



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

27 October 2020 - 9 November 2020



Photos International Olympic Committee

INVESTIGATIONS

India

Goa Football Association wants its ethics panel to investigate match fixing

Panaji: The Goa Football Association (GFA) has sought permission from the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to allow its ethics committee to investigate alleged match-fixing in the Goa Professional League.

Read more at:

http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/articleshow/78920441.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=text&utm_campaign=cppst

Source: 29 October 2020, Times of India

Football

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/goa/goa-football-association-wants-its-ethics-panel-to-investigate-match-fixing/articleshow/78920441.cms>



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Australia

Uber driver pleads guilty to betting on fixed tennis matches

An Uber driver has pleaded guilty to wagering on allegedly fixed international tennis matches, reaping \$18,600 for his part in a scheme suspected of corrupting two tournaments in Brazil and Egypt in 2018.

Rajesh Kumar was fined \$2500 and received a two-year good behaviour undertaking with no conviction in Melbourne Magistrates Court on Tuesday for three counts of "recklessly" using corrupt information for betting purposes.

The 32-year-old is the second person to plead guilty over their involvement in placing bets on matches that were allegedly corrupted by a syndicate operating out of India.

Kumar and an associate, Harsimrat Singh, were arrested in Melbourne in 2018 by Victoria Police's Sporting Integrity Intelligence Unit as part of an investigation that also involves the sport's anti-corruption body, the UK-based Tennis Integrity Unit (TIU).

In early October, Singh received a similar sentence for placing wagers worth \$1199.

Magistrate Hayley Bate said it was clear both men had received information that they used to place bets for profit.

"While I accept neither are to be sentenced as having actual knowledge or having any direct link to the actual corruption of the matches, the offending is still extremely serious," she said.

The court has heard the alleged ringleader of the syndicate is India-based cricket and tennis promoter Ravinder Dandiwal, who is Singh's cousin. He was arrested by Indian police in July this year over separate sports corruption allegations.

Documents released by Melbourne Magistrates Court allege Mr Dandiwal influenced matches involving Sweden's Christian Lindell; Brazilians Thales Turini, Carlos Severino, Caio Silva and Augusto Laranja; Egyptian Issam Taweel; and France's Maxence Broville.

The documents refer to interviews with the TIU, in which Lindell, Severino and Turini deny they have been involved in or aware of match fixing. The documents do not refer to interviews with the other players.

The Age does not suggest any of the players did anything inappropriate or illegal, either individually or collectively; only that they are named by police as participating in matches under investigation.

Barrister David Mence said his client was a man of "limited means" who had been driving an Uber to make ends meet at the time of the offending in 2018, after he was injured and could no longer work in the logistics industry.

In the hierarchy of offenders involved in the scheme, Kumar was "only peripheral" and he had "outstanding prospects for rehabilitation", he said.

"Despite there being more going on in the background that the Tennis Integrity Unit has been looking into, that doesn't fall at the feet of my client," he said.

"To a certain extent this has all come as a great surprise to him. The way in which this offence works is that you can be guilty purely on the basis of recklessness and I think that Mr Kumar was, to a certain extent, quite bewildered when he was first arrested because there wasn't really a basis for him to know that what he was doing was betting on the basis of actual corruption."

But Ms Bate said Kumar had opened a gambling account, had direct contact with the architect of the scheme, and used information he provided to place bets.

"I have also heard context evidence in relation to six separate attempts, which had they been successful would have earned him in excess of a quarter of a million dollars," she said.

Court documents show Kumar had attempted to place a \$25,000 bet on a doubles game, with Laranja and Lindell to win the first set but Silva and Turini to win the match. The potential pay-off was \$168,000. But online gaming service Crownbet rejected the wager, allowing Kumar to bet only \$14.80 for winnings of \$100.

In another instance, Kumar bet \$2000 for Turini to win the first set, then Severino to win the match, and the pay-off was \$15,500.

