

INVESTIGATIONS

China

Trial for former Chinese men's soccer team coach not yet started: Report

The trial of former Chinese national men's soccer team coach Li Tie, accused of bribery, has not yet begun, refuting rumors of a life imprisonment sentence. Li's case, part of a broader investigation exposing systemic corruption, involves allegations of match-fixing and bribery in Chinese soccer.

Source: 25 February 2024, *China Daily*

Football

<https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/a/202402/25/WS65daee85a31082fc043b8edb.html>

Colombia

Escándalo en el FPC: jugador es investigado por amaño de partidos y Dimayor se pronunció

A player from the Patriotas de Boyacá team is under investigation for alleged match-fixing in Colombian professional football, confirmed by the club's president. Dimayor acknowledged an ongoing investigation but refrained from providing further details to avoid interference with authorities.

Source: 16 February 2024, *Pulzo*

<https://www.pulzo.com/deportes/jugador-que-paso-por-patriotas-es-investigado-por-supuesto-amano-compromisos-PP3451402>

Hong Kong

3 football players caught up in Hong Kong match-fixing probe charged over illegal gambling, bribery

Three footballers, including former Hong Kong Under-23 player Brian Fok, face charges of illegal gambling and bribery in connection with match-fixing during Hong Kong's Premier League seasons, allegedly conspiring to rig games and ensure certain outcomes for betting gains. The Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) seeks further investigation, with prosecutors requesting an adjournment to analyze digital evidence and obtain advice from betting experts.

Source: 15 February 2024, *South China Morning Post*

Football

<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3252102/3-football-players-caught-hong-kong-match-fixing-probe-charged-over-illegal-gambling-bribery>

India

DSA chief files formal complaint with ACB over match-fixing in Delhi Premier League

The Delhi Soccer Association suspends Ahbab FC over match-fixing allegations in the Delhi Premier League, prompting a formal complaint filed by DSA chief Anuj Gupta with the Anti-Corruption Bureau. Video evidence of suspicious own goals led to AIFC involvement, urging a swift investigation into the matter.

Source: 22 February 2024, *Good World News*

<https://goodwordnews.com/dsa-chief-files-formal-complaint-with-acb-over-match-fixing-in-delhi-premier-league/>



Spain

La Policía detiene a un jugador por el amaño de un Badajoz-Pontevedra de Primera RFEF

Football player Jannick Buyla was arrested for allegedly trying to bribe two Pontevedra CF players during a crucial match for CD Badajoz's relegation in the Spanish Primera RFEF league. Despite winning the match, CD Badajoz was ultimately relegated, leading to Buyla's contract termination with SD Logroñés after the allegations surfaced during his participation in the Africa Cup of Nations.

Source: 25 February 2024, *El Confidencial*

https://www.elconfidencial.com/espana/2024-02-25/jannick-buyla-guinea-badajoz-pontevedra-rfef_3834308/

SENTENCES/SANCTIONS

Italy

Italian tennis player suspended for 15 months

The International Tennis Integrity Agency confirmed that an Italian player has been suspended for 15 months for betting on tennis and failing to report a corrupt approach.

Source: 23 February 2024, *ITIA*

Tennis

<https://itia.tennis/news/sanctions/andrea-rita-suspended-for-15-months/>

United Arab Emirates

UK club cricketer Rizwan gets lengthy ban for match fixing attempts in Abu Dhabi League

UK-based cricketer Rizwan Javed receives a 17-and-a-half-year ban from all cricket for match-fixing attempts during the Abu Dhabi T10 League in 2021, demonstrating a strong stance against corruption by the ICC. He failed to respond to charges related to match-fixing and offering rewards, resulting in a guilty verdict and forfeiture of his right to a hearing.

Source: 16 February 2024, *The Pioneer*

Cricket

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2024/sports/uk-club-cricketer-rizwan-gets-lengthy-ban-for-match-fixing-attempts-in-abu-dhabi-league.html>

United Kingdom

Darts star handed two-year ban after being found guilty of match-fixing

Darts player Jack Main receives a two-year ban for match-fixing during a match against Lisa Ashton, resulting in suspension until December 2025 and a fine of over £750 by the Darts Regulation Authority. Main, who has yet to comment, faces severe consequences, including loss of earnings and respect within the darts community, after being found guilty of breaching betting rules.

Source: 20 February 2024, Easybranches

Darts

<https://europe.easybranches.com/ireland/6035849>

United States

James Blake fined for breaching tennis sponsorship rules

The International Tennis Integrity Agency (ITIA) confirmed that a former player and tournament director has been suspended for breaching the tennis sponsorship rules.

