussels Time*

Football

<https://www.brusselstimes.com/310199/belgian-football-clubs-facing-a-total-e66-7-million-in-unpaid-taxes>

### Bhutan

#### **Supreme Court sentences Druk Stars FC owner to four years in prison**

The Supreme Court (SC) recently upheld the court's decision to sentence the owner of Druk Stars FC to four years in prison for passive commercial bribery and order him to repay Nu 882,764. In 2020, he was found guilty of match-fixing in the Bhutan Super League and the Bhutan Premier League. On September 24, that year, a match-fixing case arose during a match between Druk Stars FC and Paro United FC at Changlimithang Stadium, where the owner of Druk Stars FC had been putting pressure on his players to give up a goal.

Source: 28 October 2022, *Kuensel*

<https://kuenselonline.com/supreme-court-sentences-druk-stars-fc-owner-to-four-years-in-prison/>

### United Kingdom

#### **EXCLUSIVE: FA hand out career-ending TWELVE-YEAR-BAN to former Reading defender Kynan Isaac, 31, after he is found guilty of spot-fixing and placing illegal bets on a 2021 FA Cup match he played and was booked in**

In the United Kingdom, the Football Association has imposed a 12-year ban on a former Reading defender after he was found guilty of spot-fixing and putting illegal bets on an FA Cup match he appeared in last season. He has been banned from any football activity until April 2034, one of the FA's harshest suspensions since the 1964 match-fixing scandal, which resulted in numerous players being arrested and given life bans. A 10-year ban was given for purposefully earning a booking with friends in a betting scheme, with an additional 18-month suspension imposed for breaking FA rules for betting on matches and an additional 12 months for failing to cooperate with the investigation.

Source: 19 October 2022, *Daily Mail*

Football

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/sportsnews/article-11327941/FA-hand-career-ending-TEN-YEAR-BAN-former-Reading-defender-Kynan-Isaac.html>

## LEGISLATION

### Council of Europe

#### **Together to combat the Manipulation of Sports Competitions: two new signatures of the Macolin Convention**

The Republic of Türkiye and North Macedonia signed the Council of Europe Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions (CETS No. 215), also known as the Macolin Convention, in Antalya, Türkiye. On behalf of their respective countries, Deputy Prime Minister of North Macedonia, and Minister of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Türkiye, signed the Macolin Convention. The signature ceremony took place during the 17th Conference of Ministers in charge of Sport, in the presence of Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

Source: 26 October 2022, *Council of Europe*

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/sport/-/together-to-combat-the-manipulation-of-sports-competitions-two-new-signatures-of-the-macolin-convention>

## BETTING

### Cambodia

#### Cambodian Police Raid Over 10000 Gambling Dens Nationwide

Authorities in Cambodia have stated that they have raided over 10,000 suspected illegal gaming facilities and initiated legal action against 127 of them. According to a National Police official, the searches took place over the course of a month in response to Cambodia's Prime Minister's recent order to crack down on all types of illicit gambling.

Source: 20 October 2022, *European Gaming*

<https://europeangaming.eu/portal/latest-news/2022/10/20/123272/cambodian-police-raid-over-10000-gambling-dens-nationwide/>

### Korea (Rep. of)

#### South Korea Police Bust \$3.9bn China-Based Illegal Online Gambling Ring

A Chinese illegal online gambling ring reportedly worth \$3.9bn has been dismantled by police in South Korea. Following raids on Sunday in the South Korean city of Incheon, law enforcement detained 20 people. Another 170 people are being investigated. Between January 2014 and July 2021, the accused ran online gambling platforms, according to the allegations. From their headquarters in China, they managed the server and numerous operational divisions.

Source: 24 October 2022, *Vegas Slots Online*

<https://www.vegasslotsonline.com/news/2022/10/24/south-korea-police-bust-3-9bn-china-based-illegal-online-gambling-ring/>

### Singapore

#### 32 under investigation after operation against illegal gambling, vice activities and more

Following a multi-agency enforcement operation from September 25 to October 8, 32 people aged 21 to 73 are being investigated for various offenses. Bedok Police Division led the operation, which was assisted by officers from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB), the Health Sciences Authority (HSA), the Immigration & Checkpoints Authority (ICA), Singapore Customs, the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), and the Singapore Food Agency (SFA).