"It's not done on an occasion, it's done on multiple occasions. It's not something on the face of it that should be bewildering to a person out laying \$2000 on a bet when they are of limited means," prosecutor Bruce Nibbs said.

Source: 27 October 2020, *The Age*
Tennis

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/uber-driver-pleads-guilty-to-betting-on-fixed-tennis-matches-20201027-p56949.html>

Bulgaria

Bulgarian brothers banned by Tennis Integrity Unit for betting and match-fixing

Karen Khachatryan, ranked 2,514th in the International Tennis Futures (ITF) world rankings, was found guilty of five cases of match fixing, nine cases of soliciting other players not to use best efforts and a repeated failure to cooperate with the TIU's investigation.

As a result, he is banned from participating in any events recognised by tennis's governing bodies and must pay a \$250,000 fine. He had already been provisionally suspended since the investigation was launched in June 2019.

His younger brother Yuri, 3,126th in the ITF rankings, was found to have made "corrupt approaches" to another player, delaying in complying with the TIU's investigation, providing devices with which he had tampered to the TIU, bet on tennis and facilitated other people's gambling on tennis.

Yuri Khachatryan will receive a 10-year ban and a \$50,000 fine.

Both players' offenses were in violation of Section D of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Programme, which – among other things – forbids "solicit[ing] or facilitat[ing] any other person to wager" on tennis, "attempt[ing] to contrive the outcome" of a tennis match, soliciting a player to not use their best effort or offering a player money or benefits to not use their best efforts.

The players were also in violation of Section F of the programme, which says that players must cooperate with TIU investigations.

The TIU is set to rebrand as the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) on 1 January 2021. The ITIA will take charge of betting integrity enforcement in tennis in 2021 and add doping under its jurisdiction in 2022.

Last month, the TIU appointed Ben Rutherford, who is currently legal counsel and integrity unit manager at World Rugby, as its new senior legal director.

Source: 5 November 2020, *IGB*

Tennis

<https://igamingbusiness.com/bulgarian-brothers-banned-by-tennis-integrity-unit-for-betting-and-match-fixing/>



Darts Regulation Authority

Wessel Nijman handed five-year suspension from darts for match-fixing

Wessel Nijman has been suspended from darts for a period of five years after being found guilty of match fixing in the Modus Icons of Darts series.

The International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) reported suspicious betting on a match to be played between Wessel Nijman and David Evans in the Icons of Darts series on May 14, 2020.

The Modus Live League was a series of live-streamed events sanctioned by the Darts Regulation Authority, which spanned from April to August, in which players competed remotely.

Evans went on to win the match in question 4-0, prompting an investigation by the DRA and various gambling bodies.

Following the investigation and hearing, the DRA has ruled that PDPA associate member Nijman has been suspended from the sport for a period of five years.

Two-and-a-half years of the ban will be suspended on the condition that Nijman continues to engage in player education and anti-corruption measures.

Nijman had admitted the charge and has fully cooperated with the DRA and PDPA, and his enthusiasm to engage in player education and anti-corruption measures has been reflected in the ruling.

The suspension is backdated to August 18, 2020 until midnight on 17 August 2025.

Provided the 20-year-old complies with the conditions of his initial suspension, he will be free to play again from February 18, 2023 onwards.

He was also ordered to pay £2,455 towards the costs of the hearing.

Nijman issued the following statement in response to the DRA Disciplinary Committee decision:

"I would like to start by reiterating my sincere regret and apology for the mistakes I have made. I fully accept the outcome of my hearing.

"While it is clear that I was put under external pressure, ultimately I agreed to do this and take full responsibility for my actions.

"I know that I should have immediately reported this contact to the DRA anti-corruption department or sought guidance from the PDPA, my management or the police.

"I hope any other player who finds themselves in a similar position will learn from my mistakes and follow the correct procedure to help protect their own integrity and the integrity of darts as a sport.

"Unfortunately, I did not do that and made a stupid mistake that I am rightly being punished for.

"I will miss playing competitive darts but will work hard to help the DRA and PDPA with education and anti-corruption initiatives after learning a lot from this experience.

