



INTERPOL

INTEGRITY IN SPORT

Bi-weekly Bulletin

7-21 June 2022



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

Czech Republic

Czech Police Want 21 Indicted in Match-Fixing Case

Czech police had asked a prosecutor to charge 21 people and a company in a match-fixing case involving lower-tier football competitions. Criminal proceedings involve the charges of corruption, bribery, embezzlement and participating in an OCG. Police arrested 19 people in connection with the case in October 2020, including deputy director of the Czech Football Federation (FACR) since 2013.

Source: 9 June 2022, News 18

<https://www.news18.com/news/football/czech-police-want-21-indicted-in-match-fixing-case-5341027.html>

France

Suspicious of match-fixing in Regional 2: the football authorities grant a dismissal, the Mediterranean league takes legal action

According to France Blue Provence, the disciplinary committee of the Mediterranean football league dismissed FC Septèmes (Bouches-du-Rhône) on Thursday, June 9, after they were defeated 22-1 by Arles on May 8. Following suspicions of match fixing in order for Arles to inflate its goal difference and thus be promoted to Regional 1, the league refers the case to the Aix-en-Provence public prosecutor.

Source: 10 June 2022, California18

Football

<https://california18.com/suspicious-of-match-fixing-in-regional-2-the-football-authorities-grant-a-dismissal-the-mediterranean-league-takes-legal-action/5074922022/>

Greece

Xanthi FC shares belonging to accused fraudster Bill Papas frozen by Greek authorities

According to the President of Greece's Money Laundering Authority, Greek authorities have frozen Xanthi FC shares owned by an alleged Greek-Australian fraudster. The shares were seized as part of an ongoing investigation into potential money laundering in Greek football, according to SDNA.

Source: 10 June 2022, Greek City Times

Football

<https://greekcitytimes.com/2022/06/08/bill-papas-xanthi-fc/>

United Kingdom

Arsenal midfielder Granit Xhaka's yellow card against Leeds is being investigated by the National Crime Agency amid suspicions of a MAJOR scandal following suspicious betting activity into his booking

Arsenal football player was cautioned for wasting time in 4-1 victory over Leeds. In December, the FA launched a 6 month investigation into the yellow card. They have reported the incident to the country's top organized crime agency. The FA was made aware of suspicious betting patterns in connection with booking. Both the club or the player have made no allegations of wrongdoing.

Source: 17 June 2022, Daily Mail

Football

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sport/sportsnews/article-10928509/Arsenal-Granit-Xhakas-booking-vs-Leeds-investigated-amid-suspicious-betting-scandal.html>

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Chile

Chilean tennis coach provisionally suspended

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) confirmed that Sebastian Rivera, a Chilean tennis coach and former player has been temporarily suspended. Rivera is banned from playing, coaching and even attending any Tennis event until the disciplinary process is finalized.

Source: 14 June 2022, International Tennis Integrity Agency

Tennis

<https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/sebastian-rivera-provisional-suspension/>

Morocco

FRMF Ethics Committee Bans Club Officials for Match Fixing

Following match-fixing scandals, the Royal Moroccan Football Federation (FRMFethics)'s committee announced the suspension of ten club officials from football activities. They were banned from participating in the sport for five years and fined MAD 150,000 (\$15,000) each. Four other high-ranking Fes-Meknes regional league members were also banned for a year and fined MAD 10,000 (\$1000) each. The federation recently summoned

Source: 17 June 2022, Morocco World News

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2022/06/349762/frmf-ethics-committee-bans-club-officials-for-match-fixing>

Netherlands

Twee aanhoudingen voor matchfixing in de Tweede divisie voetbal

The police received several reports from the KNVB on Friday, June 3, 2022, that players from the national Second Division amateur football were asked to manipulate the results of their match. Two suspects from Almere, aged 16 and 17, could be apprehended if authorities act quickly.

Source: 8 June 2022, Politie

[Twee aanhoudingen voor matchfixing in de Tweede divisie voetbal | politie.nl](https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2022/06/03/twee-aanhoudingen-voor-matchfixing-in-de-tweede-divisie-voetbal/)

South Africa

Former Lions bowler convicted for role in SA's 2015 fixing saga

a former Lions pacer, has been sentenced for taking part in the 2015 Ram Slam T20 match-fixing scandal. He received a 6 years imprisonment that has been suspended for five years.

Source: 13 June 2022, Sport24

Cricket

<https://www.news24.com/sport/cricket/former-lions-bowler-convicted-for-role-in-sas-2015-fixing-saga-20220613>

South Africa

South African Football Match-Fixing Scandal So Outrageous Nearly Comical

The four South African football clubs accused of match-fixing have been banned indefinitely from the South African Football Association (SAFA). Additionally, SAFA announced temporary bans (5-8 seasons) for the referees. Specific bans for individual players have yet to be decided.

