

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

15-28 April 2025



Photos International Olympic Committe

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 rwith INTERPOL without INTERPOL's prior written consent.

INVESTIGATIONS

Brazil

Bruno Henrique Faces Serious Accusations Amid Match-Fixing Investigation

Brazilian forward Bruno Henrique is facing accusations of match-fixing after a controversial yellow card incident, with his legal team defending him by questioning the role of the referee and the focus on his actions. Despite an initial investigation clearing him of financial gain and concluding the card issuance was within the referee's discretion, the Brazilian Federal Police have indicted him.

Source: 19 April 2025, Footboom

Football

https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2509898-bruno-henrique-faces-serious-accusations-amid-match-fixing-investigation

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

India

Ex-India star was approached for match-fixing: BCCI bans former Mumbai T20 League franchise co-owner

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has banned former SoBo Supersonics co-owner Gurmeet Singh Bhamrah for making corrupt approaches to players Dhawal Kulkarni and Bhavin Thakkar during the 2019 Mumbai T20 League. The ban, length unspecified but potentially ranging from five years to life, stems from evidence that Bhamrah used an intermediary to offer money and benefits to Thakkar to fix matches.

Source: 21 April 2025, MSN

Cricket

Ex-India star was approached for match-fixing: BCCI bans former Mumbai T20 League franchise co-owner

Liberia

Liberia: LFA Suspends Wologizi Coach Benfelix, Four Referees Over Match-Fixing Allegations

The Liberia Football Association (LFA) has suspended Wologizi FC head coach Jasper Benfelix and four referees over allegations of match manipulation, following a controversial message suggesting Benfelix would help his former club, Nimba Kwado, avoid relegation. The suspensions are precautionary as investigations continue, with the LFA emphasizing its commitment to integrity and fairness in Liberian football.

Source: 18 April 2025, All Africa

Football

https://allafrica.com/stories/202504180299.html

Tunisia

Olympic swimming champ Ahmed Hafnaoui given 21-month ban

Tokyo Olympics gold medalist Ahmed Hafnaoui has been suspended for 21 months due to three whereabouts failures, resulting in the disqualification of his results since April 11, 2024, and ruling him out of competition until January 10, 2026.

Source: 18 April 2025, ESPN

Swimming

https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-d&channel=entpr&q=Olympic+swimming+champ+Ahmed+Hafnaoui+given+21-month+ban+-+ESPN

DOPING

India

Seven Athletes, Three Coaches Suspended in NADA's Anti-Doping Blitz

In a major anti-doping crackdown, Indian athletics coaches Karamveer Singh, Rakesh, and renowned trainer Nagpuri have been penalized, with Nagpuri accused of helping athletes evade testing. Seven athletes also face suspensions for allegedly avoiding doping tests, prompting the Athletics Federation of India to enforce stricter regulations and establish an anti-doping cell to uphold integrity in the sport.

Source: 20 April 2025, Pragativadi

 $\underline{ https://pragativa di.com/seven-athletes-three-coaches-suspended-in-nadas-anti-doping-blitz/}$

Italy

Handling of Jannik Sinner's doping case 'harms tennis', says Stan Wawrinka

Stan Wawrinka criticized the handling of Jannik Sinner's doping case, believing it has harmed the sport by raising concerns about unequal rule enforcement and the role of legal strategies in avoiding punishments. He expressed dissatisfaction over the inconsistency of suspensions in tennis, highlighting that some players face harsh penalties for minor offenses while others may escape serious consequences with skilled legal defense.

Source: 27 April 2025, Tennisuptodate

Tennis

 $\underline{\ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ } \ \underline{\ \ \ \ \ \ }$

Rwanda

Why match-fixing and doping must be fought with equal vigour

The feature article argues that Rwanda's Jean Baptiste Mugiraneza's one-year ban for his involvement in match-fixing has been criticized as too lenient, considering the serious threat match-fixing poses to the integrity of sports.

