



# INTERPOL

## INTEGRITY IN SPORT

### Bi-weekly Bulletin

7-20 January 2025



Photos International Olympic Committee

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## INVESTIGATIONS

### Brazil

#### Former Palmeiras Coach and Six Others Charged with Match-Fixing in Football

Coach Estevam Soares and six others have been charged by the Superior Court of Sports Justice (STJD) for involvement in a match-fixing scheme during last year's Série D of the Campeonato Brasileiro, with the prosecution seeking penalties at both national and international levels under FIFA's Disciplinary Code.

Source: 16 January 2025, *Footboom*

Football

[Former Palmeiras Coach and Six Others Charged with Match-Fixing in Football - footboom1.com](https://www.footboom1.com)

### China

#### Investigations into Chinese chess 'Recording Gate' scandal revealed, 3 grandmasters banned for life

The Chinese Xiangqi Association (CXA) has penalized 41 players who were banned for life and stripped of their titles for match-fixing and bribery that harmed the sport's integrity. Investigations into the "Recording Gate" scandal revealed widespread corruption, leading to suspensions, reprimands, and ongoing probes into unethical conduct within the Chinese chess community.

Source: 12 January 2025, *Global Times*

<https://www.globaltimes.cn/page/202501/1326718.shtml>

### Spain

#### Sevilla defender Kike Salas under investigation over yellow cards

In Spain, Sevilla defender Kike Salas has been arrested and remains under investigation for allegedly receiving yellow cards deliberately to benefit friends who placed bets, reportedly earning around €10,000. If found guilty, Salas could face a prison sentence, fines, and a multi-year ban from football, while Sevilla and La Liga emphasize their commitment to the legal process and anti-match-fixing measures.

Source: 15 January 2025, *The Guardian*

Football

<https://www.theguardian.com/football/2025/jan/15/sevilla-defender-kike-salas-under-investigation-over-yellow-cards>

## SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

### Cameroon

#### Un instructeur de la Caf demande de sanctionner Samuel Eto'o

The Confederation of African Football Appeals Committee will meet in Cairo to review an appeal by Cameroonian football stakeholders challenging the CAF Disciplinary Board's decision, which found Samuel Eto'o Fils, president of FECAFOOT, guilty of ethical violations but deemed evidence of match-fixing insufficient.

Source: 7 January 2025, *Actu Cameroun*

Football

<https://actu cameroun.com/2025/01/07/un-instructeur-de-la-caf-demande-de-sanctionner-samuel-eto/>



## GOOD PRACTICES

### India

#### AFI to make coach registration mandatory from this year, track down 'hideouts' to tackle doping

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) will require all coaches, qualified or unqualified, to register on its portal to train athletes for national competitions, as part of its efforts to address the rising doping cases in Indian athletics.

Source: 12 January 2025, *The Telegraph Online*

<https://www.telegraphindia.com/sports/afi-to-make-coach-registration-mandatory-from-this-year-track-down-hideouts-to-tackle-doping/cid/2077108>

### Kenya

#### Age Cheating Scandal: Athletics Kenya Launches Crackdown to Protect Sports Integrity

Athletics Kenya (AK) has launched a crackdown on age fraud, investigating 30 athletes flagged by World Athletics for providing inconsistent birth dates and warning that offenders will face penalties akin to doping violations.

Source: 14 January 2025, *Nairobi Wire*

<https://nairobiwire.com/2025/01/age-cheating-scandal-athletics-kenya-launches-crackdown-to-protect-sports-integrity.html>

## ODDS AND ENDS

### Global

#### Good Referees are Being Sidelined - Veteran Olympic Referee Sounds the Alarm

Corruption and cronyism are increasingly troubling issues in combat sports, with allegations of match manipulation and politically motivated appointments affecting disciplines like fencing. Patrick Vajda, a veteran fencing referee, highlights the subtle yet pervasive nature of influence attempts in individual sports, emphasizing that the close proximity between athletes and referees makes neutrality difficult without significant resources.

