



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

10-23 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

Azerbaijan

Azərbaycanda oyun alverin gör 4 futbolçu saxlandı – SON DQQ

In Azerbaijan, four football players were taken into custody for their alleged involvement in match trading.

Source: 11 January 2023, SportInfo

Football

https://www.sportinfo.az/idman_xeberleri/1_divizion/160218.html

Greece

Ionikos and Kolossos push back against match fixing allegations

In Greece, two professional basketball teams are under investigation by the Hellenic Basketball Federation for allegations of match-fixing.

Source: 15 January 2023, Basket News

Basketball

<https://basketnews.com/news-183849-ionikos-and-kolossos-push-back-against-match-fixing-allegations.html>

Ireland

Gardaí send file to DPP after 15 suspects arrested in League of Ireland match-fixing probe

A four-year investigation on match-fixing into Ireland's professional football league has come to a close, with 15 suspects arrested.

Source: 15 January 2023, Independent

Football

<https://www.independent.ie/irish-news/news/gardai-send-file-to-dpp-after-15-suspects-arrested-in-league-of-ireland-match-fixing-probe-42287356.html>

Nepal

Two cricketers arrested on charge of match-fixing, spot-fixing

Following directives of the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nepal, police from the Central Investigation Bureau arrested two professional cricket players for allegations of match-fixing.

Source: 23 January 2023, Kathmandu Post

Cricket

[Two cricketers arrested on charge of match-fixing, spot-fixing https://kathmandupost.com/national/2023/01/23/two-cricketers-arrested-on-charge-of-match-fixing-spot-fixing](https://kathmandupost.com/national/2023/01/23/two-cricketers-arrested-on-charge-of-match-fixing-spot-fixing)

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association

WPBSA Continues to Probe Match-Fixing Allegations against Ten Players

In an effort to tackle corruption in sport, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association investigated ten professional snooker players who had allegations against them for betting offences.

Source: 19 January 2023, Gambling News

Snooker

<https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/wpbsa-continues-to-probe-match-fixing-allegations-against-ten-players/>

United Kingdom

FA launch spot-fixing investigation after Arsenal match vs Oxford

A recent professional football match in the United Kingdom is now being investigated by the Football Association over unusual betting activity.

Source: 11 January 2023, Mirror

Football

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/sport/football/news/arsenal-fa-spot-fixing-oxford-28925436>

United Kingdom

MPs call for investigation into extraordinary story of 10 Premier League clubs with eight online betting partners targeting Asia, all linked to one company in the Isle of Man - and its mysterious ties to Chinese 'triad' who's just been jailed for 18 years

Following the arrest of a Chinese billionaire who was sentenced for his involvement with organized criminal activity and illegal gambling, British Members of Parliament have raised concerns and calls for action by the Premier League to look into the connections between him and the British tech company working with clubs' betting partners.

Source: 22 January 2023, Daily Mail

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-11661895/MPs-want-investigation-links-jailed-Chinese-billionaire-clubs-betting-partners.html>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Algeria

Algerian Pair Banned for Match Fixing

The International Tennis Integrity Agency has banned two players from Algeria on account of their involvement in match-fixing. The two cases emerged as part of a wider law enforcement investigation which took place in Belgium.

Source: 12 January 2023, Tennis Now

Tennis

<https://www.tennisnow.com/Blogs/NET-POSTS/January-2023/Algerian-Pair-Banned-for-Match-Fixing.aspx>

Kenya

Match fixing rocks Kenyan football as 15 players and coaches get suspended

In Kenya, thirteen players and two coaches were suspended for match-fixing by the Football Kenya Federation (FKF).

Source: 15 January 2023, Soccer24

Football

<https://www.soccer24.co.zw/2023/01/15/match-fixing-rocks-kenyan-football-as-15-players-and-coaches-get-suspended/>

Macao

Macao jails Suncity founder 18 years over illegal gambling

A billionaire from Macau has been sentenced to 18 years in jail after being found guilty of being involved in organized criminal activity and illegal gambling.

Source: 18 January 2023, AP News

<https://apnews.com/6c8edb2e86ff291d01cf49d9ed598bec>

Spain

Former Barcelona player given prison sentence and hefty fine for fixing games

A professional football player from Spain's La Liga, will serve jail time and pay a substantial fine for his involvement in a match-fixing scandal which he was convicted of, back in 2014.

