



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

21 August 2017 - 3 September 2017



Photos International Olympic Committee

INVESTIGATIONS

South Korea

Baseball club owner questioned in money scandal involving ex-umpire

A South Korean baseball club owner has been questioned in connection with a money scandal involving a retired umpire, a source said Wednesday. The Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office recently summoned Lee Chang-suk, the owner and former CEO of the Nexen Heroes in the Korea Baseball Organization, to investigate his connection with a former umpire surnamed Choi, who had allegedly contacted multiple team officials for quick cash, according to the source. Also on Wednesday, prosecutors said they have obtained circumstantial evidence that another KBO club, the Samsung Lions, also paid Choi. The latest development brings the number of embroiled KBO clubs to four, with the Doosan Bears and the Kia Tigers have already been implicated. On Tuesday, the Tigers admitted that two of their employees each wired 1 million won (\$890) to Choi in 2012 and 2013. In July, Doosan Bears President Kim Seung-young resigned after admitting to having given 3 million won to Choi in October 2013. Any financial transactions between umpires and club employees are strictly prohibited. Choi retired from umpiring in 2014. According to the source, Lee was grilled by the prosecutors on Tuesday and was questioned whether there was a money transaction between him and Choi. Lee, who is currently indicted on charges of fraud and embezzlement in a separate case, denied such allegations against him. On Wednesday, the prosecutors requested an arrest warrant for Choi on charges of fraud and habitual gambling. According to the prosecutors, Choi borrowed some 30 million won from baseball officials and his friends but didn't pay them back. The prosecutors, however, have yet to confirm whether he was involved in a match-fixing scheme. When media reports first began alleging illicit transactions between Choi and KBO clubs last year, the league office conducted its own investigation into the matter. At the time, the Heroes told the KBO that Choi approached them for cash but they did not give him any money. South Korea's sports ministry, meanwhile, has requested a prosecution probe into the KBO for its suspected negligence of duty in handling the recent money scandal. The ministry said its own preliminary investigation revealed that the KBO became aware of Choi's malpractice in August 2016, but launched its internal probe into the case six months later.

Source: 30 August 2017, Yonhap

<http://www.koreaherald.com/view.php?ud=20170830000456>

United States

Alexander Dolgoplov match investigated amid allegations of match-fixing

In an unusual step, the Tennis Integrity Unit – which polices allegations of match-fixing on the professional tour – has announced that it is investigating an ATP match only a matter of hours after play concluded. The match in question took place last night, in the first round of North Carolina's Winston-Salem Open, where Alexander Dolgoplov was defeated 6-3, 6-3 by Thiago Monteiro – a player ranked 51 places below him at No. 114 in the world. The result might have been a minor upset, on paper. But the more surprising thing was the way that the odds shifted a couple of hours before the players went on court. Monteiro had started out as a 3/1 outsider on some exchanges, but the odds soon reversed – a sign that significant money was being gambled on the underdog – so that it was Dolgoplov who became the less favoured player. Responding to these anomalous betting patterns, a number of bookmakers suspended any betting on the match before it had even begun. A statement released this morning said: "The TIU was made aware of concerns over betting patterns during the match ... As with all match alerts, the TIU will assess, make a judgement and take appropriate action on the information received through its co-operative agreements with betting operators." Dolgoplov – who is 28 and comes from Ukraine - has previously acknowledged that he was among a group of players who received letters from the TIU soon after its foundation in 2010, but he has never been censured and there is no suggestion the players are under suspicion. Thus far, the TIU has brought sanctions against 32 players, including ten life bans. However, its critics argue that it has been too unwilling to take on well-known names or fight cases against potential match-fixers who have the money to afford strong legal teams. After the BBC and BuzzFeed were critical of tennis's match-fixing safeguards in a joint report published during last year's Australian Open, the sport has invested in expanding the TIU's operations and recruiting more investigators. An independent integrity review has also been commissioned, and will deliver its first findings before the end of the year.