Source: 11 June 2022, Casino

Football

<https://www.casino.org/news/south-african-football-match-fixing-scandal-outrageous-comical/>

LEGISLATION

Japan

Japan Considers Liberalizing Sports Wagering

Japanese policymakers are reportedly considering expanding regulated sports betting in order to generate more sports-related revenue. However, experts believe the move will face stiff opposition. [...] At the moment, Japan is the only Group of Seven country with strict restrictions on sports betting. However, the activity is not outright prohibited in the country; but it is limited to cycling, horse-racing, motorboat and motorcycle racing.

Source: 7 June 2022, Casino

[Japan Reportedly Considering Sports Betting Expansion \(casino.org\)](https://www.casino.org/news/japan-reportedly-considering-sports-betting-expansion/)



Sweden

New Measures by Swedish Government to Ensure a Safe Gambling Market

The Swedish government has proposed new measures aiming to safeguard and strengthen the Swedish gambling market, creating a sustainable gambling Marketplace. Measures focus on counteracting match fixing and banning unlicensed gambling activities. Additionally, Under the new regulations, sports governing bodies may have access to personal data and betting information.

Source: 15 June 2022, Gambling News

<https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/new-measures-by-swedish-government-to-ensure-a-safe-gambling-market/>

BETTING

Colombia

Colombia Busts Illegal Gambling Operations in Two Departments

Colombia's gambling regulator, Coljuegos, is stepping up its efforts to combat illegal gambling operations across the country. The most recent moves target businesses based in Risaralda and Quindo, two departments that appear to have attracted a lot of black market businesses.

Source: 16 June 2022, Gambling News

<https://www.gamblingnews.com/news/colombia-busts-illegal-gambling-operations-in-two-departments/>

Curacao

Ball Street

A major sports betting operator has been declared bankrupt for refusing to pay out to customers and faces losing its licence, following a class action lawsuit by punters who allege they haven't been paid out by the betting operator. Despite the lawsuit, the operator continues to expand its operations worldwide..

Source: Steve Menary, 10 June 2022, Josimar

<http://josimarfootball.com/ball-street/>

Europe

Match-fixing heaven

Nearly a thousand European youth and semi-professional football matches are available for live betting on a typical weekend, according to a global betting industry audit. This number has raised concerns about player's exposure to organized crime and led to claim that football has lost control of its relationship with bookmakers.

Source: 20 June 2022, Josimar

Football

<https://josimarfootball.com/match-fixing-heaven/>

Russia

Ghost chasing: 1xBet, sport's elusive gambling sponsor

As reported by Josimar, 1xBet has recently been declared bankrupt for failing to reimburse customers. However, despite being subject to regulatory action in three jurisdictions, the gambling operator is still accepting bets today. It also remains a major sponsor of sport, retaining deals with FC Barcelona, the Confederation of African Football (CAF), Italy's Serie A and more.

Source: 10 June 2022, Sports Integrity Initiative

<https://www.sportsintegrityinitiative.com/ghost-chasing-1xbet-sports-elusive-gambling-sponsor/>

SportsModule

SportsModule – a vanishing act

A company that collected and sold live data from low-level sports to betting companies has gone out of business. SportsModule, which was founded in 2020, went out of business after its investors pulled out. SportsModule claimed to have a network of 1,500 data scouts attending sporting events in over 100 countries to collect and sell data to gambling operators.

Source: 10 June 2022, The Sports Integrity Initiative

<https://www.sportsintegrityinitiative.com/sportsmodule-a-vanishing-act/>

Sun City

Meet Mr Chau

An investigative article looks at the links between football gambling and a suspected criminal, linking Macau gambling and junket operations to major sponsorship in European football

Source: 16 June 2022, Josimar

Football

<http://josimarfootball.com/meet-mr-chau/>

MATCH FIXING

Ghana

Scandal! GTTA confirms match-fixing allegations in CWG justifier

At the recently concluded qualifiers for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, the Ghana Table Tennis Association (GTTA) was embroiled in a match-fixing scandal. According to the Daily Graphic, ten of the top national table tennis players competed in an all-play-all qualification over the last two days. In the end, Derek Abrefa, Emmanuel Commey, Emmanuel Asante, and Ernest Mawutor emerged as the top four players; but the graphic shows reports of match-fixing that surfaced on the first day of play last Sunday, with players accusing some of their peers of making it easier for others to win games and secure places to attend the Birmingham Games.

Source: 7 June 2022, Liquid Sports Ghana

<https://www.liquidsportsghana.com/scandal-gtta-confirms-match-fixing-allegations-in-cwg-justifier/>

CORRUPTION

Switzerland

Sepp Blatter and Michel Platini face Swiss corruption trial

Swiss prosecutors accuse the pair, who were once among the game's most powerful figures, of illegally arranging a payment from FIFA to Platini of two million Swiss francs (\$2.08 million) in 2011. Former FIFA President Sepp Blatter and ex-UEFA President Michel Platini are scheduled to appear in a Swiss court on Wednesday to face corruption charges that led to their removal from the top of the global football pyramid.

Source: 7 June 2022, The Indian Express

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/football/sepp-blatter-and-michel-platini-face-swiss-corruption-trial-7956861/>

