

## **INTEGRITY IN SPORT**

# **Bi-weekly Bulletin**

5 December 2023 - 15 January 2024



Photos International Olympic Committe

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## **INVESTIGATIONS**

#### Indonesia

Three Suspects in Match Fixing Case Detained, Another One is Fugitive

The Indonesian Police's Football Anti-Mafia Task Force is intensifying its investigation into a match-fixing case related to the 2018 League 2 football competition. Three suspects are being examined, with a focus on deepening the understanding of their cooperative relationships and the possibility of score-fixing in other matches.

Source: 21 December 2023, Kompas

Football

https://www.kompas.id/baca/english/2023/12/20/en-tiga-tersangka-kasus-pengaturan-skor-ditahan-penyidik

#### Spain

Detenido el líder de una mafia búlgara por intento de extorsión al Sevilla

The leader of a Bulgarian mafia in Spain has been arrested for attempting to extort Sevilla FC executives. The extortion was related to a supposed debt of half a million euros that 'Ivo' was claiming from the Andalusian team for a canceled tour in Mexico. Alongside the leader, four other individuals were also arrested in this police operation.

Source: 6 December 2023, Marca

Football

https://www.marca.com/futbol/sevilla/2023/12/06/65702ed922601dbc258b45a3.html

#### **Turkey**

Investigation of betting and match-fixing in Turkish football! Fenerbahçe president summoned as a witness!

In Turkey, the President of Fenerbahçe has been summoned as a witness in an investigation into betting and match-fixing in Turkish football. The Public Prosecutor's Office is looking into these allegations and has been gathering information from clubs as part of the case. He expressed his concern about the issue and emphasized the need for unity among the four major clubs in addressing this problem.

Source: 20 December 2023, Fenerbahcefootball

Football

https://fenerbahcefootball.com/2023/12/20/investigation-of-betting-and-match-fixing-in-turkish-football-fenerbahce-president-summoned-as-a-witness/?utm\_medium=email&\_hsmi=289153468&\_hsenc=p2ANqtz-84vKl7QpdJH7GE0NqBOegVHbXxLOzQ1-MJivwiyeS3phUU5aMN0WTz9ctL9Whl a6bilziEHFCBssunmR-j nQQBeLplCtJblhZXzVIFhsFY8SXt4&utm content=289153468&utm source=hs email

## SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

## **Belgium**

Belgian-Armenian Gets Five Years for Global Tennis Match-Fixing; Syndicate's No. 2 Has Ties to Armenia's Football League

A Belgium-Armenian match fixer known as "The Maestro," received a five-year prison sentence in June 2023 for leading a tennis match-fixing syndicate that bribed numerous professional tennis players globally and placed bets on bookmaking websites. He received a three-year prison sentence in absentia and faces confiscation of 8.3 million euros and \$642,000 related to the syndicate's illegal activities.

Source: 10 December 2023, HETQ

Football

https://hetq.am/en/article/162655

#### INTEGRITY IN SPOR

#### **Bolivia**

Amaño de partidos: Marcos Rodríguez es sancionado de por vida

The Bolivian Football Federation (FBF) has received a 37-page report from the Sports Discipline Tribunal detailing the "Match-Fixing Case," resulting in a lifetime ban from sports for the former president who was found to have violated FBF's disciplinary code.

Source: 17 December 2023, DIEZ ED

 $https://eldeber.com.bo/futbol/amano-de-partidos-marcos-rodriguez-es-sancionado-de-por-vida\_350681$ 

### Bulgaria

## Bulgarian tennis official sanctioned

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) confirmed that a Bulgarian tennis official has been suspended for 16 years and 75000 USD fine following several betting offenses under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program.

Source: 15 January 2024, ITIA

Tennis

https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/stefan-milanov-suspended-for-16-years-for-17-tacp-breaches/

#### **France**

## French tennis player suspended for ten years

A French tennis player has been suspended from the sport for ten years and fined \$20,000 by the International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) for 11 breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP). The sanctions are related to a criminal case involving a match-fixing syndicate in Belgium.

Source: 12 January 2024, International Tennis Integrity Agency

Tennis

https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/leny-mitjana-suspended-for-10-years-following-tacp-breaches/

#### ITIA

#### Four officials sanctioned under Tennis Anti-Corruption Program

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) has announced sanctions against four officials for breaches of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP). Breaches include manipulating scoring data for betting purposes, collaborating on manipulating scoring data for betting, and match-fixing.