Source: 7 January 2025, Sports and Crime Briefing

<https://www.sportsandcrime.com/p/good-referees-are-being-sidelined>

### Hong Kong

#### Exclusive | Hong Kong football chief Eric Fok open to legalising gambling, vows to punish match-fixers | South China Morning Post

The chairman of the Hong Kong Football Association, acknowledged that legalizing football gambling could provide resources for the sport but stressed the need for caution and community consideration, given the potential societal impact. While emphasizing a zero-tolerance stance on match-fixing, Fok highlighted efforts to combat corruption, including a Fifa-recognized monitoring system, and pledged to support the growth and integrity of Hong Kong football.

Source: 10 January 2025, South China Morning Post

Football

<https://www.scmp.com/sport/football/article/3294262/hong-kong-football-chief-eric-fok-open-legalising-gambling-vows-punish-match-fixers>

### Turkey

#### Galatasaray faces Basaksehir amid referee controversies, match-fixing allegations

Turkish football club Galatasaray Istanbul Basaksehir on Sunday amid accusations of referee bias and match-fixing from Fenerbahce President Ali Koc, which have intensified scrutiny of Turkish football officiating. While Galatasaray aims to extend their dominant streak, the match also highlights broader controversies over transparency and fairness within the league.

Source: 12 January 2025, Turkiye Today

Turkiye Today

<https://www.turkiyetoday.com/sports/galatasaray-faces-basaksehir-amid-referee-controversies-match-fixing-allegations-104720/>

## MATCH FIXING

### Cambodia

#### Amid match-fixing probe, Dara maintains a clean record

Cambodian goalkeeper, Vireak Dara, has excelled in the Cambodian Premier League with 10 clean sheets this season, but faced allegations of match-fixing after costly errors in Cambodia's 2-1 loss to Singapore in the ASEAN Mitsubishi Cup. The Football Federation of Cambodia has launched an investigation into the accusations, though no findings have been released, while Dara remains benched for national team matches.

Source: 16 January 2025, Khmer Times

Football

[Amid match-fixing probe, Dara maintains a clean record](#)



### Global

#### Sportradar Reports Notable Decline in Match-Fixing in 2024

In 2024, global sports saw a 17% decline in suspicious matches, with Sportradar Integrity Services identifying 1,108 suspicious events across 70 sports, including notable reductions in soccer and Brazilian football. Despite the progress, Sportradar emphasizes the need for continued vigilance, innovation, and collaboration to combat persistent match-fixing and safeguard sports integrity worldwide.

Source: 9 January 2025, Sportradar

<https://sportradar.com/sportradar-reports-notable-decline-in-match-fixing-in-2024/>

## CORRUPTION

### Spain

#### Investigation concluded as ex-RFEF President faces corruption charges

Former RFEF President Angel Maria Villar is facing charges of fraud and corruption for favoring his son, Gorka Villar, in business dealings during his tenure, which led to the RFEF being defrauded out of €4.5m. This investigation is part of a wider scandal that has tainted the Royal Spanish Football Federation, following the removal of Luis Rubiales and ongoing controversies surrounding his successors.

Source: 14 January 2025, Yahoo Sport

Football

<https://sports.yahoo.com/investigation-concluded-ex-rfef-president-145400833.html>

**United States****Second Circuit judge appears befuddled by overturned convictions in Brooklyn FIFA bribery case**

In the United States, federal prosecutors urged the Second Circuit to reinstate the convictions of former Fox executive Hernan Lopez and sports marketing firm Full Play Group S.A., who were found guilty in 2023 of bribing top soccer officials for broadcasting rights to major tournaments.

*Source: 8 January 2025, Courthouse News Service*

<https://www.courthousenews.com/second-circuit-judge-appears-befuddled-by-overturned-convictions-in-brooklyn-fifa-bribery-case/>



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