



# INTERPOL

## INTEGRITY IN SPORT

### Bi-weekly Bulletin

13 December 2022 - 10 January 2023



Photos International Olympic Committee

The contents of the INTERPOL Integrity in Sports Bi-weekly Bulletin are for information purposes only. INTERPOL assumes no liability or responsibility for any inaccurate, delayed or incomplete information, nor for any actions taken in reliance thereon. The published material is distributed without warranty of any kind, either express or implied, and the responsibility for the interpretation and use of the material lies with the reader.

The views, thoughts and opinions expressed in the content of this publication belong solely to the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of INTERPOL, its member countries, its governing bodies, or contributory organizations.

INTERPOL takes no responsibility for the content of any external website referenced in this publication or for any defamatory, offensive or misleading information which might be contained on these third party websites. Any links to external websites or reference to any product, process or service do not constitute an endorsement or recommendation by INTERPOL, and are only provided as a convenience.

This publication must not be reproduced in whole or in part or in any form without special permission from the copyright holder. When the right to reproduce this publication is granted, INTERPOL would appreciate receiving a copy of any publication that uses it as a source.

The distinctive signs of INTERPOL, including its abbreviations and emblem are protected under Article 6ter of the Paris Convention for the Protection of Industrial Property. The abbreviation "INTERPOL" and the Organization's emblem are also registered as trademarks and service marks with the European Union Intellectual Property Office. Use and display of the INTERPOL's emblem is highly restricted and essentially limited to the Organization's activities. You may not use any trademark, official mark, official emblem, flag or logo of INTERPOL, or any of its other means of promotion or publicity, to represent or imply an association or affiliation with INTERPOL without INTERPOL's prior written consent.

## INVESTIGATIONS

### China

#### World Snooker Tour match-fixing investigation: China's Zhao Xintong suspended

In an unfolding investigation into Snooker, an additional two Chinese snooker players have been provisionally suspended. A total of 10 players from China have now been suspended. The WPBSA, the sport's world governing body, said the wider investigation "was at an advanced stage" and once completed, any potential charges "will be considered".

Source: 3 January 2023, BBC

Snooker

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/snooker/64152359>

### Nepal

#### Match-fixing allegations plague Nepal's first official T20 cricket league

Media reports out of Nepal allege that the first official franchise cricket tournament in the country is in disarray as several players have reported being approached to manipulation matches. Nepal Police has entrusted the investigation to its Criminal Investigation Bureau, which has completed a preliminary investigation.

Source: 5 January 2023, Asgam

Cricket

<https://www.asgam.com/index.php/2023/01/05/match-fixing-allegations-plague-nepals-first-official-t20-cricket-league/>

### Portugal

#### Portuguese giants Benfica rocked by match-fixing allegations

Several media reports reveal that Portuguese Football team Benfica is being investigated for manipulating the outcomes of football matches between 2016 and 2020. The investigation for match manipulation follows a recent investigation into tax evasion, aggravated fraud, forgery and money laundering, and is based on emails and correspondence accessed by prosecutors.

Source: 9 January 2023, Caught Offside

<https://www.caughtoffside.com/2023/01/09/benfica-match-fixing-being-investigated/>

### United Arab Emirates

#### Abu Dhabi T10 competition under ICC scanner for up to six allegations of corruption

According to several reports, the International Cricket Council Anti-Corruption Unit received over a dozen allegations of corrupt activity during the Abu Dhabi T10 cricket competition. The reports and allegations relate to suspicious betting activity on the events, interference from franchise owners and irregular sporting behaviour.

Source: 8 January 2023, Indian Express

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/abu-dhabi-t10-competition-under-icc-scanner-for-up-to-six-allegations-of-corruption-8367607/>

## SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

### Albania

#### Long jumper accused of false information to get Olympic spot

A long jumper and two officials from Albania could face bans after they were accused of submitting false information that helped the athlete get a spot at the Tokyo Olympics last year. The Athletics Integrity Unit had charged long jumper federation's general secretary with disciplinary offenses over a competition held in Albania in May 2021, two months before the Tokyo Olympics. They are all provisionally suspended until the case is resolved.

Source: 19 December 2022, AP News

Athletics

<https://apnews.com/article/sports-albania-izmir-smajlaj-b9e804808f6b975059ba55b63cb51939>

### Bolivia

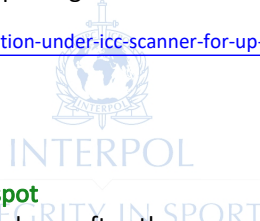
#### Two Bolivian Umpires Provisionally suspended

The International Tennis Integrity Agency provisionally suspended two Bolivian tennis chair umpires, pending the full consideration of Tennis Anti-Corruption Programme (TACP) charges. The suspensions came into force on 8 December 2022 and both officials are prohibited from officiating at or attending any sanctioned tennis events organised by the governing bodies of the sport.

Source: 4 January 2023, ITIA

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/bolivian-umpires-provisionally-suspended/>



## Cameroon

### Samuel Eto'o 'disqualifies' 21 Cameroon Under-17 players in age fraud scandal

Cameroonian Football Federation (FECAFOOT) president Samuel Eto'o has "disqualified" 21 Under-17 players after a new age fraud scandal hit the country. All of the suspended players were selected for this year's UNIFACC tournament, a competition which sees the U17 sides of the Central African Football Federation Unions, compete amongst each other. However, 21 out of the 30 players to compete for Cameroon have all failed MRI tests, which measure the age of an individual by scans of their wrists and measurements of their bone growth.

Source: 2 January 2023, Daily Star

<https://www.dailystar.co.uk/sport/football/samuel-etoo-cameroon-age-fraud-28856958>

## China

### Chinese tennis player banned for nine months

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has banned a Chinese tennis player for nine months after admitting breaching Tennis' Anti-Corruption Rules.

Source: 16 December 2022, ITIA

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/baoluo-zheng-ban/>

## Dota

### Valve bans 10 Dota 2 players for account sharing, impersonating other players

In e-sports, Dota 2 developer Valve Software announced late in December 2022 that they have permanently banned 10 Ukrainian and Russian players for account sharing and impersonating members of other teams during tournament games ahead of the 2023 Dota Pro Circuit (DPC) season.

Source: 19 December 2022, Yahoo Sports

e-sports

<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/dota-2-valve-bans-10-players-for-account-sharing-impersonating-other-players-035843454.html>

## Singapore

### Youth convicted of corruption after getting e-sports gamer to throw tournament match

In Singapore, two youth colluded and agreed to throw an official e-sports competition in order to make money through placing bets offshore illegally. While one of them pleaded guilty before court to a corruption charge, his partner is facing charges of corruption as well as under the Remote Gambling Act.

Source: 5 January 2023, Straits Times

eSports

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/youth-convicted-of-corruption-after-getting-e-sports-gamer-to-throw-tournament-match>

## Uganda

### FUFA bans referee for 15 years over manipulation of match results

The Ethics and Disciplinary Committee of the Federation of Uganda Football Associations, FUFA, banned a referee from taking part in any football-related activity for 15 years after being found guilty of manipulation of results. FUFA made investigations on the two games that he officiated last year and found him guilty of receiving financial gain in return for influencing the outcome of the matches.

Source: 20 December 2022, Independent Uganda

Football

<https://www.independent.co.ug/fufa-bans-referee-for-15-years-over-manipulation-of-match-results/>

## BETTING

### India

#### More than 10 arrested for illegal gambling across Mohali, Indore

Six people have been arrested as a result of the bust of an interstate online gambling ring based in Handesra, Derabassi. Police arrested the suspects and recovered cards, playing boards, "parchis" (slips), and Rs 40,530. Indore police crime branch busted a betting ring and arrested five people. The suspects were arrested with eleven mobile phones, three books containing entries of transactions totaling lakhs, and Rs 25,100 in cash.

