



Bi-weekly Bulletin

9 September 2025 - 6 October 2025



Photos International Olympic Committee

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INVESTIGATIONS

Spain

Barcelona President accused of fraud over 30m in commissions from transfers

Former Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu has been accused of fraud, misappropriation of funds, and forgery over alleged irregularities in transfer payments that cost the club around €30 million during his tenure. The case, initiated by current president Joan Laporta, centers on suspicious commissions and payments related to transfers such as those of Malcom, Neymar, and Griezmann, and comes as Bartomeu also faces separate charges in the Negreira referee corruption scandal.

Source: 29 September 2025, Football Espana

Football

<https://www.football-espana.net/2025/09/29/barcelona-president-accused-of-fraud-over-e30m-in-commissions-from-transfers>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

China

Chinese Chess 'Recording Gate' Scandal: Lifetime Bans for Three Grandmasters

China's General Administration of Sport has issued sweeping penalties against 41 xiangqi (Chinese chess) players, including lifetime bans and title removals for grandmasters Zhao Xinxin, Wang Yang, and Zheng Weitong, following revelations of widespread match-fixing and bribery in the "Recording Gate" scandal. The crackdown, sparked by leaked audio exposing corruption in 2023, marks an unprecedented effort to restore integrity and credibility to one of China's most traditional mind sports.

Source: 6 October 2025, Beijing Post

<https://beijingpost.com/chinese-chess-recording-gate-scandal-lifetime-bans-for-three-grandmasters>

United Kingdom

Snooker Stars Banned for Combined 17 Years Fought in Boxing Grudge Match

Two snooker players, Mark King and Quinten Hann, once settled their personal feud in a boxing match in 2004, with Hann winning on points and receiving a belt from Ronnie O'Sullivan. Both players later faced lengthy bans from snooker for match-fixing and other offences, with King currently serving a five-year suspension and ordered to pay over £113,000 in costs.

Source: 30 September 2025, Sport Bible

Boxing

<https://www.sportbible.com/snooker/banner-snooker-stars-boxing-grudge-match-077823-20250930>

BETTING

China

China court sentences 11 members of Myanmar-based crime syndicate to death

A Chinese court sentenced 11 members of a Myanmar-based family crime syndicate to death for running illegal gambling and scam operations worth over \$1.4 billion, which led to the deaths of disobedient workers. The crackdown reflects China's broader efforts to combat transnational scam centers in Southeast Asia, where trafficked workers are forced into sophisticated online fraud schemes affecting victims worldwide.

Source: 30 September 2025, AP News

<https://apnews.com/article/china-myanmar-court-death-sentence-syndicate-63b170ca31cd9b37a6817858f6c6b0bb>

United Kingdom

Suspicion of cheat arrest

In the U.K., a 42-year-old man was arrested in as part of a joint Greater Manchester Police and Gambling Commission investigation into alleged horse race fixing linked to suspicious betting activity earlier this year.

Source: 12 September 2025, Gambling Commission

<https://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/news/article/suspicion-of-cheat-arrest>

GOOD PRACTICES

Brazil

Brazilian Government launches anonymous reporting platform for match-fixing

Brazil has launched Apita Cidadão (Citizen Whistle), a digital platform that enables anonymous reporting of match-fixing cases, with submissions analyzed by federal police through a secure four-step form. The initiative is part of a broader interministerial plan to combat sports manipulation and aligns with Brazil's move to join the Macolin Convention, an international agreement promoting cooperation against match-fixing.

Source: 30 September 2025, Gaming America

<https://gamingamerica.com/news/14402/brazilian-government-launches-anonymous-reporting-platform-for-match-fixing>

ODDS AND ENDS

Ecuador

Goals, guns and narcos: Hitmen plague Ecuador's beautiful game

The murder of Ecuadorian footballer Jonathan “Speedy” Gonzalez, allegedly killed after refusing to fix a match for a mafia linked to online betting, has exposed the growing influence of organized crime and illegal gambling in Ecuadorian football. His death, along with two other players recently gunned down, highlights how drug cartels and betting syndicates have infiltrated the sport, exploiting low-paid athletes and turning one of Latin America’s safest countries into a hub of deadly narco violence.

Source: 27 September 2025, France24

Football

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250927-goals-guns-and-narcos-hitmen-plague-ecuador-s-beautiful-game>

IBA

A turning point for global sport: IBA President Umar Kremlev and Donald Trump Jr join forces

At the IBA Sport + Business Forum in Istanbul, IBA President Umar Kremlev and Donald Trump Jr joined forces with boxing legends and legacy figures to promote a vision of sport rooted in fairness, unity, and opportunity, emphasizing the role of boxing in empowering youth and maintaining integrity above politics.

Source: 29 September 2025, International Boxing Association

Boxing

<https://www.iba.sport/news/a-turning-point-for-global-sport-iba-president-umar-kremlev-and-donald-trump-jr-join-forces/>

MATCH FIXING

Australia

Two soccer players in Australia given good-behavior bonds for match-fixing

In Australia, two former A-League players Clayton Lewis and Kearyn Baccus received two-year conditional release orders for deliberately earning yellow cards in a match to manipulate overseas betting, resulting in \$167,387 in losses. Both were ordered to pay \$10,000 fines, undergo treatment for gambling addiction, and remain suspended from playing football in Australia, with neither receiving a criminal conviction due to their remorse and mitigating circumstances.

Source: 24 September 2025, AP News

Football

<https://apnews.com/article/australia-soccer-matchfixing-8fe85bb4651d16217d6e5d65b4278c01>

Sri Lanka

Former Sri Lankan cricketer Sachithra Senanayake indicted for match-fixing

In Sri Lanka, former national cricketer Sachithra Senanayake has been indicted for allegedly aiding and abetting match-fixing in a 2020 Lanka Premier League match, marking the first prosecution under Sri Lanka’s new Prevention of Offences Relating to Sports Act.

Source: 26 September 2025, Pulse Line

Cricket

<https://pulseline.lk/sports/former-sri-lankan-cricketer-sachithra-senanayake-indicted-for-match-fixing/>

CORRUPTION

Singapore

Alleged bribery case hits Singapore canoeing, ex-officials in SEA Games-related incident

Singapore canoeing was rocked by allegations that a former senior Singapore Canoe Federation official allegedly offered a national kayaker S\$50,000–S\$60,000 in early August to withdraw from a SEA Games event so another athlete could take his spot, prompting an SCF inquiry that found the episode a “misunderstanding” with no malicious intent.

Source: 29 September 2025, The Straits Times

<https://www.straitstimes.com/sport/alleged-bribery-case-hits-singapore-canoeing-ex-officials-in-sea-games-related-incident>

