



INTERPOL

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Photos International Olympic Committee

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INVESTIGATIONS

Switzerland

Ex-FIFA chief Blatter states his innocence on court return over fraud case

Former FIFA president Sepp Blatter and French football legend Michel Platini, previously acquitted of fraud in 2022 over a \$2.22 million payment, are facing a new trial after the Swiss federal prosecutor appealed the decision. Both maintain their innocence, arguing the payment was legitimate back pay, while prosecutors allege it was a fraudulent claim, with a verdict expected on March 25.

Source: 3 March 2025, Reuters

Football

<https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/ex-fifa-chief-blatter-platini-return-court-face-corruption-charge-2025-03-03/>

United States

Shocking new details emerge on Fresno State basketball betting scandal

In the US, Fresno State basketball players Mykell Robinson and Jalen Weaver are under investigation for gambling on their own stats, with Weaver admitting to betting on himself via daily fantasy sports apps and Robinson allegedly betting against his own performance and sharing insider information. Both have been removed from the team, while a third player, Zaon Collins, remains on the roster despite violating NCAA regulations by betting on professional sports.

Source: 1 March 2025, Yardbarker

Basketball

https://www.yardbarker.com/college_basketball/articles/shocking_new_details_emerge_on_fresno_state_basketball_betting_scandal/s1_17116_41837791

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Malta

Two footballers get lifetime bans for match-fixing attempt

Two Maltese footballers, Manwel Xerri and Leonard Camilleri, received lifetime bans from the sport after a Malta FA tribunal found them guilty of attempting to bribe an opposing goalkeeper in a match-fixing scandal. Despite their ongoing criminal case, the tribunal ruled that they had committed a corrupt act, while their club, Qala Saints, was cleared of any charges.

Source: 25 February 2025, Sportsdesk

<https://sport.timesofmalta.com/2025/02/25/mfa-hands-life-bans-to-qala-saints-player-xerri-zebbug-rovers-goalkeeper-camilleri/>

GOOD PRACTICES

Mexico

Mexican Football Federation Announces Measures to Combat Illegal Betting and Match-Fixing

The Mexican Football Federation (FMF) is filing a complaint with the Attorney General's office over illegal betting in the second division, following an investigation that led to 57 years of suspensions for seven players involved in match-fixing. In addition to strengthening monitoring efforts with Genius Sports and collaborating with FIFA, the FMF plans to promote stricter penalties, conduct awareness workshops, and work with authorities to safeguard the integrity of Mexican football.

Source: 4 March 2025, Footboom

Football

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2415247-mexican-football-federation-announces-measures-to-combat-illegal-betting-and-match-fixing>

ODDS AND ENDS

France

French referees may 'withdraw' if put at risk, says union

The French referee's union warned that its members would withdraw if their safety or that of their families was threatened, following an incident where referee Jeremy Stinat faced harassment and vandalism after Olympique de Marseille President Pablo Longoria criticized officiating decisions and received a 15-match ban.

Source: 28 February 2025, Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/sports/soccer/french-referees-may-withdraw-if-put-risk-says-union-2025-02-28/>

Kenya

Athletes cautioned against age-cheating

Athletics Kenya officials in Kericho have urged athletes to avoid age cheating, warning that falsifying birth credentials undermines the sport's integrity, discourages honest competitors, and damages Kenya's global reputation. They emphasized the need for stricter enforcement and education on ethical sportsmanship, especially as Kenya remains under scrutiny for doping violations, with nearly 100 athletes penalized for banned substances.

Source: 26 February 2025, Kenya News Agency

<https://www.kenyanews.go.ke/athletes-cautioned-against-age-cheating/>

Korea (Rep. of)

South Korea re-elects controversial football chief who tried to overturn match-fixing bans

In Korea (Rep. of), Chung Mong-gyu was re-elected as president of the Korean Football Association for a fourth term despite controversies over his decision-making, including the failed appointment of Jurgen Klinsmann and an attempt to pardon match-fixers. While South Korea has seen footballing successes under his leadership, criticism over transparency in hiring and governance has led to public dissatisfaction and government scrutiny.

Source: 27 February 2025, SCMP

Football

<https://www.scmp.com/sport/football/article/3300314/south-korea-re-elect-controversial-football-chief-who-tried-overturn-match-fixings-bans>

Malta

Sports integrity board chair and secretary offer to resign over clash with CEO

In Malta, former judge Antonio Mizzi and board secretary Frank Camilleri have offered to resign from Malta's sports integrity body amid tensions with CEO Jean-Claude Micallef, whose controversial leadership includes hiring a banned footballer and facing allegations of unpaid debts. The situation has sparked political criticism, with the opposition calling for decisive action to protect the integrity of Maltese sports.

Source: 4 March 2025, Times of Malta

<https://timesofmalta.com/article/sports-integrity-board-chair-secretary-offer-resign.1106017>

MATCH FIXING

Australia

AFL admits it has lost control of online gambling oversight amid spike in 'integrity risks'

The Australian Football League (AFL) has acknowledged major shortcomings in detecting betting-related misconduct and potential match-fixing, with leaked documents revealing that the league struggles to monitor insider betting and relies heavily on bookmakers to flag suspicious activity. While the AFL is pushing for a centralised gambling transaction database to improve oversight, critics argue that its simultaneous efforts to extract more betting revenue raise concerns about the league's growing dependence on the gambling industry.

Source: 2 March 2025, The Guardian

Football

<https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2025/mar/03/afl-admits-it-has-lost-control-of-online-gambling-monitoring-amid-spike-in-integrity-risks-ntwnfb>

Cameroon

Cameroonian Club President Accused of Kidnapping, Torturing Goalkeeper

In Cameroon, Victoria United President Valentin Nkwain is accused of kidnapping and torturing 19-year-old goalkeeper Eric Parfait Djomeni, allegedly forcing him to confess to match-fixing after blaming him for the team's defeats. While the club denies the allegations, a formal complaint has been filed against Nkwain for illegal arrest, kidnapping, and torture, putting him at risk of serious legal consequences.

Source: 27 February 2025, Barlaman Today

Football

<https://barlamantoday.com/2025/02/27/cameroonian-club-president-accused-of-kidnapping-torturing-goalkeeper/>

Mexico

FMF President Breaks Silence on Match-Fixing Scandal; Will File Complaint with FGR

Mexican Football Federation (FMF) President Ivar Sisniega has condemned the recent match-fixing scandal in Mexico's third division, emphasizing the seriousness of illegal betting and confirming that complaints have been filed with the Attorney General's Office. He warned that players involved not only face sports sanctions but could also face legal consequences, highlighting match-fixing as a global issue that requires decisive action.

Source: 4 March 2025, MSN

<https://www.msn.com/en-nz/sports/football/fmf-president-breaks-silence-on-match-fixing-scandal-will-file-complaint-with-fgr/ar-AA1zS6O5>

Netherlands

Dutch gambling authority reports alarming increase in match-fixing in 2024

The Dutch gambling regulator, Kansspelautoriteit (KSA), reported a sharp rise in suspected match-fixing cases in 2024, with 13 reports—more than double the previous year—linked to suspicious betting patterns, prompting four official warnings. While this may indicate improved reporting by operators, the KSA remains committed to stricter enforcement, alongside ongoing legal battles and concerns over proposed gambling restrictions potentially driving younger players to unregulated markets.

Source: 27 February 2025, Sigma

<https://sigma.world/news/dutch-authority-reports-match-fixing-cases-doubled/>