"I want to take this opportunity to again place on record my deepest apologies to everyone affected by my actions. This includes my family, who have supported me throughout my life and career, my management and sponsors, the PDC, PDPA and everybody involved in darts, including fans.

"I now want to focus on finding a way to make amends and will do everything I can to ensure that my experience is used to deter others from making similar mistakes in the future.

"I have said everything I want to say on the matter and will not be making any further comments."

Meanwhile, Kyle McKinstry has been found guilty of two separate instances of match-fixing in the same series, the first of which coming against David Evans on April 30, which Evans won 5-0, while the second occurred on May 2 against Nijman.

The Northern Irishman had failed to cooperate with the DRA enquiry by not producing his phone itemised billing and had his management contract terminated by MDA Promotions.

McKinstry remains suspended until the case is concluded, and the Disciplinary Committee will reconvene at a later date to decide on a sanction

Source: 28 October 2020, Live DARTS

Darts

<https://www.live-darts.com/icons-of-darts-live-league/wessel-nijman-suspended-for-match-fixing/>

Darts Regulatory Authority

DRA STATEMENT ON NIJMAN

On 14th May 2020 the International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) reported suspicious betting on a Darts match to be played later that day between Wessel Nijman and David Evans in the Modus Icons of Darts at home series. This was an amateur series regulated by the DRA, unconnected with the PDC. The match was played and Nijman lost 4-0. The DRA launched an investigation working closely with Sportradar, the SBIU at the UK Gambling Commission, Malta Gaming Authority and betting operators.

On 14th October 2020 Nijman's case was heard by the DRA Disciplinary Committee where he admitted fixing his match with David Evans. Today the Committee has released its finding.

The Committee decided that an appropriate sanction in this case was to suspend Wessel Nijman from the sport for a period of five years from 18 August 2020 (the date of his original suspension) until midnight on 17 August 2025. Two and a half years of the ban will itself be suspended on the condition that Nijman engages in such player education and anti-corruption measures as agreed with the DRA.

Provided Nijman complies with the conditions above, he will be free to play again from 18th February 2023 onwards.

He was ordered to pay £2,455.74 towards the DRA's costs.

The sanction reflects Nijman's early and full admission of guilt and his willingness to support the DRA in its anti-corruption work.

The full finding can be found here.

DRA Betting Rules extract:

2. Betting misconduct

2.1. It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Participant to do any of the following:

2.1.2. Corruption:

(i) to fix or contrive, or to be a party to any effort to fix or contrive, the result, score, progress, conduct or any other aspect of the Darts Event;

Misuse of inside information: to use for betting purposes, or to provide to any other person for such purposes, any information relating to the Darts Event that the Participant possesses by virtue of their position within the sport that is not in the public domain or readily accessible by the public.

INTERPOL
INTEGRITY IN SPORT

The full DRA Rules can be viewed at here

Source: 27 October 2020, DRA

Darts

<http://www.thedra.co.uk/dra-update-on-nijman>

Darts Regulatory Authority

DRA UPDATE ON MCKINSTRY

On 1st May 2020 the DRA were informed by the International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) of suspicious betting on a Darts match that had been played on 30th April 2020 between Kyle McKinstry and David Evans in the Modus A Night at the Darts series. This was an event regulated by the DRA, unconnected with the PDC. McKinstry lost the match 5-0. On 2nd May 2020 the IBIA reported further suspicious betting activity on McKinstry's match with Wessel Nijman that was played on 2nd May 2020. The DRA launched an investigation working closely with Sportradar Integrity Services, the Gambling Commission Sports Betting Intelligence Unit, Malta Gaming Authority, Gibraltar Gambling Regulator and betting operators.

On 17th October 2020 at a hearing of the DRA Disciplinary Committee McKinstry admitted fixing his match with David Evans but denied fixing an aspect of his match with Wessel Nijman on 2nd May 2020 and of failing to cooperate with the DRA by not producing his itemised phone billing as required. Today the Committee has released its finding and found all three of the charges against McKinstry proven.