Source: 18 December 2022, Gateway to Gaming

<https://g2g.news/gaming/more-than-10-arrested-for-illegal-gambling-across-mohali-indore/>

### Nepal

#### 2 arrested for betting through 1xBet during world cup

During the 2022 FIFA World Cup football in Qatar, bets worth tens of millions of dollars were placed from Nepal via a betting app called 1xBet, according to a police investigation. Betting is prohibited in Nepal. According to the Crime Investigation Office of the valley, the accused were involved in betting transactions worth Rs 30 million.

Source: 19 December 2022, Online Khabar

<https://english.onlinekhabar.com/arrested-betting-1xbet-nepal.html>

## Thailand

### Online gambling operator given 20 years in prison

A major online gambling operator was found guilty by the Criminal Court of 25 offenses related to illegal gambling, and his sentence was reduced from 54 years to 20 years in prison. 18 additional people who participated in the illegal gambling were given sentences ranging from three months to 14 years in prison, with the average being one year and four months. Throughout the trial, two ran away.

Source: 14 December 2022, Thai PBS World

<https://www.thaipbsworld.com/online-gambling-operator-given-20-years-in-prison/>

## Turkey

### Turkey finds 15 betting sites run from Malta by slain crime boss

In Turkey, Casinos have been prohibited since 1998, and online betting has been prohibited since 2006, with the exception of one state-owned service. Following the assassination of a Turkish Cypriot crime boss in February of last year, additional investigations have uncovered the organised crime ring he oversaw operated 15 betting websites with headquarters in Malta that offered illicit betting services to Turkish people. Additionally, earnings were discovered to be being laundered through a bitcoin exchange in Malta by Turkish police.

Source: 15 December 2022, The Shift News

<https://theshiftnews.com/2022/12/15/turkey-finds-15-betting-sites-run-from-malta-by-slain-crime-boss/>

## DOPING

### Chile

### Chilean tennis player Felipe Hernández banned for three years under Tennis Anti-Doping Programme

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has banned a 22-year old Chilean player after accepting a charge under the Tennis Anti-Doping Programme (TADP).

Source: 5 January 2023, ITIA

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/felipe-hernandez-ban/>

## United States

### US sprinter Randolph Ross banned 3 years after fake email

A sprinter from the United States was given a three-year suspension for failing to report his whereabouts and forging an email to the anti-doping agency. The two-time NCAA champion from North Carolina A&T has been suspended until June 30, 2025, making him ineligible to compete at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, according to the Athletics Integrity Unit.

Source: 14 December 2022, AP News

<https://apnews.com/article/sports-track-and-field-randolph-ross-3448e56134a40850237644e8723a3e45>

## ODDS AND ENDS

### Chile

### Detuvieron y extraditaron al jugador chileno de tenis de mesa que fue denunciado por violación por una deportista argentina

A Chilean table tennis player has been deported to Argentina through the INTERPOL network for prosecution in a case of sexual abuse of a minor in a high level sports academy in Argentina years back.

Source: 22 December 2022, Infobae

Table Tennis

<https://www-infobae-com.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/www.infobae.com/deportes/2022/12/22/detuvieron-y-extraditaron-al-jugador-chileno-de-tenis-de-mesa-que-fue-denunciado-por-violacion-por-una-deportista-argentina/?outputType=amp-type>

## Friendly Football

### Fixing friendlies – zero scrutiny

In this background article, investigative journalists take a deeper look at the issue of manipulation of friendly football games, very often played when official leagues are suspended or being prepared.

Source: 22 December 2022, Josimar

Football

<https://josimarfootball.com/fixing-friendlies-zero-scrutiny/>

## CORRUPTION

### France

### French rugby boss Laporte sentenced in corruption case

Just nine months before the World Cup begins in France, the president of the French rugby federation was given a two-year suspended sentence in a corruption case that also involved a billionaire club owner. A court in Paris found the defendant, who is also the vice-chairman of World Rugby, guilty of passive corruption, influence peddling, illegal interest taking, and misusing corporate assets.

Source: 13 December 2022, AP News

<https://apnews.com/article/sports-france-paris-bernard-laporte-3569b7bc5b5a3a13cc5e0761273e25fe>