



INTERPOL

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Photos International Olympic Committee

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INVESTIGATIONS

Kenya

Kenya keeper the subject of match-fixing investigation Patrick Matasi, wearing a bright yellow Kenya shirt and white goalkeeping gloves, holds his hands in front of his face during an international football game in 2023

Kenya has launched an investigation into match-fixing allegations involving goalkeeper Patrick Matasi, who is accused of discussing a plan to rig an Africa Cup of Nations qualifier for money. This comes amid a history of match-fixing scandals in Kenyan football, including suspensions and bans for players, coaches, and referees, damaging the sport's integrity and public trust.

Source: 27 March 2025, BBC Sport

Football

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/football/articles/cqlyqp0en07o>

Rwanda

Match-fixing saga: FERWFA summons Miggy, three others

The Rwanda FA has summoned Muhazi United assistant coach Jean Baptiste Mugiraneza, Musanze FC players Sheif Batte and Shafiq Bakaki, and assistant coach Japhet Imurora to appear before its Ethics Committee on April 6 for an investigation into a match-fixing scandal involving Mugiraneza's alleged attempt to manipulate a match between Musanze FC and Kiyovu.

Source: 7 April 2025, MSN

Football

<https://www.msn.com/en-xl/africa/top-stories/match-fixing-saga-ferwafa-summons-miggy-three-others/ar-AA1CdXaT>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

China

Snooker star banned after match-fixing investigation aiming for World Championship return

Chinese snooker star Zhao Xintong, who was once considered a future legend by Ronnie O'Sullivan, is set to make a comeback after serving a 20-month ban for corruption, with a potential return to the World Championship stage in April. Despite the controversy surrounding his suspension, snooker legends like Stephen Hendry believe Zhao remains a formidable competitor, capable of shaking up the sport's top ranks if he returns to form.

Source: 26 March 2025, Express

Snooker

<https://www.express.co.uk/sport/othersport/2033015/snooker-world-championship-ronnie-osullivan-stephen-hendry>

France

5 low-ranked French tennis players receive bans for links to a match-fixing syndicate

French tennis player, Yannick Thivant, was banned for life, and four others received suspensions ranging from two to 10 years for their involvement in match-fixing linked to a Belgian syndicate led by Grigor Sargsyan, with at least 60 players punished in total.

Source: 4 April 2025, Yahoo!Sports

Tennis

<https://sports.yahoo.com/article/5-low-ranked-french-tennis-145402377.html>

Germany

One session, three months suspension

German tennis player Mina Hodzic was handed a three-month suspension for violating the Tennis Anti-Corruption Programme by training with Spanish coach Jordi Marse-Vidri, who had been banned for match-fixing. The ITIA's decision highlights its strict enforcement of anti-corruption rules, following a rise in disciplinary actions, including those related to illicit betting and doping violations.

Source: 1 April 2025, Inside the Games

<https://www.insidethegames.biz/articles/1152602/one-coaching-session-three-months-ban>

Mexico

Major Sanctions Imposed on Players Following Match-Fixing Scandal

The Mexican Football Federation (FMF) has imposed a two-year suspension on a player from Real Zamora and a three-year ban on a player from Aguacateros Club Deportivo Uruapan for their involvement in match-fixing and betting scandals, with FIFA being notified of the incidents.

Source: 4 April 2025, Footboom

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2477101-major-sanctions-imposed-on-players-following-match-fixing-scandal>

Sri Lanka

Legends League fixing : Punishment announced : Upul gets compensation

In Sri Lanka, Akash (Yogi) Patel, the manager of the Kandy Samp Army in the 2024 Legends League, was sentenced in absentia to four years in prison for attempting to fix matches, fined Rs. 85 million, and ordered to pay Rs. 2 million in defamation compensation to Sri Lanka's Chief Cricket Selector, Upul Tharanga.

Source: 25 March 2025, Newswire

Cricket

<https://www.newswire.lk/2025/03/25/legends-league-fixing-punishment-announced-upul-gets-compensation/>

United States

USF track and field athlete banned for doping

In the U.S., University of South Florida athlete Goodness Iredia was banned for three years after testing positive for the anabolic steroid metenolone during a college meet in January, where he won the long jump.

Source: 25 March 2025, ABC Action News

<https://www.abcactionnews.com/sports/usf-track-and-field-athlete-banned-for-doping>

DOPING

Australia

'Biggest mistake of my life': Sydney Kings star Xavier Cooks' apology over ban

Australian basketball player, Xavier Cooks, has apologized after failing an anti-doping test in January, which led to a one-month ban and caused him to miss the NBL finals. Cooks expressed regret for his mistake, vowed to rebuild his reputation, and received support from his club, which is working on a comprehensive wellbeing plan for him.