Source: 21 August 2017, The Telegraph

Tennis

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/tennis/2017/08/21/alexander-dolgoplov-match-investigated-amid-allegations-match/>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Pakistan

Pakistan batsman Sharjeel Khan has been banned for five years for his part in a match-fixing ring

A Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) tribunal handed down the punishment following a hearing on Wednesday, but two and a half years of the ban is suspended. The PCB has been conducting a long-running investigation into corruption in the Twenty20 Pakistan Super League. Sharjeel, 28, has played one Test match, 25 one-day internationals and 15 Twenty20 internationals for Pakistan. He will not be able to play domestic or international cricket for the next two and a half years, after which his return will be closely monitored, the tribunal said. The full findings will be released at a later date. All-rounder Mohammad Nawaz and seamer Mohammad Irfan have already been sanctioned as part of the inquiry after they failed to report suspicious approaches. A number of other players have also been questioned or suspended while the inquiry is carried out. Britain's National Crime Agency provided the initial intelligence that led to the PCB investigation.

Source: 30 August 2017, BBC

Cricket

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/cricket/41092749>

Romania

Marius Frosa suspended and fined for tennis betting offences

Romanian tennis player Marius Frosa has been suspended for 8 months and fined US\$1,000 after being found guilty of betting-related corruption offences. Four months of the sanction will be suspended if there are no further breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (Program). A Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU) investigation found that the player held three online betting accounts, through which 12 bets were placed on tennis between July 2014 and June 2015. None of the bets related to matches in which he played. The Program explicitly prohibits all players and other 'Covered Persons' from betting on any professional tennis match, at anytime, anywhere in the world. The case was considered and penalty imposed by independent Anti-Corruption Hearing Officer, Ian Mill QC. Mr Frosa, 21, is currently ranked 2037 in singles. The suspension applies with effect from Monday 28 August 2017 and means that he is excluded from competing in, or attending, any tournament or event organised or sanctioned by the governing bodies of the sport, for the duration of the sanction. The offence for which he has been disciplined falls under Section D.1.a of the Program: D.1.a. No Covered Person shall, directly or indirectly, wager or attempt to wager on the outcome or any other aspect of any Event or any other tennis competition. 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 all forms of betting-related corruption in tennis.

Source: 27 August 2017, Tennis Integrity Unit

Tennis

<http://www.tennisintegrityunit.com/media-releases/marius-frosa-suspended-betting-tennis-offences>

Ukraine

Two Ukrainian hockey player disqualified for match-fixing

The ice hockey Federation of Ukraine made official statement on the attempt of the organization of match-fixing at the world Championships in 2017. Last week the "observer" published a sensational information: two hockey players of the national team of Ukraine Eduard Zakharchenko and Vladimir Varivoda in the home championship in first division tried to organize a score in the match with South Korea. Have been published the receipts of the players, who promised to return 30 thousand dollars in the case, if the Ukrainian team will not lose to South Korea with a difference of at least two goals. In the main time of the game the match ended with the score 1:1, and in the penalty shootout, the Koreans won and for the first time made it to the elite division championship of the world. Ukrainian center for forensic examination to the ice hockey Federation of Ukraine has carried out the identification of handwriting Zakharchenko and Varivode. The authenticity of the receipts of the two players of the national team was confirmed. "We have not considered the match was "completed" or not. The mere fact of writing such receipts is a violation of ice hockey Federation of Ukraine and the International ice hockey Federation. The Council of the Federation in accordance with its Charter, the Charter and the code of conduct for the International ice hockey Federation disqualified the players Eduard Zakharchenko and Vladimir Varivoda from participation in competitions subsequent transfer of appropriate materials to law enforcement, International ice hockey Federation and the Ministry of youth and sports of Ukraine", – said the President of ice hockey Federation of Ukraine Anatoly Brezvin. The international ice hockey Federation also conducts its own investigation on the scandal in the national team. The organization's President Rene Fasel has initiated the creation of a special Commission.