Source: 21 December 2023, International Tennis Integrity Agency

Tennis

https://www.itia.tennis/news/sanctions/four-officials-sanctioned-under-tennis-anti-corruption-program/

## **New Zealand**

## Former NZ batter Vincent has life ban for match fixing relaxed by ECB

A former New Zealand cricketer had his life ban for match-fixing relaxed by the England Cricket Board (ECB) on December 11, 2023. The ECB made this decision based on his full admissions, disclosures, and cooperation with authorities. He expressed remorse for his past mistakes and welcomed the opportunity to return to the cricket environment after being banned in 2014 for fixing matches.

Source: 11 December 2023, Daily Mirror

Cricket

https://www.dailymirror.lk/cricket/Former-NZ-batter-Vincent-has-life-ban-for-match-fixing-relaxed-by-ECB/315-273014

#### Uzbekistan

## Three referees and sporting director of Uzbek football club banned for life from football activities

A match-fixing scandal in Uzbekistan has led to the banning of three referees and the sporting director of the Kokand-1912 football club for life. The investigation revealed that the sporting director offered bribes to the referees to secure his club's victory in a match, resulting in their lifetime bans from football activities.

Source: 8 January 2024, Azertac

Football

https://azertag.az/en/xeber/three referees and sporting director of uzbek football club banned for life from football activities-2875963

## ODDS AND ENDS

## **Afghanistan**

## Afghan men's team to continue boycott until FA boss Kargar faces match-fixing charges

Members of Afghanistan's men's national soccer team are urging FIFA to investigate match-fixing allegations against the president of the country's FA. They are also continuing their boycott of the team until he is removed from his position.

Source: 20 December 2023, Inside World Football

https://www.insideworldfootball.com/2023/12/20/afghan-mens-team-continue-boycott-fa-boss-kargar-faces-match-fixing-charges/

## MATCH FIXING

## Azerbaijan

## AFFA Secretary General: We received signals from UEFA about match-fixing in the 1st and 2nd leagues

In Azerbaijan, the AFFA Secretary General has stated that UEFA has sent signals concerning potential match-fixing in both the 1st and 2nd leagues of Azerbaijani football. An investigation is underway with law enforcement authorities, and the details of the clubs and suspicious games involved have not been disclosed due to confidentiality constraints.

Source: 29 December 2023, Azertag

Football

https://azertag.az/en/xeber/affa\_secretary\_general\_we\_received\_signals\_from\_uefa\_about\_match\_fixing\_in\_the\_1st\_and\_2nd\_leagues-2 8 7 0 2 1 5 ? u t m \_ m e d i u m = e m a i l & \_ h s m i = 2 8 9 1 5 3 4 6 8 & \_ h s e n c = p 2 A N q t z -8bAMR\_\_DmlGNH9WsTfhOvVNYp2ulEOWXxNCfNYGhp\_qDffQUimxdQLD7phDvRyUHAela6\_4A59dHmvamZOEFH\_rfN43nGc6F1oAuZFoSlEOGF6-J0&utm\_content=289153468&utm\_source=hs\_email

#### **Brazil**

## in Brazil, John Textor goes to court over suspicion of match-fixing

The owner of Olympique Lyonnais and Botafogo in Brazil, is challenging the results of six Brazilian Serie A matches amid suspicions of match-fixing due to Botafogo's dramatic decline in performance. He submitted a request to the Brazilian Superior Court of Sports Justice (STJD) to either cancel or replay the matches if manipulation is confirmed, citing refereeing errors and potential result manipulation.

Source: 8 December 2023, Time News

Football

https://time.news/in-brazil-john-textor-goes-to-court-over-suspicion-of-match-fixing/

#### China

#### Disgraced Former China Soccer Coach Admits Match Fixing, Bribery

In China, the former head coach of the national men's soccer team has confessed to match-fixing for lower-level clubs and bribing his way into the top coaching position over the past decade. He admitted to paying a total of 3 million yuan (\$418,000) in 2019 to secure the head coach role, with a significant portion going to the Chinese Football Association (CFA) President and the rest to the CFA's secretary-general.