The Disciplinary Committee will reconvene at a later date to decide on sanction. McKinstry remains suspended until the case is concluded.

The DRA Rules extract:

4.5 Each Player or Registered Agent shall co-operate with the DRA in any investigation carried out by or on behalf of the DRA under the provisions of these Rules including (but not limited to):

4.5.5 Providing the DRA with access to all records relating to the alleged breach. This includes, but is not limited to; betting accounts, bank records, telephone records, internet service records, social media accounts, email and other records stored on phones, tablets, electronic devices, computer hard drives or otherwise. To facilitate this, the Player or Registered Agent will surrender any such devices for examination by the DRA or its representative.

DRA Betting Rules extract:

2. Betting misconduct

2.1. It shall be a breach of these Rules for a Participant to do any of the following:

2.1.2. Corruption:

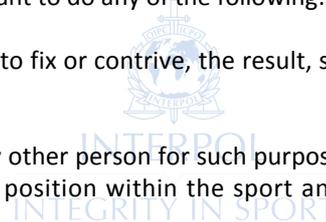
(i) to fix or contrive, or to be a party to any effort to fix or contrive, the result, score, progress, conduct or any other aspect of the Darts Event;

2.1.3. Misuse of inside information:

(i) to use for betting purposes, or to provide to any other person for such purposes, any information relating to the Darts Event that the Participant possesses by virtue of their position within the sport and that is not in the public domain or readily accessible by the public;

Source: 27 October 2020, DRA

Darts



ESIC (Esports Integrity Commission); ESEA**CS: GO Pro Players Banned for Illegal Betting**

The recent controversy in professional Esports has seen seven CS: GO pro players banned for allegedly partaking in illegal betting.

Stephen "sjanastasi" Anastasi (LAKERS) [now playing as "stvn"]
Akram "akram" Smida (Rooster) [now playing as "ADK"]
Daryl "Mayker" May (Ground Zero)
Corey "netik" Browne (Rooster) [sometimes spelled "nettik"]
Damian "JD/The Real Goat" Simonovic (Rooster 2)
Carlos "Rackem" Jefferys (Rooster 2)
Joshua "jhd" Hough-devine (Rooster 2)

The players listed above have been accused of betting on several matches during the MDL Australia (Mountain Dew League) as well as other CS: GO matches.

A joint investigation was held by the ESIC (Esports Integrity Commission) and the ESEA. They found multiple instances of these players betting on themselves during professional matches. The investigation found that not only were the players making bets on themselves but that their associates were also making identical bets, compounding the issue further

POLICE HAVE BEEN CONTACTED

As of right now, all players mentioned have been hit with a 12-month ban across all ESIC associated leagues. Even with the ban in place, the ESIC is continuing their investigation stating "ESIC notes that the outcomes, in this case, do not exclude the possibility of additional outcomes relating to the Offending Parties".

Furthermore, there could be serious lawful ramifications to their actions. Betting within a sport you are a part of can come with some very real consequences. Because of this, the "ESIC has referred this matter to law enforcement."

The joint statement from the ESIC and ESEA ends with a reminder to other players of the consequences of player betting (and their associates) within professional sports.

With seven CS: GO pro players banned, a few new slots opening up in the MDL. Maybe now is the time to scratch up on your CS: GO skills and aim for the pro leagues! Check out our beginners' guide to get a head start on the competition.

Source: 29 October 2020, Keen Gamer
eSports

<https://www.keengamer.com/articles/news/csgo-pro-players-banned-for-illegal-betting/>



Ukraine

FIFPro Criticizes FFA's Life Bans Issued to Ukrainian Players

The International Federation of Professional Footballers (FIFPro) said that the Football Federation of Armenia (FFA) has sanctioned a number of Ukrainian players without due process.

FFA Kept Players in The Dark

The FFA Disciplinary and Ethics Committee issued the lifetime bans, which are solely based on reports from unnamed sports data suppliers.