Source: 23 August 2017, MiceTimes of Asia

Hockey

<http://micetimes.asia/two-ukrainian-hockey-player-disqualified-for-match-fixing/>

DOPING

World

Alleged doping cover-up: Athletics officials have life bans upheld by Cas

Three athletics officials have had their life bans over an alleged doping cover-up upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport. Papa Massata Diack, son of ex-IAAF president Lamine Diack, and Russians Valentin Balakhnichev and Alexei Melnikov had their appeals dismissed. They were charged in December 2015 with multiple breaches of anti-doping rules relating to Russia's Liliya Shobukhova. Cas is yet to publish its grounds for upholding the sanctions. On Monday Cas said: "The panel concluded that on the evidence adduced, the charges were established beyond reasonable doubt and that the sanctions imposed should be upheld. "The full award with grounds will be published as soon as possible." The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) said it "welcomed" the Cas ruling and IAAF president Lord Coe added: "The ruling sends a clear message that anyone who attempts to corrupt our sport will be brought to justice." In a 170-page report, the independent IAAF ethics commission panel said Diack, Balakhnichev and Melnikov conspired to "blackmail" Shobukhova to cover up her doping violations by her paying them "bribes" of about £435,000. Diack and Balakhnichev, a former president of the Russian athletics federation and IAAF treasurer, were fined £17,000 while Russian coach Melnikov was fined £10,000. In December Diack, a former IAAF marketing consultant, told the BBC he "totally rejects" the blackmail allegations, saying: "There was no extortion of funds from any athlete."

Source: 21 August 2017, BBC Sport

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/athletics/41004944>

GOOD PRACTICES

Malta

New match-fixing law imposes harsher penalties for football corruption

A public consultation has been launched on a proposed law to fight corruption in sports, parliamentary secretary Clifton Grima has announced. Speaking at the Ta' Qali national stadium, Grima said the bill will improve the current match-fixing laws which date back to 1976. 'The 1976 laws have protected the sport for quite some time, however with recent technological advancements, a new tool to protect the integrity of the sport is required,' Grima said. The bill proposes harsher penalties on match-fixing, extends Maltese jurisdiction on persons implicated in corruption, while also offering protection to whistleblowers who speak out against corruption. Grima hopes that the bill will be a "serious discouragement" for those who taint the game of football with illicit practices. Speaking to MaltaToday, Grima insisted on the fundamental importance not to focus just on laws, but on an educational campaign targeting the grassroots of Maltese football. "Education is the best tool we have to inform and help our children understand the risks present in match-fixing, while also protect them from partaking of such activity." The public consultation is open to both people involved in sports as well as the general public to offer their suggestions and proposals. The bill will undergo a six-week public consultation process, after which it will be presented to the parliament after the summer break.

Source: 23 August 2017, Malta Today

Football

http://www.maltatoday.com.mt/sports/football/79958/watch_new_matchfixing_law_imposes_harsher_penalties_for_football_corruption#.WaaAEmlEwk



Malta

Watch: 'Players are now more interested in fixing a match', 12 Maltese matches flagged for potential irregularities

People involved in the sport sector need to be stronger and collaborate if corruption is to be stamped out, according to the Malta Football Association integrity officer. With the incidence of online betting, players are more interested in playing a part in fixing a match, but betting is only part of the problem, Franz Tabone told Times Talk. "Betting is legal, but it can be abused. The irregular betting markets mainly based in Asia but operated from Europe is big. Betting is part of the problem but it's not the problem. Before online betting there was betting on a smaller scale," he said. Mr Tabone has been at the forefront of the fight against football bribery in recent years, with the recent Prevention of Corruption in Sports law promising to come down hard on crime. "It's ultimately down to education and enforcement," Mr Tabone told Times of Malta's online editor Herman Grech. He said 12 matches were flagged by the so-called Betting Fraud Detection System as probably forming part of irregular betting patterns. "It doesn't mean they were fixed but the suspicion is there," said Mr Tabone who is studying the possibility of sanctioning offenders based on betting fraud patterns. Betting patterns may indicate there was prior knowledge of a result or incident in the match. Minor bets are now going into issues like the number of free kicks and yellow cards given during matches spanning across all tournaments and leagues. "The players are the oxygen to the match. Without the players, there will be no match-fixer, no criminal and nobody will be successful in reaping their dividends."