Source: 20 October 2022, *STOMP*

<https://stomp.straitstimes.com/singapore-seen/32-under-investigation-after-operation-against-illegal-gambling-vice-activities-and>

### Turkey

#### Turkish authorities seize \$40 million crypto in illegal betting

The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in Ankara issued a detention order for 46 people in an illicit betting probe that spanned eight regions. In a simultaneous operation in Ankara, Batman, Bingöl, Kayseri, Kırkkale, Mu, Van, and Yozgat, 46 people were apprehended, and \$40 million in cryptocurrencies was collected.

Source: 20 October 2022, *Dily Sabah*

<https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/investigations/turkish-authorities-seize-40-million-crypto-in-illegal-betting>

## ODDS AND ENDS

### Global Lottery Monitoring System

#### GLMS Rebrand Conveys Ambitious New Goals

On October 18, 2022, the Global Lottery Monitoring System (GLMS), an international association of state lotteries formed to combat sports competition manipulation, held its general meeting in Vancouver. Members unanimously approved the new name and brand identity for the association, United Lotteries for Integrity in Sport (ULIS). The new identity aims to communicate the true identity of the organization and what it stands for. According to a member survey, the organization's previous name no longer matched its expanded range of services. The new initiatives are linked to a new positioning and strategy that has progressed from initial monitoring to a fully integrated global ecosystem of services.

Source: 20 October 2022, *Gambling News*

<https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/glms-rebrand-conveys-ambitious-new-goals/>

### International Olympic Committee

#### NOCs urged to "play your part" against match-fixing at ANOC General Assembly

At the conclusion of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC) General Assembly, National Olympic Committees (NOCs) were urged to "play your part" in protecting sporting integrity and combating match-fixing. For the first time, the final day of the gathering in South Korea's capital Seoul featured special theme sessions, beginning with discussions on sustainability in sport and followed by an assessment of how to protect sport's integrity. The President of the Dutch Olympic Committee\* Dutch Sports Federation discussed efforts to combat match-fixing in the Netherlands, focusing on prevention, awareness building, advice, investigation, and sanctioning.

Source: 21 October 2022, *Insede the Games*

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1129488/anoc-ga-integrity-session>



## Nigeria

### **NFF President, club owners finally agree to end match-fixing, poor refereeing in NPFL**

According to the new NFF President and several club owners, the end of questionable refereeing decisions and match-fixing in the NPFL is near. The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and the club owners of Nigeria's top-tier league, the Nigeria Professional Football League (NPFL), have reached an agreement to address the majority of the issues that have plagued the league for years. Lack of sponsorship, bad infrastructure, poor officiating, and winning matches based on the highest bids have all been identified as flaws that must be addressed immediately. The resolution of these concerns is likely to result in the NPFL being completely restructured in accordance with international best practices.

Source: 20 October 2022, Pulse

Football

<https://www.pulse.ng/sports/football/nff-president-club-owners-finally-agree-to-end-match-fixing-poor-refereeing-in-npfl/82bbcj2>

## CORRUPTION

### Japan

#### **Tokyo Olympics bribery scandal widens with mascot allegations**

In Japan, a former Olympic Games executive was re-arrested on Wednesday (October 19) on suspicion of receiving bribes from two enterprises, one of which allegedly sold official mascot toys, escalating a corruption controversy surrounding the Tokyo Olympics. According to prosecution documents obtained by AFP, a former Tokyo 2020 board member accepted bribes totaling 54 million yen (\$360,000) from a major advertising business and a merchandise company. They further accused him of accepting seven million yen from a goods company which was authorised to sell soft toys of the adorable Games mascots. On Wednesday (October 19), three more persons were arrested, including the ADK president.

Source: 19 October 2022, Yahoo Sports

<https://sports.yahoo.com/tokyo-olympics-bribery-scandal-widens-091501242.html>

### Switzerland

#### **Swiss prosecutors appeal against acquittals of Blatter, Platini**

Federal prosecutors in Switzerland have filed an appeal to overturn the acquittals of former FIFA President and France footballer on corruption charges. Switzerland's Federal Criminal Court banned both from the sport after a seven-year probe. A judge said that the pair's description of a "gentlemen's arrangement" for FIFA to pay former FIFA president \$2 million Swiss francs (\$1.99 million) for consultancy work was plausible, and that the prosecution's accusation that it was a fraudulent payment was seriously flawed.

Source: 20 October 2022, Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/swiss-prosecutors-appeal-against-acquittals-blatter-platini-nzz-2022-10-20/>

