



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

24 June 2025 - 15 July 2025



Photos International Olympic Committee

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 with INTERPOL without INTERPOL's prior written consent.

INVESTIGATIONS

Australia

Match called off as police probe alleged approaches to players

In Australia, police are investigating allegations that players from former A-League club Gold Coast United were approached by representatives of a Chinese company to manipulate betting outcomes, leading to the abrupt cancellation of a National Premier Leagues Queensland match. Football Australia and Sport Integrity Australia have reported the matter to authorities, with players reportedly rejecting the advances, while the investigation continues amid a broader crackdown on match-fixing in Australian football.

Source: 26 June 2025, *The Age*

Football

<https://www.theage.com.au/sport/soccer/match-called-off-as-police-probe-alleged-approaches-to-players-20250626-p5maj5.html>

United States

The Scourge of 'Spot-Fixing' Is Coming for American Sports

In the U.S., Cleveland Guardians pitcher Luis Ortiz is under investigation by Major League Baseball for suspicious betting activity linked to seemingly minor pitch outcomes, raising alarms about "spot-fixing" — a subtle form of match manipulation involving small, discrete events rather than entire game results. This case highlights a growing concern in American sports, as spot-fixing, which has long plagued global sports.

Source: 9 July 2025, *MSN*

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/mlb/the-scourge-of-spot-fixing-is-coming-for-american-sports/ar-AA1lboxB>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Costa Rica

Two Mexican Officials Suspended for Match-Fixing in Costa Rica

The Costa Rican Football Federation suspended two Mexican officials from Asociación Deportiva Municipal Turrialba after an investigation revealed they attempted to bribe players to deliberately lose a match, but the players resisted, underscoring the federation's commitment to combatting corruption and preserving fair play.

Source: 9 July 2025, *Footboom*

Football

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2651549-two-mexican-officials-suspended-for-match-fixing-in-costa-rica>

ITIA

Two tennis players suspended for failure to co-operate with investigation, CAS dismisses Ferrero appeal

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has sanctioned three tennis players—Uzbekistan's Rakhimbek Ibrakhimov, Croatia's Lauro Milanovic, and Argentina's Melina Ferrero—for breaching the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program, resulting in suspensions ranging from 21 months to eight years and fines up to \$15,000. The violations include failure to cooperate with investigations, betting on matches, and multiple historical corruption offenses, with all three players barred from participating in any ITIA-sanctioned events during their suspension periods.

Source: 14 July 2025, *The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA)*

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/rakhimbek-ibrakhimov-and-lauro-milanovic-suspended-for-failure-to-co-operate-with-investigation-cas-dismisses-melina-ferrero-appeal/>

Nigeria

NFF Nullifies Nlo Sanctions, Demands Deeper Probe Into Match-Fixing Claims

The Nigeria Football Federation Disciplinary Committee overturned several Nationwide League One sanctions due to insufficient evidence and procedural errors, notably setting aside Campos FC's two-year suspension and fine over match-fixing allegations pending further investigation. The committee also reinstated match results for Franceex United FC and partially reversed penalties against Cynosure FC and Positive Football Academy.

Source: 10 July 2025, *MSN*

<https://www.msn.com/en-xl/africa/top-stories/nff-nullifies-nlo-sanctions-demands-deeper-probe-into-match-fixing-claims/ar-AA1lA3J?ocid=BingNewsSerp>

BETTING

New Zealand

How fallen A-League star admitted his role in shameful betting scandal - 'earn a little bit of coin'

In New Zealand, former A-League players Clayton Lewis and Kearyn Baccus pleaded guilty to deliberately earning yellow cards to manipulate betting outcomes during matches in 2023 and 2024, receiving \$10,000 each for their involvement in a scheme that generated over \$200,000 in suspicious bets.