Source: 23 August 2017, Times of Malta

<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20170823/timestalk/watch-players-are-now-more-interested-in-fixing-a-match.656234>

World

WDSF implements key changes in bid to tackle competition manipulation

The World DanceSport Federation (WDSF) Combat Competition Manipulation Task Force (CCM TF) has decided to implement major changes to what it considers to be two important aspects in the transparent and fair adjudication of events. In order to counteract the problems persisting in the process of nominating adjudicators to the panels of the top-level competitions held under the auspices of WDSF, the CCM TF has opted to change the procedure which is currently in place. CCM TF members, in coordination with WDSF sports director Tommy Shaughnessy, will suggest the composition of the panels for World Championships, Continental Championships, Grand Slam and Super Grand Prix events to the world governing body's Managing Committee. The WDSF Managing Committee members will then formally approve each panel. What amounts to a system of checks and balances aims to further ensure the integrity of the nomination process. In a second change, the CCM TF members will also now define the procedure and establish the parameters for a debriefing session to be held immediately following a top-level competition, adjudicated with the absolute judging system. During such a debriefing session, where attendance will be mandatory for all adjudicators making up the panel, the focus will be kept on the scores which are awarded by each adjudicator individually throughout the competition. Each adjudicator is expected to argue the validity of assessing the performances as is reflected in his or her scores. The debriefing process is public in as far as that the arguments brought forward by the adjudicators in justification of their scores will be made available online. According to the WDSF, some time will be required to put this process of debriefing adjudicators in place and the sessions will first be implemented at World Championships only. The pilot session is scheduled for the November 19, following the 2017 World Latin event in Austria's capital Vienna. The CCM TF was set up in April 2016 by WDSF President Lukas Hinder, who admitted competition manipulation had been a problem in the sport for several years.

Source: 28 August 2017, *Inside the Games*

<http://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1054683/wdsf-implements-key-changes-in-bid-to-tackle-competition-manipulation>

ODDS AND ENDS

Malaysia

Malaysia cracks down on match-fixing in Southeast Asian Games

Malaysia, which is hosting the Southeast Asian Games, continues to top the medal table on day 9. The country's football team remain on course for gold, but the issue of match-fixing has previously been a problem at this tournament. The problem has led to Malaysian football bosses announcing that any players found guilty would be banned for life.

Source: 22 August 2017, *Al Jazeera*

<http://www.aljazeera.com/video/news/2017/08/malaysia-cracks-match-fixing-southeast-asian-games-170822153654986.html>

INTEGRITY IN SPORT EVENTS



Senegal

INTERPOL-IOC Integrity in Sport Regional Workshop and Partnership Development Meetings

25 - 26 October 2017, Dakar, Senegal

The INTERPOL Integrity in Sports Unit and the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will host a Regional Workshop addressed to Law Enforcement, Sport Federations, Betting, and relevant ministries. High level representatives from various stakeholders will meet to discuss and prepare a strategy to combat match-fixing. Five countries: Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Senegal will be taking part in the two events.

Slovenia

IOC – INTERPOL Integrity Seminar

13 September 2017, Ljubljana, Slovenia

An Integrity Seminar at the Women's U23 Volleyball World Championship in Slovenia. Players, referees and officials will receive a dedicated integrity briefing and training.