Source: 20 January 2023, Football Espana

<https://www.football-espana.net/2023/01/20/former-barcelona-player-given-prison-sentence-and-hefty-fine-for-fixing-games>

BETTING

Macao

Macao authorities detain 15 for alleged illegal online gambling ring money laundering

In Macau, 15 people were arrested as part of a wider operation which extended into mainland China and Taiwan. The suspects were arrested on the ground of their involvement in illegal online gambling and money laundering.

Source: 20 January 2023, Asia Gaming Brief

<https://agbrief.com/news/macau/20/01/2023/macau-authorities-detain-15-for-alleged-illegal-online-gambling-ring-money-laundering/>

United States

Sources: Suspended MMA coach James Krause worked with offshore sportsbook

In the United States, sources have come forward claiming that an MMA fighter coach, who has been suspended as part of a continuing betting scandal with the UFC, was involved in offshore betting operations.

Source: 12 January 2023, ESPN

Mixed Martial Arts

https://www.espn.com/mma/story/_/id/35412818/sources-suspended-mma-coach-james-krause-worked-offshore-sportsbook

DOPING

United Kingdom

Doping: Ex-British Cycling doctor Freeman loses appeal against medical register ban

The High Court of the United Kingdom has ruled against the appeal launched by the legal team of a former chief doctor who worked for the governing body for cycling, in the UK.

Source: 15 January 2023, The Straits Times

Cycling

<https://www.straitstimes.com/sport/doping-ex-british-cycling-doctor-freeman-loses-appeal-against-medical-register-ban>

GOOD PRACTICES

Norway

Banks in Norway Support Fight against Illegal Gambling

In a study conducted by the Norwegian Gambling Authority, results revealed that a significant proportion of banks adopt good practices in tackling illegal gambling.

Source: 16 January 2023, Gambling News

<https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/banks-in-norway-support-fight-against-illegal-gambling/>

ODDS AND ENDS

Canada

UFC Wagers Reinstated In Ontario Amid U.S. Integrity Partnership

The Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario (AGCO) in Canada reintroduced betting on Ultimate Fighting Championships (UFC) after it previously banned betting on UFC in Ontario.

Source: 20 January 2023, Lineups

<https://www.lineups.com/betting/ufc-wagers-reinstated-in-ontario-amid-u-s-integrity-partnership/>

Denmark

BIG SCANDAL? TV 2 reports about match-fixing in TOP handball

A report published by a Danish broadcasting station revealed a series of match-fixing in handball. The news story was based on a report published by Sportsradar which was released in 2018.

Source: 15 January 2023, Handball Planet

Handball

<https://www.handball-planet.com/big-scandal-tv-2-reports-about-match-fixing-in-top-handball/>

Italy

Juventus docked 15 points by Italian court over fraudulent transfer

Following an investigation into fraudulent transfer dealings, an Italian court has deducted 15 points from the Juventus football club's standing in the Serie A league.

Source: 21 January 2023, Sports Brief

Football

<https://sportsbrief.com/football/juventus/32822-juventus-docked-15-points-by-italian-court-fraudulent-transfer-dealings/>

MATCH FIXING

Ireland

Update : Operation Brookweed - Match-Fixing in the League of Ireland - 17th January 2023

Ireland's An Garda Siochana issued a press release regarding an update into Operation Brookweed. The operational initiative was initiated as a result of an investigation into match-fixing in the League of Ireland – following reports made from the Football Association of Ireland (FAI) and the Union of European Football Associations (UEFA), and continued with ongoing support by INTERPOL.

Source: 17 January 2023, A Garda Siochana

<https://www.garda.ie/en/about-us/our-departments/office-of-corporate-communications/press-releases/2023/january/update-operation-brookweed-match-fixing-in-the-league-of-ireland-17th-january-2023.html>

Netherlands

Six Eredivisie players among 25 accused of breaking match-fixing rules

In the Netherlands, 25 professional football players have allegedly bet on matches which they played in and/or matches in their own league. On a wider scale, this news shines a spotlight on the 40 possible match-fixing events which have been reported in the past year.

Source: 16 January 2023, Dutch News

Football

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/news/2023/01/six-eredivisie-players-among-25-accused-of-breaking-match-fixing-rules/>

CORRUPTION

United States

Former Fox execs in Brooklyn court as FIFA corruption case kicks off

An ongoing corruption case involving FIFA has revealed that two former executives from a prominent American media corporation have been charged with bribing soccer officials from South America.

Source: 18 January 2023, Reuters

Football

<https://www.reuters.com/lifestyle/sports/former-fox-execs-fifa-case-about-corruption-international-soccer-prosecutor-says-2023-01-17/>