Source: 12 July 2025, *Daily Mail*

Football

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/football/article-14898929/How-soccer-star-Clayton-Lewis-admitted-role-betting-scandal-Macarthur-Bulls.html>

Philippines

Korean nabbed in Manila for illegal online gambling

Korean national Lee Yong Jae, wanted for operating illegal online gambling platforms targeting Korean and Filipino users, was arrested in Malate, Manila by the Bureau of Immigration's Fugitive Search Unit in coordination with Korean authorities. Lee, considered a high-value fugitive and public safety threat, is also facing drug-related charges in the Philippines and has been linked to illicit operations generating over 215 billion (PHP9 billion).

Source: 12 July 2025, Philippine News Agency

<https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1254166>

DOPING

Russia

Imam Khataev fails drug test for clomiphene, David Morrell fight status unknown

Russian professional boxer Imam Khataev was sanctioned with a two-year ban and disqualification of results from April 2024 after testing positive for the banned substance Clomifene, effective from June 2025 to June 2027.

Source: 9 July 2025, Bad Left Hook

Boxing

<https://www.badlefthook.com/2025/7/9/24464438/imam-khataev-fails-drug-test-clomiphene-david-morrell-fight-status-unknown-boxing-news-2025>

Spain

Yeray Álvarez Cleared of Doping Charges After Cancer Treatment

Spanish footballer Yeray Álvarez has been officially cleared of doping allegations after investigations confirmed that his positive test was due to medication from his cancer treatment, ending doubts about his football career. The verdict has been widely supported within the football community, highlighting the importance of empathy and fairness in considering athletes' health conditions alongside doping regulations.

Source: 11 July 2025, Footboom

Football

<https://www.footboom1.com/en/news/football/2655019-yeray-alvarez-cleared-of-doping-charges-after-cancer-treatment>

GOOD PRACTICES

Ukraine

Basketball Federation and National Platform unite against match-fixing

The Basketball Federation of Ukraine and the National Platform for Sports Integrity have agreed to collaborate on combating match-fixing through educational campaigns and integrating anti-corruption topics into training programs, especially targeting youth teams. Supported by the Favbet Foundation, this initiative aims to promote fairness, legal responsibility, and ethical standards in Ukrainian basketball amid broader efforts to build a transparent and morally stable sports environment.

Source: 7 July 2025, UNN

Basketball

<https://unn.ua/en/news/basketball-federation-and-national-platform-unite-against-match-fixing>



ODDS AND ENDS

Global

Open call 2025 for journalistic articles and investigations on sports integrity and governance

Play the Game is inviting journalists and writers to submit pitches for investigative articles on sports integrity and governance, offering funding of around 10,000 euros to support original, high-quality content that sheds light on issues like corruption, doping, and athletes' rights for a global audience.

Source: 10 July 2025, Play the Game

<https://www.playthegame.org/news/open-call-2025-for-journalistic-articles-and-investigations-on-sports-integrity-and-governance/#:~:text=Play%20the%20Game%20invites%20journalists%2C%20writers%2C%20and%20investigative,deadline%20for%20submissions%20is%20Thursday%204%20September%202025.>

CORRUPTION

Pakistan

Pakistan cricket in turmoil! Audit exposes crores in corruption and overpayments

The auditor general of Pakistan has uncovered significant financial irregularities in the Pakistan Cricket Board during 2023, including unauthorized appointments, excess payments, and misappropriations totaling millions of rupees, raising concerns about corruption and potential match fixing.

Source: 14 July 2025, The Times of India

Cricket

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/cricket/news/pakistan-cricket-in-turmoil-audit-exposes-crores-in-corruption-and-overpayments/articleshow/122435385.cms>

United States**Court orders reinstatement of convictions of ex-Fox executive, marketing firm in FIFA bribery case**

A U.S. appeals court reinstated the convictions of former Fox executive Hernan Lopez and Argentine firm Full Play for wire fraud and money laundering in the FIFA corruption scandal, overturning a previous acquittal and sending the case back for further proceedings.

Source: 2 July 2025, AP News

<https://apnews.com/article/fifa-investigation-lopez-full-play-c0336b01b985f5296ef8d66b5defd259>

