



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

14 November 2023 - 4 December 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

Brazil

Sport anuncia a saída de Igor Cariús, investigado por manipulação de jogos

In Brazil, Sport officially announced the departure of a player who had been suspended by the Superior Tribunal of Sports Justice (STJD) since August for his involvement in a match-fixing investigation in the Brazilian Championship. The case is part of Operation Maximum Penalty, led by the Public Ministry of Goiás, revealing schemes to benefit gamblers in Brazilian football games and the involvement of athletes. A total of 12 Brazilian players faced penalties ranging from 360 days of suspension to global football bans.

Source: 21 November 2023, TNT Sports

Football

<https://tntsports.com.br/futebolbrasileiro/Sportanuncia-a-saida-de-Igor-Carius-investigado-por-manipulacao-de-jogos-20231121-0001.html>

Brazil

'Maximum Penalty' Match-Fixing Investigation in Brazil Enters New Phase

Brazil's Public Ministry of Goiás has launched the third phase of Operation Maximum Penalty to combat match-fixing in soccer. The operation includes an investigation into seven matches, including a 2022 Brazilian Championship game between Flamengo and Avaí. The investigation extends to matches from the 2022 Brazilian Championship's Series B league and games from this year. The Brazilian Football Confederation and the Federal Police have joined forces to combat match-fixing in soccer, with Sportradar providing game analysis technology and sharing reports with the Federal Police.

Source: 29 November 2023, Casino

Football

<https://www.casino.org/news/maximum-penalty-match-fixing-investigation-in-brazil-enters-new-phase/>

Bulgaria

Bulgarian football boss Mihaylov investigated over match-fixing allegations

Bulgaria's Prosecutor's Office has initiated an investigation against the head of the Bulgarian Football Union (BFU), over allegations of match-fixing and involvement with unlicensed foreign operators. The probe follows media reports accusing him of manipulating football match outcomes and engaging in "black lottery" activities. Allegations of illegal dealings, including conflict of interest and associations with match-fixing figures, have been previously directed at him

Source: 24 November 2023, Insider Sport

<https://insidersport.com/2023/11/24/bulgaria-football-mihaylov/>

European Handball Federation

H65 HÖÖR reported suspected match-fixing – the case was closed without the EHF talking to the club

In 2021, H65 HÖÖR reported suspected match-fixing to the European Handball Federation (EHF) after a game against SPD Radnicki Kragujevac in the European League. The case was closed without the EHF contacting anyone from H65 HÖÖR. The club, disappointed with the handling of the report, emphasized the need for a serious investigation. The EHF, responding via email, stated that they had been in contact with the person who reported it and had handed over the material to criminal investigation authorities in Austria.

Source: 1 December 2023, Teller Report

Handball

<https://www.tellerreport.com/sports/2023-12-01-h65-h%C3%B6r-reported-suspected-match-fixing-%E2%80%93-the-case-was-closed-without-the-ehf-talking-to-the-club.S1VwxJlvHa.html>

India

AIFF to probe match fixing scandal in the I-League

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) is addressing match-fixing allegations in the I-League, expressing a zero-tolerance policy. The governing body is investigating reports of players manipulating results and asserts its commitment to protecting the integrity of the sport. The AIFF vows to take necessary actions, including potential lengthy bans for guilty players, and emphasizes its dedication to educating players and officials on recognizing and reporting such incidents.

Source: 1 December 2023, Techno Sports

Football

<https://technosports.co.in/aiff-match-fixing-scandal-in-the-i-league>

Italy

AC Milan fullback Florenzi under investigation in Italy for illegal betting, reports say

In Italy, an AC Milan player is under investigation for allegedly using illegal betting websites, joining a widening case involving other football players. The players have not commented, and the club has yet to respond.