Source: 21 February 2024, ITIA

Tennis

<https://itia.tennis/news/sanctions/james-blake-fined-for-breaching-tennis-sponsorship-rules/>

LEGISLATION

New Zealand

New Zealand Takes a Stand: Unveiling a Staunch Match-Fixing Law with Seven-Year Jail Terms

New Zealand is proposing legislation with up to seven years in prison for match-fixing, signaling a strong global stand against corruption in sports and highlighting the need for international cooperation. Efforts to restore sports integrity include education programs, while the proposed law represents a significant leap forward in combating match-fixing and protecting the interests of fans, athletes, and sponsors worldwide.

Source: 19 February 2024, BNN

<https://bnnbreaking.com/sports/new-zealand-takes-a-stand-unveiling-a-staunch-match-fixing-law-with-seven-year-jail-terms>

DOPING

United States

US man gets prison for Tokyo Olympics doping charge

A Texas man, Eric Lira, receives a three-month prison sentence for distributing banned performance-enhancing drugs to athletes ahead of the 2020 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, under the Rodchenkov Anti-Doping Act. Lira's actions were deemed a violation of fair play, resulting in incarceration as a consequence, according to U.S. prosecutors in Manhattan.

Source: 21 February 2024, Reuters

<https://www.reuters.com/legal/doping-us-man-gets-prison-tokyo-olympics-doping-charge-2024-02-21/>

ODDS AND ENDS

ARF

ARF Quarterly Bulletin February 2024

In its latest quarterly publication, ARF Council zoom in on cryptocurrency in illegal betting, the situation of illegal betting in South Korea and solutions for combatting illegal betting.

Source: 14 February 2024, Asian Racing Federation

https://assets-global.website-files.com/5f8e2bde2b2ef4841cd6639c/65bc5e3e5dc0caef493b51fc_2024%20February%20bulletin_FINAL.pdf

Austria

Partnership between Play Fair Code and IOC

After years of joint action in awareness building and prevention work to protect the integrity of sports and combat match-fixing and betting fraud, Play Fair Code and the Olympic Movement Unit on the Prevention of Manipulation of Competitions (OM Unit PMC), recently strengthened their partnership and cooperation.

Source: 14 February 2024, Play Fair Code

<https://www.playfaircode.at/en/news/detail/2023-11-17-kooperation-mit-dem-ioc>

ULIS

ULIS 2023 Annual Report

United Lotteries for Integrity in Sport (ULIS), published its annual report for 2023. Last year ULIS issued a total of 755 alerts to relevant stakeholders including INTERPOL, and monitored 22'000 more matches compared to 2022.

Source: 14 February 2024, ULIS

<https://glms-sport.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=d3dd17a9afd674100aa8954&id=a536a5e2fc&e=8d8dab53c0>

INTEGRITY IN SPORT EVENTS

Sri Lanka

INTERPOL Integrity in Sports Training in Sri Lanka

On 13 and 14 February, INTERPOL supported Sri Lankan authorities in building capacity to apply the 2019 Sri Lanka Sports Corruption Act. Opened by the Sri Lanka Minister of Tourism, Land, Sports and Youth, over 120 stakeholders from Sri Lanka Police, the Attorney General Office and sports organisations attended the INTERPOL training in Colombo, 13 and 14 February 2024.

Source: 14 February 2024, INTERPOL

CORRUPTION

Norway

Prosecutors seek prison term for former biathlon boss on last day of corruption trial in Norway

Anders Besseberg, former head of the International Biathlon Union, faces a prison term of three years and seven months for bribery, liaising with a prostitute, and favoring Russia in doping cases. The case, revealing systematic corruption, implicates sports marketing agency Infront and emerged amid investigations into state-backed doping programs by Russia.

Source: 16 February 2024, The Associated Press

Biathlon

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/sports/other/prosecutors-seek-prison-term-for-former-biathlon-boss-on-last-day-of-corruption-trial-in-norway/ar-BB1ikBhX>

Spain

La Audiencia de Barcelona ve "corrupción deportiva y administración desleal" en el 'Caso Negreira': "Se extrajeron fondos del club ilegítimamente"

The Barcelona Provincial Court identifies potential corruption and mismanagement in the 'Caso Negreira', implicating FC Barcelona and its former presidents. The investigation suggests misappropriation of club funds and potential breaches of trust laws, particularly regarding payments made to a former referee without a contract.

Source: 14 February 2024, El Mundo

Football

<https://www.elmundo.es/deportes/futbol/primera-division/2024/02/14/65ccf43421efa0a51a8b458c.html>