Source: 10 January 2024, Caixin Global

https://www.caixinglobal.com/2024-01-10/disgraced-former-china-soccer-coach-admits-match-fixing-bribery-102155101.html and the soccer-coach-admits-match-fixing-bribery-102155101.html and the soccer-coach-admits-match-fixing-bribery-10215101.html and the soccer-coach-admits-fixing-bribery-fixing-bribery-fixing-bribery-fixin

## India

## Indian cricketer disqualified for 14 years for match-fixing

In India, a professional cricketer has been handed a 14-year ban by the International Cricket Council (ICC) for his involvement in match-fixing. The ban comes as a result of his actions during the 2019 Zimbabwe-UAE series and the GT20 tournament in Canada, where he violated multiple ICC and Cricket Canada codes.

Source: 20 December 2023, American Football International

Cricket

https://www.americanfootballinternational.com/indian-cricketer-disqualified-for-14-years-for-match-fixing/?utm\_medium=email&\_hsmi=289153468&\_hsenc=p2ANqtz--i74p8\_46uFxvVkLd68Vagwc5EwErOz2XPvz4Cw-VwbZ080d\_qlJl8qjLGfTX0yVDegNy0UDvk8uLCE6mRDniytLt4dKeaNA\_SyGu2b811mLWiZXw&utm\_content=289153468&utm\_source=hs\_email

#### India

## Lack of evidence: CBI closes IPL match-fixing cases

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in India has closed two cases related to alleged match-fixing in the Indian Premier League (IPL) in 2019 due to a lack of evidence. These cases were registered based on information received from Pakistan.

Source: 2 January 2024, Madhyamam

https://english.madhyamam.com/sports/cricket/lack-of-evidence-cbi-closes-ipl-match-fixing-cases-1242780

## India

## Report: East Bengal penalised for age-fraud controversy in AIFF U-17 Youth League

In India, a football club is alleged to have fielded overage players in youth football competitions, and is facing a fine and 3-point deduction as a consequence.

Source: 15 January 2024, Khelnow

Football

https://khelnow.com/football/2024-01-indian-football-report-east-bengal-penalised-u-17-youth-league

#### Thailand

## 8 months' jail for Singaporean man involved in fixing basketball matches in Thailand

A Singaporean man has been sentenced to eight months in jail for his involvement in fixing basketball matches in Thailand and committing graft-related offenses. He pleaded guilty to two charges under the Prevention of Corruption Act, with two additional charges taken into consideration during sentencing.

Source: 6 December 2023, The Straits Times

Basketball

https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/courts-crime/8-months-jail-for-singaporean-man-involved-in-fixing-basketball-matches-in-thailand and the strain of the strain of

## **Turkmenistan**

### Arkadag FC Dominates Turkmenistan League Amid Match-Fixing Allegations

In Turkmenistan, Arkadag FC club founder is facing allegations of match-fixing as it dominates the national football league. Critics accuse the club of manipulating match outcomes and point to incidents. The controversy highlights concerns about the integrity of Turkmenistan's football scene under the leadership of the Berdymukhamedov family and the influence of authoritarian regimes on sports.

Source: 7 December 2023, Crpatinews

Football

https://crpatinews.info/football/arkadag-fc-dominates-turkmenistan-league-amid-match-fixing-allegations/?utm\_medium=email&\_hsmi=289153468&\_hsenc=p2ANqtz--G9Pn\_gSQ-G7UXOduuVskej4hXkQ6KKQ8rro95RNXTqsVhBs\_6P9zYkFHeRhYblMhtOkhcllemXlsDkg\_9ZFj6SodiA\_Pttc9JViMSH2lDrx3k43E&utm\_content=289153468&utm\_source=hs\_email

## **CORRUPTION**

## Norway

Trial of former biathlon leader on charges of corruption linked to favoring Russia opens in Norway

The former president of the International Biathlon Union (IBU) has gone on trial in Norway on charges of corruption related to allegations of protecting Russia from doping cases. He denies wrongdoing, including accepting bribes and a liaison with a prostitute in Moscow, but is facing charges of aggravated corruption dating back to 2009, involving luxury watches, exclusive hunting trips, and the use of a leased car.

Source: 9 January 2024, AP News

Biathlon

https://apnews.com/article/biathlon-president-besseberg-corruption-trial-norway-russia-23c8c8c9a9b0242f5b63aca9a78a8075