Source: 15 November 2023, AP News

Football

<https://apnews.com/article/alessandro-florenzi-betting-inquiry-cd4879a9414ce96356f04339fd2e077e>

Taiwan

Taiwan's SBL basketball league rocked by game-fixing scandal

The Taiwan Super Basketball League (SBL) is facing a game-fixing scandal involving players from Yulon Luxgen Dinos and Taiwan Beer Leopards. Players have had their registrations revoked and received lifetime bans. The investigation may extend to other teams, including Bank of Taiwan, Taiwan Beer, and Changhua BLL. The legal consequences for interfering in sports competitions subject to betting could result in prison sentences and fines according to the Sports Lottery Management Act.

Source: 22 November 2023, Taiwan News

Basketball

<https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/5044871>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Belgium

Five tennis players suspended

Five tennis players were sanctioned by the ITIA for Tennis Anti-Corruption Program breaches linked to a Belgian match-fixing syndicate. All sanctions started on September 30, 2023.

Source: 16 November 2023, International Tennis Integrity Agency

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/alberto-rojas-maldonado-christopher-diaz-figueroa-jose-antonio-rodriguez-rodriguez-antonio-ruiz-rosales-and-orlando-alcantara-rangel-sanctioned-for-tacp-breaches/>

IBIA

Darts players Jack Main, Prakash Jiwa, Andy Jenkins suspended over suspicious betting activity

Three professional darts players have been suspended by the Darts Regulation Authority due to suspicious betting during the Modus Super Series. An investigation will take place, and all three players have the right to appeal.

Source: 22 November 2023, Sky Sports

<https://www.skysports.com/darts/news/12288/13012553/darts-players-jack-main-prakash-jiwa-andy-jenkins-suspended-over-suspicious-betting-activity>

New Zealand

Operation Inca: Charges dropped after 17-month investigation into harness racing industry

The 17-month-long Operation Inca, a police investigation into alleged race-fixing in New Zealand's harness racing industry, has concluded with the final charges being dropped. The investigation, which began in 2018, involved phone taps, bugged cars, and police officers following harness racing drivers to race meetings.

Source: 28 November 2023, NZ Herald

Racing

<https://www.nzherald.co.nz/sport/operation-inca-charges-dropped-after-17-month-investigation-into-harness-racing-industry/QVLZUBY5IZB6TPGDYEAGN45SSY/>

Slovenia

Slovenian tennis official suspended

A Slovenian tennis official has been suspended for 10 years and six months by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA). The official admitted to four breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, including wagering on matches and manipulating data to facilitate betting. The bronze-badge official, who has officiated at ITF, ATP, and WTA tournaments, cooperated with the investigation and accepted the sanction. During the suspension, he is barred from tennis events sanctioned by ITIA members.

Source: 23 November 2023, International Tennis Integrity Agency

Tennis

<https://itia.tennis/news/sanctions/marko-ducman-suspended-for-10-years-and-six-months-for-tacp-breaches/>

Thailand

Man pleads guilty to graft involving fixing basketball matches in Thailand

A Singaporean national pleaded guilty to two charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act for fixing basketball matches in Thailand. The man conspired to bribe a Filipino basketball player with \$1,000 for fixing a Thailand Basketball League match between PEA and Mono Vampire. The court heard that match-fixing aimed to increase their online betting profits.

Source: 22 November 2023, Straits Times

Basketball

<https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/man-pleads-guilty-to-graft-involving-the-fixing-basketball-matches-in-thailand>



Ukraine

Public Statement on Disciplinary Action Against Participants Dmytro "SENSEI" Shvorak, Maksym "THRONE" Semenov, Artur "DarkS1DE" Kravchenko, and Danylo "nat1ve" Bakin

The Esports Integrity Commission (ESIC) has professional esports players, for two years from all ESIC Member events. The decision comes after investigations into teams Akuma, Project X, and Majesty revealed multiple breaches of the ESIC Anti-Corruption Code and evidence of suspicious betting activities involving the players. The charges include attempts at match-fixing, participation in match-fixing activities during LAN events, and violations of the ESIC Code of Conduct.