FIFPro criticized the lack of transparency of the FFA, claiming that the players were not made aware of any procedure. The organization laments the absence of a deeper investigation.

Players Left to Pay Multiple Fees

The Ukrainian players are facing lifetime bans from professional sports. In order to appeal the decision to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), they have to pay an advance fee of \$21,860 (CHF20,000), which has increased due to the FFA refusing to pay its share of costs. The players also paid a fee to the FFA to receive the decisions and the reports supporting the bans.

FIFPro said that "disciplinary proceedings, as well as any appeal, should be free of costs", as the current system prevents players from accessing justice.

FIFA Approves FIFPro's Match-Fixing Report App

FIFPro launched last September its new mobile app, which allows anyone to report match-fixing in football anonymously. FIFA approved the app as a valid reporting tool for potential corruption. The governing entity and its integrity department will now investigate corruption via the data collected by the app.

Source: 1 November 2020, Gambling news

Football

<https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/fifpro-criticizes-ffas-life-bans-issued-to-ukrainian-players/>

BETTING

Global

IBIA reports 76 cases of suspicious betting in Q3 2020

The International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) reported 76 cases of suspicious betting to the relevant authorities during the third quarter (Q3) of 2020. The total is 31% higher than the 58 alerts in Q2 2020 and 52% higher than the 50 alerts in Q3 2019. The Q3 2020 alerts covered seven sports: 25 cases in football, 25 tennis, 14 eSports, 7 table tennis, 2 basketball, 2 bowls and 1 in cricket. A total of 195 alerts have been reported during Q1-3 2020.

Khalid Ali, CEO of IBIA, said: "As anticipated, there has been an increase in suspicious betting alerts with the return of many sports during the quarter. IBIA's figures also reflect a growing membership - we have announced four new members so far this year and further announcements are imminent - which in turn increases the association's global betting market monitoring coverage. IBIA will continue to work closely with key stakeholders on betting integrity issues and also in related areas such sports data collation and customer dispute resolution."

Other key data for Q3 2020:

- 66 – percentage of alerts in Q3 on football and tennis
- 34 – number of alerts on sporting events taking place in Europe (15 Asia, 12 North America, 1 South America and 14 with no specific country of origin; the latter relates to eSports)
- 23 – number of countries the Q3 alerts covered

The International Betting Integrity Association is the leading global voice on integrity for the licensed betting industry. It is run by operators for operators, protecting its members from corruption through collective action. Its monitoring and alert platform is a highly effective anti-corruption tool that detects and reports suspicious activity on its members' betting markets. The association has longstanding information sharing partnerships with leading sports and gambling regulators to utilise its data and prosecute corruption. It represents the sector at high-level policy discussion forums such as the IOC, UN, Council of Europe and European Commission.

IBIA publishes quarterly reports covering the integrity alerts reported through its monitoring and alert platform which can be viewed here. IBIA's activities on data collation can be viewed here, and on customer dispute resolution here. The association can be contacted via info@ibia.bet.

Source: 4 November 2020, IBIA

All Sports

<https://ibia.bet/integrity-reports/q3-2020-integrity-report/>

India

Three arrested in Mumbai for betting on IPL matches

A raid was conducted on a flat in Mulund on Thursday

Three persons who were involved in betting on the ongoing Indian Premier League matches were arrested from suburban Mulund, the police said on Friday.

A raid was conducted on a flat in Mulund on Thursday following a tip-off received by the Crime Intelligence Unit (CIU), said a crime branch official.

Three men inside the flat were found involved in illegal betting on a match between CSK and KKR, he said, adding that 41 mobile phones, several SIM cards, a smartphone tablet, two laptops, SIM cards line boxes and 1.88 lakh in cash were seized.

A court remanded them in the crime branch's custody till November 3.

A case was registered at Mulund Police Station under various sections of the IPC, Maharashtra Prevention of Gambling Act as well as Information Technology Act, he said, adding probe is on.

Source: 31 October 2020, The Hindu

Cricket

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/three-arrested-in-mumbai-for-betting-on-ipl-matches/article32988431.ece>

Malaysia

Cops bust online gambling syndicate operating from gated, guarded housing area

IPOH (Bernama): The police have exposed an online gambling syndicate that was in operation for eight months from a terrace house at a gated and guarded community in Sunway City, Tambun here.

Acting on residents' information, the Ipoh police headquarters anti-vice, gambling and secret societies division (D7) team raided the location around 9.30pm on Oct 23.

District police chief ACP A. Asmadi Abdul Aziz said the police detained seven Indonesians, including two women, aged from 21 to 38, for conducting gambling activities.

"The police also seized three laptops, 20 mobile phones of various brands, an Internet modem, a log book and seven Indonesian passports," he said at a press conference on Wednesday (Oct 28).

He said the syndicate's modus operandi was to promote gambling online through apps such as WeChat, MiChat, Facebook and short messaging system that targeted locals and could rake in between RM5,000 and RM15,000 a day.

"The house was rented by the syndicate last February with the help of a local known as Chow, while the operator was offered a salary of between RM2,000 and RM5,000, depending on profits," he said.

According to ACP Asmadi, initial investigations found that all detainees entered the country using social passes from Pontianak, Indonesia by flying into Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

He said all those detained were remanded for 14 days beginning last Sunday and the case would be investigated under Section 4(1)(C) of the Common Gaming Houses Act 1952 and Section 15(1)(C) of the Immigration Act 1959/63. – Bernama

Source: 28 October 2020, The Star

All Sports

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/10/28/cops-bust-online-gambling-syndicate-operating-from-gated-guarded-housing-area>

GOOD PRACTICES

International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA)

IBIA publishes data standards & opens application process

The International Betting Integrity Association (IBIA) has published a set of standards governing the procedure for the collation of sporting event data for betting and opened a process for all parties engaged in data collation to demonstrate that they meet those standards. The auditing procedure will be conducted by industry specialist eCOGRA and those parties that pass that independent audit will have access to a Data Standards Kitemark.

The move follows an announcement by the association in May in which it stated that a set of standards would be the most effective means of protecting the integrity of sport, its data, betting markets generated by that data and consumers enjoying those products. IBIA, which represents many of the leading regulated sports betting operators in the world, has been concerned about the adverse impact of the manipulation of data and the related corruption of betting markets.

Khalid Ali, CEO of IBIA, said: "When we started this process I stated that upholding the reliability and credibility of sporting event data was of paramount importance for IBIA members and that the challenges posed by the pandemic had further highlighted the necessity for robust data chains. IBIA has sought to meet that integrity challenge and has put in place a set of data standards that reflects the minimum expectations of the association and its members.

"The association believes that data collation is an important part of the wider sports betting integrity debate and this standards and auditing process, to be conducted by leading independent and internationally approved testing agency eCOGRA, represents the next step in the association's work in this area. We call upon all of those parties engaged in the data collation process to demonstrate that they meet these standards and of their commitment to protecting the integrity of the global data supply chain."

Shaun McCallaghan, CEO of eCOGRA said: "We are delighted to have been chosen as IBIA's data standards auditing partner. Our professional auditing experts have worked with companies operating in both the betting and data sectors, and eCOGRA will seek to utilise that industry knowledge to best effect in the data standards assessment process. We will also be assisting IBIA in an annual stress test and enhancement of those standards."

The International Betting Integrity Association is the leading global voice on integrity for the licensed betting industry. It is run by operators for operators, protecting its members from corruption through collective action. Its monitoring and alert platform is a highly effective anti-corruption tool that detects and reports suspicious activity on its members' betting markets. The association has longstanding information sharing partnerships with leading sports and gambling regulators to utilise its data and prosecute corruption. It represents the sector at high-level policy discussion forums such as the IOC, UN, Council of Europe and European Commission.

The Data Standards document is available here and the initial press release here. An auditing process and timeline has been agreed with eCOGRA and is available to applicants via IBIA. IBIA publishes quarterly reports covering the integrity alerts reported through its monitoring and alert platform which can be viewed here. The association can be contacted via info@ibia.bet.

Source: 27 October 2020, IBIA

All Sports

<https://ibia.bet/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Data-standards-guidance-principles-FINAL-published-October-2020.pdf>

POLICY

Malta

Upping the game: new sports authority promises to fight corruption, doping

Corruption in sports is increasingly coming on the radar of law enforcement agencies in their fight against money laundering and financial crime.

A Europol report last summer identified football as a money laundering paradise for organised crime networks.

The EU agency warned that in its more sophisticated form, criminals took possession of clubs through generous sponsorships and eventual ownership.

It warned that practitioners involved in sports often addressed the issue only from a sports integrity perspective because they lacked awareness on the involvement of organised crime.

Within this context, Malta is set to up its game next year and the budget presented last Monday has committed €500,000 for the creation of a new Sports Integrity Authority.

Sports parliamentary secretary Clifton Grima told MaltaToday the authority will provide a national platform on match-fixing to strengthen the fight against corruption.

“The authority will not replace the work of the police but it will provide an important platform that brings stakeholders together to share information, raise awareness and engage in educational campaigns,” he said.

But the authority’s remit will be wider. It will be tasked with regulating sports organisations, which will help foster good governance, and also act as the country’s anti-doping agency.

Europol warned that organised crime groups often target lowly clubs, where the lure of easy money makes it easier to recruit willing participants.

Grima said proper regulation will enhance good governance and more importantly improve the standards of sporting entities.

A Bill setting up the authority is in draft stage and Grima expects to take it before parliament by the end of the year or the beginning of 2021.

The new authority will draw a distinction between the regulatory and operational aspects of sports, according to the Bill’s author, Chris Bonett.

A former vice president of the Malta Football Association, who also worked as integrity officer at UEFA, the European footballing authority, Bonett chairs the Sports Integrity Advisory Board set up last year by the secretariat.

“The new authority will effectively create a demarcation line between the regulatory and governance aspects of Maltese sport, which will now fall within the remit of the new body, and the provision of monetary assistance to national federations, sports services to the community and the operation of government sports facilities, which will remain in the remit of Sport Malta,” he said.

The authority will be responsible for the country’s anti-doping efforts, providing more in-competition and out-of-competition tests. This will bring Malta in line with the new World Anti-Doping Code that comes into force in January. Without this authority, Malta will fall foul of the new anti-drug rules.

It will also encompass a sports integrity unit to coordinate the fight against match-fixing through information sharing between domestic entities and foreign agencies.

The third function of the authority is to regulate sports organisations. Bonett said this was important at a time when increased commercialisation has pumped more money into sport. The need for structured and transparent organisations run on good governance principles has grown, he added.

The proposal draws on the experience of other countries by centralising efforts to ensure proper regulation and protect the integrity of sports competitions into one structure.

“This is similar to what happened in Finland and Australia where centralised authorities unify all the pillars of sports integrity and are given all the resources and support to carry out this vital mission,” Bonett said.

He hopes that the authority will be the first step that takes the country to the next level in sports. "It will enable us to start thinking big, including the possibility of having a ministry dedicated entirely to sport," he said.

Source: 28 October 2020, Malta today

All Sports

https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/sports/football/105517/upping_the_game_new_sports_authority_promises_to_fight_corruption_doping#.X5k50YhKi70

CORRUPTION

Fifa

Nasser cleared, suspended sentence for Valcke

BELLINZONA (Switzerland) • Paris Saint-Germain president Nasser Al-Khelaifi was yesterday acquitted by a Swiss court of corruption over the allocation of World Cup TV rights, while former Fifa secretary general Jerome Valcke was handed a suspended sentence for a secondary charge.

The two men were accused of a "corrupt agreement" after Valcke allegedly sought the help of Al-Khelaifi, the chairman of beIN Sports, to buy a luxury villa in Italy.

It came at a time when the Qatari-owned broadcaster was negotiating the extension of its media rights in North Africa and the Middle East for the 2026 and 2030 World Cups.

Swiss prosecutors said Al-Khelaifi acquired the house for €5 million (\$7.9 million), via a company that was transferred almost immediately to the brother of one of his close collaborators, before it was made available to Valcke.

They added that Valcke committed to "do what was in his power" to ensure beIN would win the contract and should have declared the Villa Bianca deal to his employers.

However, the duo denied there was a "corrupt agreement", claiming the deal was a "private" arrangement, unrelated to the contract concluded by beIN with Fifa in April 2014 and the judge agreed with their defence.

Prosecutors had called for a jail term of three years for Valcke and a 28-month sentence for Al-Khelaifi following 10 days of hearings at the Swiss Federal Criminal Court of Bellinzona last month.

But Al-Khelaifi, who is a minister in Qatar's government and a member of the Uefa executive committee, was yesterday cleared of aggravated criminal mismanagement.

Frenchman Valcke was given a 120-day suspended sentence despite being found guilty of a separate charge of forging documents related to the attribution of Italian and Greek World Cup TV rights. He was ordered to pay Fifa €1.75 million in restitution.

A third defendant, Greek businessman Dinos Deris, was also cleared of charges of active corruption with Valcke and inciting him.

In a statement, Al-Khelaifi said: "After a relentless four-year campaign against me that ignored the basic facts and the law at every turn, I have finally, fully and completely cleared my name. Today's verdict is a total vindication.

"It restores my faith in the rule of law and in due process, after four years of baseless allegations, fictitious charges and constant smears of my reputation - all of which have been proven to be completely and wholly unsubstantiated."

This was the first judgment handed down in Switzerland, the seat of most international sports organisations, in the 20 or so proceedings opened in the last five years involving Fifa.

Two former South American football heads have already been jailed in the United States as part of the ongoing "Fifa-gate" scandal.

Source: 31 October 2020, The Strait Times

Football

<https://www.straitstimes.com/sport/football/nasser-cleared-suspended-sentence-for-valcke>

Switzerland

Julius Baer to pay nearly \$80 million in FIFA corruption case

ZURICH (Reuters) - Julius Baer has made an agreement with the U.S. Department of Justice (DoJ) to settle allegations over its role in corruption surrounding global soccer body FIFA, the bank said on Monday.

The bank has taken a provision of \$79.7 million to cover expected fines after agreeing in principal to a three-year deferred prosecution agreement. Julius Baer said it expects a final resolution of the matter "shortly."

Switzerland's third largest private bank said it had been cooperating with the DOJ since 2015 in the agency's investigation of alleged money laundering and corruption involving officials and affiliates of FIFA and associated sports media and marketing companies.

The affair is a holdover from the era of former Chief Executive Boris Collardi, who is now at Geneva private bank and asset manager Pictet.

Julius Baer was heavily criticised earlier this year by Switzerland's financial supervisor FINMA for ignoring money laundering risks of FIFA-linked payments.

An ex-banker was convicted in 2017 in U.S. District Court of conspiracy charges for arranging payments from a sports marketing executive to the Argentine soccer association's president.

Since 2016, the bank said it has addressed the shortcomings identified in its operations, including by redocumenting each of its client relationships and ending its dealings with some customers.

Source: 9 November 2020, Yahoo

Football

https://sports.yahoo.com/julius-baer-agrees-principal-settle-061725837.html?guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xiLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAGX12syv5AVrE944G5SZaR0rvZsP2yPBoq_7TJZqxUpAkM8hq9cIcFTXvrYo1AIsiQRbysrzIDzU4zpe07qIp_TLzVltkWA8uQDnzp0LB4boPhsXvJ_XyYPnDdvdMh4IYMUIYQE Aots-TfRdnHk7mDYrPKiSdDz8zHcLxbXotrNH&guc_consent_skip=1604910579