Source: 25 April 2025, Africa Press

https://www.africa-press.net/rwanda/all-news/why-match-fixing-and-doping-must-be-fought-with-equal-vigour

GOOD PRACTICES

Nigeria

Nigerian Football Federation Takes Tough Stance On Match-Fixing

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has introduced a strict directive imposing a 10-year ban and potential legal action on any referee found guilty of match-fixing, aiming to restore integrity in the nation's football leagues. This measure, supported by an independent monitoring committee and increased scrutiny, underscores the NFF's commitment to transparency and fairness in critical matches.

Source: 23 April 2025, Footboom

Football

https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2519877-nigerian-football-federation-takes-tough-stance-on-match-fixing

Norway

Norway launches 4-year plan to fight match-fixing in sports

Norway's gambling regulator, Lottstift, has launched a new four-year strategy (2025–2028) to combat match-fixing by defining clear responsibilities among stakeholders like law enforcement, sports bodies, and betting companies, while promoting data sharing, risk assessment, and public awareness.

Source: 18 April 2025, Yogonet

https://www.yogonet.com/international/news/2025/04/16/101769-norway-launches-4year-plan-to-fight-matchfixing-in-sports

INTEGRITY IN SPORT EVENTS

Saudi Arabia

WADA continues Intelligence & Investigations Capability and Capacity Building Project with second workshop in Asia and Oceania

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA), in collaboration with INTERPOL and the Sport Integrity Commission of New Zealand, held a five-day workshop in Riyadh as part of its expanded Intelligence & Investigations Capability and Capacity Building Project in Asia and Oceania, aimed at enhancing anti-doping efforts through training and cross-border collaboration. Hosted by the Saudi Arabian Anti-Doping Committee and Ministry of Sport, the workshop brought together 42 representatives from 13 countries to share investigative techniques and strengthen ties between National Anti-Doping Organizations and law enforcement agencies across the region.

Source: 17 April 2025, WADA

https://www.wada-ama.org/en/news/wada-continues-intelligence-investigations-capability-and-capacity-building-project-second

MATCH FIXING

Estonia

Six found guilty in football match-fixing ring

Six men were found guilty by a court in Estonia and Latvia for match-fixing involving football games, with the main organizers orchestrating a cartel for financial gain. The court imposed suspended sentences on the defendants, ranging from one to two and a half years, and emphasized the importance of protecting the integrity of sport and condemning sports-related betting fraud.

Source: 25 April 2025, ERR

Football

https://news.err.ee/1609673993/six-found-guilty-in-football-match-fixing-ring

India

IPL 2025: Rajasthan Royals face match fixing allegations after shocking loss vs LSG

In India, Rajasthan Royals (RR) are facing match-fixing allegations following their surprising loss to Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) in IPL 2025, where they needed just nine runs to win in the final over but lost by two runs. Jaideep Bihani, convener of the Rajasthan Cricket Association's ad hoc committee, has raised concerns about RR's past controversies, calling for an investigation by the BCCI and other agencies.

Source: 23 April 2025, MSN

https://www.msn.com/en-gb/sport/cricket/ipl-2025-rajasthan-royals-face-match-fixing-allegations-after-shocking-loss-vs-lsg/ar-AA1DmpZH

India

Match Fixing Threat To IPL 2025? BCCI Issues Huge Warning To Players And Teams

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has issued a warning to all IPL 2025 stakeholders about a Hyderabad-based businessman allegedly linked to bookies, who has been trying to influence players, coaches, and others through gifts and connections, raising concerns about potential match-fixing.

Source: 16 April 2025, NDTV Sports

Cricket

https://sports.ndtv.com/ipl-2025/match-fixing-threat-to-ipl-2025-bcci-issues-huge-warning-to-players-and-teams-8178603

CORRUPTION

Bangladesh

Anti-corruption officials conduct a raid at the Bangladesh Cricket Board's headquarters in Dhaka, as part of an ongoing investigation into match-fixing allegations in the Bangladesh Premier League

Anti-corruption officials raided the Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) headquarters following concerns over alleged match-fixing during the latest Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) season, with a formal investigation focusing on ten players and four teams. The inquiry, supported by an independent committee, is exploring suspicious match patterns, including no-balls and unusual squad selections.

Source: 17 April 2025, Yahoo! Sports

https://sports.yahoo.com/article/anti-corruption-officials-conduct-raid-165332511.html