Source: 29 November 2023, Esports Integrity Commission

eSports

<https://esic.gg/sanction-outcome/public-statement-on-disciplinary-action-against-participants-dmytro-sensei-shvorak-maksym-throne-semenov-artur-darks1de-kravchenko-and-danylo-nat1ve-bakin/#>

United Arab Emirates

Ex-West Indies star Marlon Samuels banned from cricket for six years

A former West Indies cricketer has been banned from all cricket for six years due to breaches of an anticorruption code during his participation in a T10 league in the United Arab Emirates in 2019. The 42-year-old, who played a significant role in the West Indies' T20 World Cup victories in 2012 and 2016, was found to have made four breaches of the Emirates Cricket Board's Anti-Corruption Code.

Source: 23 November 2023, Aljazeera

Cricket

<https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2023/11/23/marlon-samuels-west-indies-cricket-corruption-match-fixing-ban-icc>

United States

Lifetime sports-betting ban proposed for former Alabama coach, Indiana man after suspicious bets made at GABP

In the United States, the Ohio Casino Control Commission is proposing a lifetime sports-betting ban for former University of Alabama Baseball Coach Brad Bohannon and Bert Neff Jr. after suspicious bets at Great American Ball Park in April. The Southeastern Conference Commissioner emphasized zero tolerance for activities questioning the integrity of competition. Both men have 30 days to challenge their placement on Ohio's involuntary exclusion list.

Source: 15 November 2023, WCPO

Baseball

<https://www.wcpo.com/sports/baseball/lifetime-sports-betting-ban-proposed-for-former-alabama-coach-indiana-man-after-suspicious-bets-made-at-gabp>

ODDS AND ENDS

FIFA

Abramovich Signed Football Players to "Modern Slavery" Deals that May Breach FIFA Rules

A feature article reveals that Roman Abramovich allegedly acquired economic rights to young football players through banned FIFA contracts, collaborating with one high profile "super-agent". The leaked documents reveal players signing away rights to Abramovich's offshore companies, breaching FIFA's 2015 ban on third-party ownership (TPO). Critics have highlighted possible violations of FIFA rules and the exploitation of young talent in the process.

Source: 17 November 2023, Organized Crime and Corruption Reporting Project

Football

<https://www.occrp.org/en/cyprus-confidential/abramovich-signed-football-players-to-modern-slavery-deals-that-may-breach-fifa-rules>

INTEGRITY IN SPORT EVENTS

Greece

A united front against match-fixing

UEFA collaborates with the Hellenic Football Federation (HFF), the Council of Europe, the International Olympic Committee, Interpol and the Greek National Platform for Sport Integrity (EPATHLA) for Sport Integrity Week in Athens to address match-fixing challenges. The event focuses on workshops, capacity-building activities, and discussions among representatives from different countries. UEFA emphasizes the importance of collaboration and its commitment to combating match-fixing.

Source: 29 November 2023, UEFA

<https://www.uefa.com/returntoplay/news/0287-199345bb28ab-7754ba5ebd37-1000--a-united-front-against-match-fixing/>

MATCH FIXING

Cameroon

Football Match in Cameroon Sparks Controversy: A Struggle for Integrity Amid Match-Fixing Accusations

A football match in Cameroon has sparked controversy and accusations of match manipulation. Victoria United's 2-0 victory over Young Sport Academy led to an angry mob confronting the referees, alleging biased refereeing in favor of Victoria United. The incident sheds light on the darker side of sports betting, with bets not only on match outcomes but also on specific details like the number of goals. The episode highlights the ongoing struggle against match-fixing and the impact of sports betting on football's integrity, emphasizing the need for urgent measures to protect the sport.

Source: 19 November 2023, BNN

Football

<https://bnn.network/sports/football-match-in-cameroon-sparks-controversy-a-struggle-for-integrity-amid-match-fixing-accusations/>

POLICY

Portugal

Parliament approves national platform to combat match-fixing

In Portugal, the parliament approved the creation of the National Platform to Combat the Manipulation of Sports Competitions and will be part of the National Anti-Corruption Unit of the Judicial Police.

Source: 1 December 2023, Noticias



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT