



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

13-26 May 2025



Photos International Olympic Committee

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SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

China

'Chinese chess king' Wang Tianyi sentenced to nearly 3 years in prison for match-fixing

Several top Chinese xiangqi players, including world number one Wang Tianyi, have been sentenced to prison for involvement in a major match-fixing scandal, with Wang receiving two years and nine months for bribery. Other key figures, such as Zhao Xinxin, Xu Chao, and Xie Jing, also received prison terms, while Hong Zhi, the whistleblower turned defendant, disputes the charges based on the nature of the tournaments involved.

Source: 13 May 2025, Vnexpress

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/sports/other-sports/chinese-chess-king-wang-tianyi-sentenced-to-nearly-3-years-in-prison-for-match-fixing-4885472.html>

China

Chinese government bans almost 50 sports stars and hands out 20-year prison sentences

Chinese football is undergoing a major anti-corruption overhaul as years of bribery, match-fixing, and scandals have culminated in harsh penalties, including a 20-year prison sentence for former national coach Li Tie and lifetime bans for dozens of players and officials. This sweeping crackdown against corruption, aims to restore integrity to the sport through reforms such as a national referee academy and stricter enforcement measures.

Source: 19 May 2025, AS

Football

<https://en.as.com/soccer/chinese-government-bans-almost-50-sports-stars-and-hands-out-20-year-prison-sentences-n/>

International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA)

Four tennis players sanctioned under Tennis Anti-Corruption Program

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has sanctioned four players for various breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, including match-fixing, betting, and failure to report corruption. Penalties range from short-term suspensions and fines for minor infractions to multi-year bans.

Source: 23 May 2025, ITIA

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/paul-valsecchi-enzo-rimoli-anze-arh-and-tom-jomby-sanctioned-under-tennis-anti-corruption-program/>

United Kingdom

King loses appeal against snooker match-fixing ban

Snooker player Mark King has lost his appeal against a five-year ban for match-fixing and providing inside information, imposed after suspicious betting on his 2023 Welsh Open match. The independent appeals committee upheld the original decision, ruling that the disciplinary committee's conclusions were reasonable, and King will be eligible to return to the sport in March 2028.

Source: 14 May 2025, BBC Sport

Snooker

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/snooker/articles/c39x0yrrnmgo>



BETTING

United Kingdom

Officials at Premier League clubs at risk of legal action over unlicensed casino sponsors

In the UK, two Premier League clubs continue to feature shirt sponsors—casinos BC.Game and DEBET—that operate without UK gambling licenses yet still accept UK customers, putting club officials at risk of prosecution. Despite warnings from the Gambling Commission and evidence from campaigners showing these unlicensed sites are easily accessible, neither club has taken steps to end the controversial sponsorships during their ongoing deals.

Source: 25 May 2025, SkyNews

Football

<https://news.sky.com/story/premier-league-clubs-at-risk-of-legal-action-over-unlicensed-casino-sponsors-13373376>

DOPING

South Africa

WADA revokes the accreditation of Bloemfontein Laboratory

On 14 May, WADA revoked the accreditation of the Bloemfontein anti-doping laboratory in South Africa due to persistent non-compliance with international standards, following previous suspensions and restrictions since September 2023. The lab remains ineligible to test samples, and if it wishes to regain accreditation, it must reapply as a new laboratory under WADA's guidelines.

Source: 16 May 2025, WADA

<https://www.wada-ama.org/en/news/wada-revokes-accreditation-bloemfontein-laboratory>

GOOD PRACTICES

Brazil

Sportradar Teams Up with Brazil's Sports Ministry to Tackle Match-Fixing

Sportradar has partnered with Brazil's Ministry of Sports through a Technical Cooperation Agreement to combat match-fixing by sharing betting market data and providing integrity training, reinforcing efforts to protect Brazilian sports despite a recent decline in incidents. Simultaneously, Sportradar is expanding globally with a \$225 million acquisition of IMG Arena, gaining access to major sports rights and streaming events, positioning itself as a leading sports content and integrity provider worldwide.

Source: 17 May 2025, Footboom

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/basketball/2566524-sportradar-teams-up-with-brazil-s-sports-ministry-to-tackle-match-fixing>

ODDS AND ENDS

Global

Anti-doping bodies condemn 'dangerous' drug-fueled Enhanced Games

The upcoming Enhanced Games will allow athletes to use banned performance-enhancing drugs, offering large cash prizes for winners and record-breakers, aiming to redefine human athletic potential but drawing strong condemnation from WADA and other anti-doping authorities over serious health risks.

Source: 22 May 2025, France24

<https://www.france24.com/en/live-news/20250522-anti-doping-bodies-condemn-dangerous-drug-fueled-enhanced-games>

Global

Calls to boycott the 2026 World Cup grow after Trump-FIFA scandal

The FIFA President's decision to skip his own congress to meet with Donald Trump in Qatar and Saudi Arabia has sparked outrage, leading to accusations of corruption, abuse of power, and calls from UEFA and human rights groups for accountability. Amid concerns over Trump's immigration policies and the growing influence of authoritarian regimes in global football, critics are seriously considering a boycott or relocation of the 2026 World Cup matches away from the U.S.

Source: 18 May 2025, Marca

<https://www.marca.com/en/football/2025/05/18/6829eda922601d485f8b4587.html>

Nigeria

Systemic failures in Nigerian sports administration: A case for urgent reform

Nigeria's Athletics Federation (AFN) has been plagued by repeated administrative failures, including mishandling visa applications that have prevented athletes from attending major international events, with recent disputes over delays blamed on both the AFN and the Chinese embassy. Despite these ongoing issues and public accusations, the AFN faces little accountability, allowing mismanagement and corruption to continue undermining Nigeria's sporting reputation.

Source: 14 May 2025, The Cable

Athletics

<https://www.thecable.ng/systemic-failures-in-nigerian-sports-administration-a-case-for-urgent-reform/>

Spain

Javier Tebas attacks Barça again for the 'Negreira case': "There is sports corruption"

In Spain, LaLiga president Javier Tebas accused FC Barcelona of "sports corruption" related to the 'Negreira case' but ruled out administrative relegation for the club, comparing it to Real Murcia's financial relegation in 2014. Tebas also criticized the Spanish Football Federation for lacking anti-corruption measures, defended LaLiga in transfer disputes, and condemned Florentino Pérez's leadership of the European Super League.

Source: 13 May 2025, FC Barcelona

Football

https://www.fcbarcelonanoticias.com/en/fc-barcelona/barca-in-the-spotlight-tebas-denounces-sports-corruption_312601_102.html

MATCH FIXING

Argentina

Match-Fixing Scandal Hits El Porvenir as AFA Files Formal Complaint

Argentina's football world is shaken as the AFA filed a formal complaint over suspected match-fixing involving fourth-division club El Porvenir, managed by a Brazilian investment group, leading to suspensions of four players and a ban on a linked agent.

Source: 17 May 2025, Daily Sports

Football

<https://dailysports.net/news/matchfixing-scandal-hits-el-porvenir-as-afa-files-formal-complaint/>

Brazil**Brazilian Authorities Raid Juventude Player's Home Over Match-Fixing Suspicions**

Brazilian football is facing a deepening match-fixing scandal, with Juventude forward Enio under investigation for allegedly manipulating yellow card bookings during the 2025 season, triggering a raid on his home and scrutiny from federal authorities. This case, part of a broader wave of corruption probes that have reached players like Bruno Henrique and even touched national star Lucas Paquetá's family, has prompted the Brazilian Congress to launch a special commission amid growing concern over betting-related manipulation in the sport.

Source: 20 May 2025, Footboom

Football

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2571721-brazilian-authorities-raid-juventude-player-s-home-over-match-fixing-suspicious>

Rwanda**Rwanda Football Federation Bans Three Referees Over Match-Fixing Scandal**

The Rwanda Football Federation (FERWAF) has issued life bans to three referees—Amida Hemedi, Ally Uwimana, and Djihadi Mbarute—following an investigation that uncovered their involvement in match-fixing within the Rwanda Premier League. This decisive action highlights FERWAF's commitment to eradicating corruption and preserving fairness and integrity in Rwandan football.

Source: 14 May 2025, Footboom

Football

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2560733-rwanda-football-federation-bans-three-referees-over-match-fixing-scandal>

CORRUPTION**Sri Lanka****Ex-Sri Lanka Cricketer Ramith Rambukwella Arrested In Corruption Case**

Former Sri Lankan cricketer Ramith Rambukwella has been arrested on bribery charges by the country's anti-corruption commission, with the case linked to his father, former health minister Keheliya Rambukwella, who is also in custody for separate corruption allegations. Ramith, who has a history of disciplinary issues and last played for Sri Lanka in 2016, will remain in custody until June 3, as broader investigations into political and sports-related corruption continue in the country.

Source: 21 May 2025, NDTV Sports

<https://sports.ndtv.com/cricket/former-sri-lankan-cricketer-ramith-rambukwella-arrested-in-corruption-case-8472380>