Source: 1 April 2025, Fox Sports

Basketball

<https://www.foxsports.com.au/basketball/nbl/biggest-mistake-of-my-life-sydney-kings-star-xavier-cooks-apology-over-ban/news-story/35f7d6b95b6e294cd9f1c67ee7dff81b>

Belgium

Dopage-cyclisme : "Plusieurs prescriptions assez louches..." Un médecin soupçonné de procurer des substances dopantes à une équipe professionnelle

In Belgium, a general practitioner is under investigation for suspected doping practices within a professional cycling team, after police raided three homes as part of a probe led by the Antwerp prosecutor's office.

Source: 25 March 2025, La Depeche

Cycling

<https://www.ladepeche.fr/2025/03/25/dopage-cyclisme-plusieurs-prescriptions-assez-louches-un-medecin-soupconne-de-procurer-des-substances-dopantes-a-une-equipe-professionnelle-12593384.php>

GOOD PRACTICES

Romania

Romanian youth focus on player safeguarding and threat of match-fixing with Integriball 2.0 project

The Romanian Football Federation (FRF) has launched the Integriball 2.0 project, aiming to protect female and young footballers from safety threats and sports manipulation, offering specialized training for both players and coaches to uphold integrity in football.

Source: 14 April 2025, Inside World Football

Football

<https://www.insideworldfootball.com/2025/03/31/romanian-youth-focus-player-safeguarding-threat-match-fixing-integriball-2-0-project/>

ODDS AND ENDS

Global

Starlizard report find slight drop in 'fixed' matches, but match-fixers still a clear and present danger

Starlizard Integrity Services (SIS) reported a slight decrease in suspicious football matches in 2024, with 159 matches flagged compared to 171 in 2023, although concerns about match-fixing continue, particularly in South America. The report highlighted ongoing issues with suspicious betting patterns, especially on First-Half Only markets, and emphasized the need for continued vigilance and anti-match-fixing efforts.

Source: 1 April 2025, Inside World Football

Football

<https://www.insideworldfootball.com/2025/04/01/starlizard-report-find-slight-drop-fixed-matches-match-fixers-still-clear-present-danger/>



Spain

Real Madrid coach Ancelotti to go on trial for alleged tax fraud

In Spain, Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti will go on trial for allegedly failing to declare income from image rights, with prosecutors seeking a four-year and nine-month jail sentence for tax evasion, accusing him of hiding over \$1.1 million in earnings through shell companies in 2014 and 2015.

Source: 28 March 2025, Aljazeera

<https://www.aljazeera.com/sports/2025/3/28/real-madrid-coach-ancelotti-to-go-on-trial-for-alleged-tax-fraud>

United States

Fighter Suspended For Betting Scandal Uses McGregor's Gambling Posts To Call Out UFC 'Double Standard'

Former UFC flyweight Jeff Molina has been suspended for three years due to his involvement in a betting scandal, where he placed wagers on a fight featuring his injured teammate, Darrick Minner. Molina has criticized the severity of his suspension, pointing out the apparent double standard, as UFC star Conor McGregor frequently posts large betting slips without facing consequences.

Source: 26 March 2025, MMA News

Mixed Martial Arts

<https://www.mmanews.com/news/ufc/conor-mcgregor-ufc-betting-scandal-molina/>

MATCH FIXING

Zimbabwe

Harambee Stars Goalkeeper in Match-Fixing Scandal ?

In Zimbabwe, a Harambee Stars goalkeeper has been implicated in a match-fixing scandal after a secretly recorded video surfaced, showing him allegedly negotiating to manipulate a match's outcome. The footage has raised suspicions about his past performances, leading to shock from teammates like Michael Olunga, and sparking fears of severe penalties from FIFA and CAF if the allegations are proven true.

Source: 29 March 2025, ZimEye

<https://www.zimeye.net/2025/03/29/harambee-stars-goalkeeper-in-match-fixing-scandal/>

CORRUPTION

Spain

Prosecutors seek 15-year prison sentence for former Spanish soccer president Villar

In Spain, prosecutors are seeking over 15 years in prison for former Spanish soccer president Ángel María Villar on corruption charges related to irregularities in federation contracts during his tenure from 1988 to 2017.

Source: 27 March 2025, AP News

Football

<https://apnews.com/article/villar-corruption-spanish-soccer-federation-de55858fe765751fc53b00eaaf65132f>

Switzerland

Ex-Fifa chief Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini cleared of corruption

Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini have been cleared of corruption charges related to a 2 million Swiss franc payment made by Blatter to Platini in 2011, with an appeals court in Switzerland ruling the payment had a legitimate basis. The case, which stemmed from the 2015 FIFA corruption scandal, had initially resulted in their acquittal in 2022, but the prosecutors' appeal was rejected, leading to their final exoneration.

Source: 25 March 2025, BBC

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx298rz985eo>

